

PERI NEWS

No: 651 DECEMBER 2024

CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

Isn't it lovely to see all the Christmas decorations up and hear the old favourite Christmas songs playing (unless you work in a shop perhaps?!). But the festive period can also be a lonely time for many, particularly older people who can't just jump in the car anymore to get out and about. The residents and staff at Cunningham House would like to invite older residents of Pirbright to join them for various Christmas events throughout December, whether it be carol singing, a Christmas film or festive lunch.

Please contact us on 488751 or email cunninghamhousepirbright@gmail.com for more details about what's on and to register your interest.

Lucy Beasley

WISHING YOU ALL

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

from all in the PeriNews Team, the Church and Parish Councils, all our clubs, societies and the many village organisations.

TALES FROM THE WOODS

Tickets are now on sale for the Pirbright Players winter production which will be on Saturday 25th January, matinee and evening, and Sunday 26th January, matinee only.

Adults £16, children under 14 £8.

This year we are doing a truly magical show called 'Tales From the Woods' full of exciting traditional stories that we all know and love, acted out by country folk in a woodland setting..

Tickets are already selling fast, so first come first served, hurry if you want the best seats, book on our web site, pirbrightplayers.spanglefish.org
Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Carole Gailer



This month's banner image
Helen Whitworth

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

EDITOR'S PARTING SHOT

"It will just be for a few months," they said, "until we appoint a new Vicar."

That was 18 years, 220 editions and three vicars ago, and now it is time for me to bow out. PeriNews began life in October 1970 as the church newsletter but, from the beginning it was intended to go into every home, free of charge, to serve the whole community, not just the church.

I hope Rev Cunningham would be pleased to see how his idea has blossomed. The Church and Parish Council have developed a close partnership to keep the community informed, to support the rich variety of events in our village, and to inspire people to participate and get involved.

It has been a joy and a privilege to be at the helm of PeriNews, and to have felt so close to the heart of our community.

PeriNews is very much a team effort and would not have been possible without Judy Williams, who taught me how to fit a quart of news into a pint pot; Lindsey Graham and then Helen Myers who handled finance on behalf of the Parish Council; Fred Cobbett and then Catherine Copley who organised the delivery teams,

and all the delivery volunteers who trudge the pavements to get it into your homes. It wouldn't be possible without all our wonderful contributors (yes, even you Phil for the dreadful jokes) and I'm grateful to David Greenland and Jon at Knaphill Print for their advice and encouragement.

I'm so excited about the group taking over from me, with Heidi and Jo as Co-ordinators, and Guest Editors giving each edition an individual flavour. They will be brilliant, and I wish them every success in the future.

But most of all, thanks to you, our readers. I hope I have made you think, made you laugh, perhaps even made you grab your coat and join in. We are all blessed to live in such a lovely place, and each one of us has a part to play in making it special.

Editor



WI VISIT TO NATIONAL ARCHIVE KEW

There are still a few places remaining for the Pirbright WI trip to the National Archives at Kew, on Wednesday 26th February 2025. Cost £20

Please contact Irene Dredge iredredge@outlook.com or phone 01483 233279 asap for details.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Our regular meeting will be on Monday, 9th December at 8pm at The Fox Inn, Fox Corner. Please come and join us to hear about the work of The Legion - and wear your Christmas Jumper!! We will be wearing ours.

Contact: Anne Hawkins 01252 404276

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

There is a lot happening at St Michael's this Christmas and we would love to see you!

*** Sun 1st December 9:30 am Christingle Service** An all age service celebrating all the things we love about the season, with something for old and young!

*** Sat 14th December 3:00pm Remembering Loved Ones Service and tea.** A quiet moment to look back and give thanks for those we have loved, who can no longer share our Christmas.

*** Sunday 15th December 10:00am Carols in Lord Pirbright's Hall**, uplifting and inspirational service with plenty of laughs provided by guest speaker JJohn,

*** Wednesday 18th December 6:pm, Carols in the Churchyard**, fun for young and old, with traditional and modern carols, lights, hot drinks and tasty treats.

*** Sunday 22nd December 6:00pm Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight**, an ageless, traditional service, followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

*** Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve, Children's crib services** 3:30pm and 5pm, interactive fun for children of all ages.

Midnight mass at 11:30, a moment of calm in the frenzy to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

*** Wednesday 25th, Christmas Day 10am**
A joyful **Christmas Day Service** with Holy Communion, to say thank you for the greatest gift of all.

Whatever lifts your spirits this Christmas, you will find a warm welcome at St Michael's.

CAROLS IN THE CHURCHYARD

Wed 18th December from 6pm

Join us on the churchyard for a magical family evening of Christmas carols and lights with warming drinks, mince pies, singing lightbulbs (you have to see it to believe it), Pirbright Gospel Choir and possibly even a visit from You Know Who.

We will be raising funds for Crisis at Christmas, to help people who don't have the comfort and security of a home this winter, so please support this event and help to give them a Happy Christmas too.

