

Pirbright Village News

The Parish Dash: Building Community One Step at a Time

The Parish Dash is our church shaped answer to parkrun. A 5km run, a 2.5km run, or a relaxed walk around Pirbright Green, once a month and open to everyone. No pressure, no competition, just community.



We meet at 9am at Lord Pirbright Hall on the fourth Sunday of the month, before Church on the Green. Over the last few months it has become a fantastic way for people to come

together, get fit, and build genuine relationships. Each month has been a real joy, with a growing sense that this is something created in the community and for the community. We would love you to come and be part of it. Please do tell your

ST MICHAEL'S PIRBRIGHT & ST MARK'S WYKE

THE PARISH DASH

ASR

Joined by Ash Social Runners

Join us on Sunday 22nd February
9am Lord Pirbright's Hall

Distances 2.5K & 5K
or walk around the green with
the Sunday Strollers

Free
All ages and fitness levels welcome
Tea, coffee & croissants after!
Join for Church on the Green
service afterwards (optional)

pirbrightchurch.org.uk

friends, sign up, and join us. And yes, we always finish with coffee and croissants.

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St Michaels and All Angels Church



A poster showing church service times for four Sundays. It includes a photo of people in the background. Services listed are: 1st Sunday: 9.30am Traditional Holy Communion, 11.15am All Age Service at St. Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA. 2nd Sunday: 8.00am Said Communion, 9.30am Contemporary Worship Service. 3rd Sunday: 9.30am Traditional Holy Communion, 11.15am Contemporary Worship Service at St. Mark's Church GU3 2DA. 4th Sunday: 10.00am Church on the Green at Lord Pirbright's Hall GU24 0JE, 11.15am Traditional Communion Service at St. Mark's Church. The poster also includes the text 'St. Mark's Church: Guildford Rd GU3 2DA' and 'pirbrightchurch.org.uk'.



Pirbright Parish Council

A crucial planning application for 950 new builds in Normandy, submitted by Taylor Wimpey, is imminent. Guildford Borough Council will soon publish it, initiating a critical 21-day consultation period. Our objective is to stop this development.

This project is **inappropriate** for prime Green Belt land, threatening our environment, ecology and exacerbating flood issues. It's also **disproportionate**, doubling Normandy's size and overwhelming local infrastructure.

For Pirbright, this means a significant increase in traffic on our shared routes, impacting commutes, school runs, and our villages' peaceful character. There are already separate applications for another 650 builds in Ash and Tongham; our roads cannot cope. Thames Water have acknowledged that our local Hockford sewerage treatment plant is already at capacity.

This application is opportunistic, bypassing proper planning. We urge you to understand the implications, spread the word, and object. For updates and how to object, visit: normandy-says-no.com. With thanks, Normandy Action Group.



Toads are emerging.....

Following the latest spell of cold weather, don't be surprised to see toads in Pirbright as they emerge from wooded areas to seek mates. Their migration season is typically between the end of January and the middle of March.

As we go about our business, residents are unaware of the dangers toads put themselves in by sitting on our roads, giving them a clear unimpeded view of their potential partners. However in doing so each season, hundreds of toads become casualties on the roads through our village. Not just toads, but other amphibians such as newts, frogs and slow worms.

So this year, in an attempt to reduce toad casualties, residents in Vapery Lane have teamed up with Froglife to have their road officially registered as a Toad Crossing. When the amphibians emerge soon, a team of residents in hi-vis jackets will patrol the lane with gloves, buckets and torches, relocating them into local ditches away from danger.

Pirbright Parish Council

A Whatsapp group for Vapery Lane Toad Patrollers has been set up to coordinate volunteers.

This team effort should help save over 100 toads from being killed in the lane this year and should allow numbers of these warty amphibians to thrive for future years.

If you live in other rural parts of the village, for instance near a watercourse, there may be a need for similar patrols, so please look out for toads in your road and you too can set up a local group.

Save the Date: Parish Council Annual Assembly Friday 20th March 7.30pm

This is a reminder to residents that the **Annual Parish Assembly** will take place on **Friday 20 March 2026 at 7.30pm** at Lord Pirbright's Hall.

The meeting is open to all and provides an opportunity to hear updates from the Parish Council, learn about local matters, and have your say on issues affecting the community. All residents are warmly encouraged to attend. Details of invited speakers will follow in the March edition.

February Eco Tip

Get involved in Community Actions.