Crisis
at Christmas

BISHOP TO BLESS THE WAR MEMORIAL



Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford, will preside at the Holy Communion service in St Michael's on **Sunday 29th December at 10am** and during his visit he will bless the restored War Memorial.

This an important moment for our community, the war memorial has a special place in all our hearts, and all are welcome.

Message to the Community

Councillors would like to wish everyone in the Parish of Pirbright a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.



Christmas is a time for coming together and reflection. Being kind to each other and looking out for friends and neighbours who may be lonely or in need at this time of year. The Council is committed to continuing its support for the various local clubs and societies that bring joy and friendship to so many within the village and we wish everyone a peaceful end to 2024.

The council Christmas Tree once again adorns the Village Hall roof and the railings once again hang with a myriad lights, acting as a cheery beacon to those who enter the village during the dark hours of winter. We look forward to seeing in the new year with all our residents. Merry Christmas!

Pirbright War Memorial

Thanks to Vice Chair of PPC, Cllr Lindsay Graham for giving a reading at the Remembrance Sunday service. It was



fantastic to see the War Memorial once again playing a pivotal role. The cost of the repairs to the oak figure, oak cross, Portland stone plinth and horizontal name slabs was almost

£16,000. Thanks to the War Memorials Trust, 50% of this will be in the form of a grant. The Parish Council will cover the remainder as part of the Precept (the council tax each Parishioner pays). £8,000 is 10% of the parish council's entire budget so it is a significant amount, but PPC believe the memorial is an important part of Pirbright's identity and must be maintained. The Bishop of Guildford will be coming to St Michaels & All Angels to bless the newly reinstated War Memorial on Sunday 29th December. His predecessor, John Randolph (1866-1936), originally unveiled the Memorial on 13th August 1920 so it seemed fitting that the current Bishop perform the blessing.

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

Pirbright Christmas Tree Recycling Point

Lord Pirbright's Hall will once again act as a recycling point for your Fir Trees when it's time to take your decorations down. It will open on 23rd December and run until 20th January. Please keep within the designated area beyond the car park.

What do you get if you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Frostbite



COMMUNITY GROUPS

PIRBRIGHT ART CLUB

Don't miss the 25th Anniversary Show of works by our talented local artists, with crafts, sales and refreshments, Nov 30th 10am-5:30pm and 1st December 11am-3:30pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall

PIRBRIGHT COUNTRY MARKET

Thursdays 10.00 – 11.15

Christmas is the time to visit Pirbright Country Market for that special gift or a Festive planted basket. To help our producers please order your eggs, meat and Christmas food for collection on December 19th which is our final Market before Christmas. We open again in the New Year on Thursday January 23rd.

PIRBRIGHT WI

No meeting at Lord Pirbright's hall in December, but members only will enjoy Christmas Lunch at The Drumming Snipe on 17th. The WI will serve hot drinks at the Country Market on Thursday mornings until the 19th December, but then close until 23rd January. Irene Dredge 01483 233279 or iredredge@outlook.com.

RAWLINS CLUB

Our Christmas Lunch is on Friday 13th December, 12.30 to 3.30pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall. *Denise Granger 472070*

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting and social is on Tuesday 10th December starting at 7.30pm. I am very happy that Steve Hull has agreed to become the new Chairman. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chairman and thank you all for your support and friendship over the years.. I would like to thank Lucy, Julian and all the committee for their help over the years and trust you will give Steve your full support. Long may PHS thrive.

Philip Barralet.

CARDIFF ARMS CHOIR CONCERT

At the final count this event raised £2046.32 for CureParkinson's and £2046.33 for ShootingStarChase.

Many thanks to the Choir and everyone who supported it. *Philip Barralet*

TWINNING ASSOCIATION :Annual Quiz

Sunday 05 January at 6.30pm Lord Pirbright's Hall. Teams of six or we can allocate you to a table.

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.

Philip and Elizabeth Barralet

In November we said goodbye to two longstanding members of the community who are moving to Kent to be nearer to family. For 50 years Philip Barralet has been a driving force in the Parish Council, Church, British Legion, Twinning Association, Horticultural Society, and many more, and has raised thousands for charities. Famed for her floral arrangements, Elizabeth also organised countless dinners and teas, and served as Sacristan in the church. They will be greatly missed, but they take with them the very best wishes from the community for every happiness in their new home.



PIRBRIGHT TENNIS CLUB

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

www.facebook.com/pirbrighttennisclub

www.facebook.com/pirbrighttennisclub

We will celebrate Christmas on Saturday 14th December from 9am. Come and play tennis with friends and new members or just enjoy the social with bacon and sausage rolls. Santa hats / fancy dress optional.

For all activities, coaching and membership see our website and follow the latest news on our Facebook page.

PIRBRIGHT CRICKET CLUB

The outdoor season may well have finished but don't forget Winter Nets at Winston Churchill School to hone your skills !