Join local environmental groups or initiatives. Participating in community clean-ups or advocacy can increase your impact and connect you with like-minded individuals.



Free Home Energy Surveys for Pirbright Residents

Residents of Pirbright can now access the HEAT (Home Energy Advice Team) service, offering free, independent home energy surveys to help households cut energy bills, reduce heat loss and stay warm. Zero Carbon Guildford, HEAT provides trusted, impartial advice with nothing to sell. Our local Energy Champion visits your home for around 60–90 mins and uses practical tools, including a thermal imaging camera in winter, to show where heat is escaping. The visit helps to: reduce energy bills and avoid wasted heat, improve comfort and keep homes warmer, see heat loss clearly using thermal imaging, and Access further support where available.

Pirbright's Local Energy Champion Paul Baker will be presenting at the Annual Parish Council Assembly on 20 March 2026 at Lord Pirbright's Hall (7.30pm) giving a short talk about the HEAT service and will be available to answer questions. Residents can also book a free Home Energy Survey by visiting: zerocarbonguildford.org/home-energy-surveys.

Support Local Community

New Parkinson's Classes at Lord Pirbright Hall

New Class coming soon!!

Our local Personal Trainer, Rachel Mounter, is now a qualified Parkinson's Specialist Trainer, and is starting fitness classes in Lord Pirbright's Hall in February. These classes are designed to enhance mobility and coordination, maintain strength and balance, and boost overall wellness. All classes are designed to be inclusive and accessible for every ability level.

Classes will be every Monday at 1.15pm and the cost is £5 pay as you go. Feel free to contact Rachel on 07783041224 or via her website www.mounterfitness.com for more information. Please share this information if you know anyone locally living with Parkinson's, as exercise has a positive impact both physically and mentally.



Parkinson's UK
For every Parkinson's journey

5 FACTS

It is the fastest-growing neurological condition in the world.

There are over 40 symptoms.

1 in 37 people in the UK will be diagnosed with Parkinson's in their lifetime.

Doing 2.5 hours of exercise a week can slow the progression of your symptoms.

Exercise can be as important as your medication to help you take control and manage your symptoms.

New Beginners Weekly Bridge Club at Lord Pirbright Hall



Community Groups

Pirbright Historians

The most recent section published on our history website (<https://www.pirbrightpropertieshistory.com/>) deals with the eastern side of the Stanford area. It includes one of the finest photos of old Pirbright, dating back to the 1880s. It is of course The Royal Oak, which had by then been operating as a pub for about 30 years. It shows a lunchtime group of labourers, some with their scythes, in front of the pub. The grand-looking gentleman in front of the horse is probably Henry Greenfield, the owner of Bakersgate, and these were most likely his workers. The beer was provided by Farnham United Breweries, which was eventually purchased by Courage in 1927.



Royal British Legion

If you are interested in hearing more about RBL or have any questions, please join us for our social meeting at 8pm on Monday, 9th February at The Fox Inn, Fox Corner.

Everyone is welcome whether or not you have served in the forces.

For more information, contact Anne Hawkins on 01252 404276.

Rawlins Club

On Friday 13th February between 2.00pm and 4.00pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall. The talk will be on "The Life of Charles Darwin" by Ian Worley.

For further details, please contact Denise Granger on 01483 472070.

Pirbright Horticultural Society

Meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall GU24 0JE at 7.30pm. We have an interesting programme of talks organised for the year ahead to which members and visitors are welcome.

In February we have a talk entitled Common Diseases in Edible Crops by Louise Jones, a plant health and disease expert from the RHS.

website: pirbrighthort.co.uk
Instagram: @pirbrighthort Tel. 07815847941

Secretary@pirbrighthort.co.uk

Pirbright WI

Our meeting this month will be a talk on Confessions of a Ballet Teacher – Humorous Fun Across a 25-year career by Louise Ryrie and is on Tuesday 17 February at 7pm in the Club Room in Lord Pirbright's Hall. Visitors are always welcome.

The WI are serving coffees, teas and biscuits again on Thursday mornings 10am to 11.15am. When you pop into the Country Market why not come visit us.

For more information, contact Irene Dredge on 01483 233279 or email irenedredge@outlook.com. We'd love to see you there!

Wednesday Art Group

Unfortunately the Wednesday Art Group is now ceasing to run for various personal reasons. Thank you for your interest.