PIRBRIGHT HISTORIANS

You might raise a glass of Christmas Cheer this month in one of Pirbright's four pubs. But what about the other pub – the 19th century one called The Swallow on the site of the current Newmans on the Guildford Road, by Swallow Pond? The land was bought c1850 by a Morris Ashby, whose family owned a brewery in Staines. By 1856 The Swallow was operating as a "beerhouse" – presumably selling Ashby's beer. The land-lord of the time, a William Warner, was fined that year for having "deficient weights and measures", ie short-changing his customers. Maybe this was merely an oversight on William's part. The pub closed in the late 1880s for reasons unknown and was converted into two cottages.

This painting dates from 1886, but since then we have had to manage with just four pubs in Pirbright.

Cheers!

Richard Hartley



CHURCHYARD CHRONICLES

It was Christmas night, and the dormouse was in a hurry, The church stood dark and forbidding but she slipped under the door and stood for a moment in amazement. The church was packed full of animals. Creatures from miles around had gathered, and all sat peacefully together. Squirrels and rabbits filled the pews, whilst every square inch of floor was taken up with hedgehogs, badgers, foxes, deer and alpacas. Mice and voles squashed onto the shelves and backs of pews, and frogs in the font. Every ledge or windowsill was crammed with birds, and bats hung from the roof. As a small otter made space for the mouse The Man stood up, and an expectant hush fell on the waiting crowd. He looked like a tramp, with his long hair, his strange robes and sandals which couldn't hide the cruel scars on his feet. The animals often saw him in the church, because animals see things that humans can't. The Man's face shone with love, and the animals held their breath as he began to tell the special story that they came every year to hear. "A long time ago, in a stable filled with animals just like you, a baby was born"

Yellow Rabbit



DECEMBER GARDENING TIPS from Wellie

I was sitting down to write my garden piece for December and for whatever reason it came into my head to try and find 12 plants that represent the song Twelve days of Christmas.....So here goes.

- ✿ *First Day – a partridge in a pear tree – Pyrus communis (pear tree) I know, an easy first one!*
- ✿ *Second Day – two turtle doves – Davidia Involucrata also known as Dove tree/handkerchief tree*
- ✿ *Third Day – three French hens – Sempervivum (house leek) also known as Hen and Chicks*
- ✿ *Fourth Day – four colly or calling birds – Lotus corniculatus (Birdsfoot trefoil)*
- ✿ *Fifth Day – five gold rings – Berberis thunbergii 'Golden Ring'*
- ✿ *Sixth Day – six geese a laying – Ribes uva crisper (Gooseberry) ok, not the best, but all I could find.*
- ✿ *Seventh Day – seven swans a swimming – Gomphocarpus physocarpus (swan plant)*
- ✿ *Eighth Day – eight maids a milking – Cardamine pratensis (milkmaids/Cuckoo flower)*
- ✿ *Ninth Day – nine ladies dancing – Onicidum orchids (Dancing ladies)*
- ✿ *Tenth Day – ten lords a leaping – Arum maculatum (Lords and Ladies)*
- ✿ *Eleventh Day – eleven pipers piping – Piper ornatum (Pepper vine)*
- ✿ *Twelfth Day – twelve drummers drumming – Moringa oleifera (Drumstick plant)*



PIRBRIGHT COMMUNITY CALENDAR DECEMBER 2024

1	Sun	9:30am 11:00am	All Age Christingle Service with church band, St Michael's Art Club Exhibition, LPH
4	Wed	2:30pm	Scrabble at Cunningham House
7	Sat	6:00pm	Beer and Carols at the White Hart
8	Sun	10:00am 6:00pm	Parish Communion, St Michael's Taize service at St Marks, Wyke
9	Mon	8:00pm	Royal British Legion meeting, The Fox Pub at Fox Corner
10	Tue	7:30pm	Horticultural Society 'AGM and social' LPH
13	Fri	12:30pm	Rawlins Club Christmas Lunch LPH
14	Sat	10:00am 3:00pm	Operation Churchyard Remembering Loved Ones Service and tea, St Michael's
15	Sun	10:00am 7:30pm	Carols in Lord Pirbright's Hall, with guest speaker J John Prayer Meeting, St Mark's
18	Wed	6:00pm	Carols in the Churchyard, St Michael's
19	Thur	10:00am	Last Country Market & WI café before Christmas break, LPH
22	Sun	6:00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight, St Michael's
24	Tue	3:30pm 5:00pm 11:30pm	Children's Crib Services, St Michael's Children's Crib Service, St Michael's Midnight Communion, St Michael's
25	Wed	10:00am	Christmas Morning Parish Communion, St Michael's
29	Sun	10:00am	Parish Communion, and blessing of the Village War Memorial with Bishop Andrew, St Michael's

Why don't you find penguins in the Sahara Desert? Because the chocolate melts.



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

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