Lucy Baker 07815 847 941

Community Page

Beautiful New Hedge at Fox Corner Community Wildlife Area

A stunning new front hedge at Fox Corner has recently been laid in a traditional Surrey style by the Surrey Hedgelaying Group using the existing hedge of Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Hazel and other varieties. Traditional hedge laying involves using the existing stems of trees, and partially cutting through the stems, bending them down horizontally near ground level (called pleaching), which encourages new growth from the base and creates a living fence.

Then wooden stakes are inserted into the middle of the hedge to offer support. Finally willow or hazel binders are woven in and out of the stakes to secure everything in place. The skilfully laid hedge will develop over the next year or so as new growth forms, and will provide a haven for wildlife and birds.

You are invited to come and see this beautiful old art close up and perhaps to visit the Wildlife Area too with its 14 acres of streams, a pond, wetlands, woodlands and meadows. Being a local nature reserve, it provides a diverse environment for many different species of animals, reptiles, flora and fauna.

Our new hedge will enhance the site's natural habitats.



February Gardening Tips

February sits on the edge of winter and spring. Snowdrops, crocuses and early daffodils begin to lift our spirits, even though cold nights and frosts still linger.

On mild days, take time to tidy borders, cutting back old stems before new growth emerges. In late February cut back ornamental grasses and other perennials left for winter interest. Prune back shrubs hard such as Cornus and Salix grown for winter coloured stems. Top dress beds and borders with a balanced fertiliser.

Cut back late flowering (group 3) Clematis such as Clematis viticella, C. orientalis and C. "Jackmannii" to a low pair of strong buds. Prune late summer flowering shrubs such as buddleia, lavatera and fuchsia hard. Once winter flowering heathers have finished flowering, trim back with shears.

Apple and pear trees can be pruned now, and roses towards the end of the month if weather allows. Try to avoid working the soil when it is wet or frozen.

Seeds can be started under cover on a sunny windowsill or in a greenhouse, bringing the first hint of the growing season indoors. This is also the moment to chit seed potatoes in readiness for planting in early spring.

Clean out existing bird boxes or put up new boxes and as natural food remains scarce, continue feeding birds and providing fresh water, helping wildlife through the last weeks of winter.

Pirbright Community Calendar February 2026

Date	Time	Event
Sun 1st	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion Service at St Michael's Pirbright All Age Service at St Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA
Tue 3rd	7.30pm - 9.15pm	Alpha Course at St Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA
Sun 8th	8.00am 9.30am 11.15am	Said Communion (BCP) at St Michael's Pirbright Contemporary Service at St Michael's Pirbright Holy Communion Service at St Mark's Church GU3 2DA
Mon 9th	8.00pm	Royal British Legion at The Fox at Fox Corner
Tue 10th	7.30pm 7.30pm - 9.15pm	Pirbright Horticultural Society at Lord Pirbright's Hall Alpha Course at St Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA
Fri 13th	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Rawlins Club at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Sat 14th	10.00am - 12.00pm 7.00pm	Operation Churchyard at St Michael's Pirbright The Rev's Round at The White Hart Pirbright
Sun 15th	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion Service at St Michael's Pirbright Contemporary Service at St Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA
Tue 17th	7.00pm	Pirbright WI at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Wed 18th	3.00pm	Ash Wednesday Service at St Michael's Pirbright
Sun 22nd	9.00am 10.00am 11.15am	The Parish Dash at Lord Pirbright's Hall Church On The Green at Lord Pirbright's Hall Holy Communion Service at St Mark's Church GU3 2DA
Tue 24th	7.30pm - 9.15pm	Alpha Course at St Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA
Every Mon	10.00am - 11.30am	Baby & Toddler Group at St Michael's Pirbright Church Room (term time only)
Every Wed	7.30pm - 9.00pm	Pirbright Gospel Choir at the Pirbright School in the Stefanetti Music Suite (term time only)
Every Thur	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Bellringing Practice in the Church Tower

Pirbright Village News is produced and delivered by volunteers on behalf of St Michaels and All Angels Church and Pirbright Parish Council.

Editors: Gemma Hyland, Heidi Gower and Jo Hurst.
Please send content to: editor@pirbrightvillagenews.org.uk

Pirbright Parish Council

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

St Michaels and All Angels Church

vicar: Rev George Watkinson
Admin: admin@pirbrightchurch.org.uk
07984323709
Website: www.pirbrightchurch.org.uk