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November 2026

Pirbright Village News

Pirbright welcomes hedgehogs

In a quiet corner of the village, hedgehogs are returning after an absence of more than 30 years.



There may be more of our prickly friends around than we realise. Look for tell-tale signs in your garden small black droppings on lawns, paths and patios.

How can you encourage hedgehogs to stay?

Hedgehogs usually emerge around dusk in search of food. Place bowls of food and water where you hope to see them, and their sensitive noses will soon find them.

You can supplement their natural diet with a few live mealworms, particularly as slugs and snails are in short supply this year. They also enjoy cat food, especially meat in jelly, sunflower hearts and specialist hedgehog biscuits. Never offer fish, which they cannot tolerate.

Wildlife rescue centres have been inundated with dehydrated hedgehogs this year, so fresh water daily is essential, especially in hot weather.

Try to establish when hedgehogs visit before putting food out, to avoid attracting mice and foxes. They soon learn to return to their feeding station at the same time each evening and become accustomed to familiar sounds, but are less tolerant of sudden movements.

As the month progresses, hedgehogs will eat more to prepare for hibernation. They usually emerge again in May and often return to the same feeding station each year.

For more advice on caring for hedgehogs in your garden, visit the British Hedgehog Preservation Society's website.

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A Sea of Poppies for Remembrance in the Churchyard

A huge thank you to everyone who helped bring our sea of poppies to life! Whether you donated empty plastic bottles, cut out the poppies, spray-painted them, glued on the stems or helped plant the display in the churchyard, your time and enthusiasm have been very much appreciated.

Please do come along and see the finished display in the churchyard between 1st and 17th November. We hope it will be a fitting tribute and a beautiful reminder of all those we remember.

Pirbright Historians

One of the most eminent Pirbrightians is surely Sir Edward Wilfrid Harry Travis KCMG CBE. In 1922, he moved with his parents into Heatherwood on the Aldershot Road. 7 years later he and his family moved 100 yards into newly-built Burners. Edward was appointed deputy head of The Government Code and Cypher School, which moved to Bletchley Park and later became known as GCHQ. After an internal revolt by Alan Turing and others, Edward took over as Head of GCHQ in 1942.

During WW2 both Winston Churchill and General Eisenhower together visited Sir Edward at Burners. They were accompanied by their security people, but the story goes that Sir Edward started off the meeting by telling the security men: "Pistols on the sideboard, gentlemen, please".

A grandson of Edward's has told us that Edward was known as 'Jumbo'. The brown ink he always used for his memos became known as 'the Director's blood'.

A fuller history of Edward Travis can be read at ***https://www.pirbrightpropertieshistory.com/the-south-area-3 richard@pirbright.info***

Pirbright Twinning Association AGM

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 7.00pm in the Committee Room at Lord Pirbright's Hall.

We warmly welcome anyone from the village to come along and have their say, help us develop our future events and plans and share ideas for the year ahead.

We'd love to see you there!

Jon Lopez - Chairman Pirbright Twinning Association ***07780066142***

Pirbright Parish Council

Co-option of a New Parish Councillor - meet Barry Preedy



The Parish Council co-opted Barry Preedy at its October meeting and now has a full contingent of 7 councillors all working on issues affecting the community. Barry lives in the centre of the village and has extensive experience in local government which will be crucial as we move across to the new West Surrey Authority. Barry is keen that the Parish Council's voice continues to be heard when the borough and county councils disappear on 1 April 2027.

Swallow Pond rejuvenation

Working with Mill Lane contractors Callum and Kirsty McKie, the Parish Council has undertaken to remove much of the invasive goat willow and rushes from the pond. This should enable this historic dew pond to hold on to its water for longer next summer. Local residents were keen to save the pond from being lost with the likelihood of more dry summers to come and the council quickly obtained a grant from SCC to be able to carry out the work. Residents will now work to keep the vegetation to an acceptable level to promote greater biodiversity and save this much loved pond. Thanks to the PPC Environmental Committee, SCC, SWT, Andrew Perkin (PhD), Paul Baker, Nigel Emmerson, Guilda Court and all the Swallow Pond Birds!









Speeding in the Parish

The Parish Council, along with many residents, are frustrated with the increasing numbers of drivers speeding through the Parish and have written to Lisa Townsend (Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner) to petition for more to be done to enforce the speed limits that are in place. The Parish Council would like to hear from residents who would be prepared to collect data to assist the Police and Surrey Highways. This will likely include forming new Speedwatch Groups. Please contact the Clerk if you feel you can help.

Pirbright Parish Council

Greenbelt to Greybelt

Residents may have read or seen articles in the press alerting them to the fact that Surrey's Greenbelt has been reclassified Greybelt. The Parish Council have written to GBC to object to this reclassification. Even the village green has now been designated as Greybelt! The Parish Council would encourage residents to contact their local MP (Al Pinkerton) if they too feel this must be raised in Parliament.

Grants to local clubs

This year, the Parish Council's grant allocation has gone to the Pirbright Art Club, Raiders Performing Arts, Surrey's Air Ambulance, Lord Pirbright's Hall and the Rawlins Club. All of these local charities and clubs work hard to give something back to the Pirbright community and we thank them for their work.

Community Groups

Pirbright Singers

Join **Pirbright Singers** for A Christmas Promise, a magical evening of festive music. Taking place at **7.30pm on Saturday 5th December 2026 at St Michael and All Angels Church, Pirbright**, the concert features the **UK premiere of *Mass Solemnis in C Minor by Eralys Fernandez***, alongside a beautiful selection of Christmas carols and seasonal favourites by renowned composers including Chilcott, Rutter and Gritton.

Tickets are £12, including a glass of mulled wine, with under 18s admitted free. Whether you are a lover of choral music or simply looking to embrace the spirit of Christmas, this is an event not to be missed.

Pirbright WI National Archives Trip

Pirbright WI are organising a coach trip to the National Archives on ***Wednesday 24th February 2027***.

If you are interested would like to join us we have 2 pick ups points.

9.25am from The Bus Stop, Normandy Common Car Park (Free parking) opposite Glaziers Lane. 9.40 from Goldworth Lodge Car Park in Wishbone Way, (free parking)

We will be returning from The National Archives at 4 pm. Cost £25.00. Which includes the drivers tip. There are lockers (free) a restaurant or you can take a packed lunch.

Please get in touch to book a seat and request a payments form, which will have all the details and cost. Payment by Transfer or cheque. Please do not pay until you have confirmation of the coach, payment will be due in November/December.

Irene Dredge Pirbright WI: ***01483 233279 irenedredge@outlook.com***

Community Groups

Royal British Legion

November is a time of remembrance for all those who served, in combat and in support roles alike. Please join us on ***Remembrance Sunday, 8th November, at 10am at St Michael's Pirbright Church***, as we honour the fallen and the injured and lay our poppy wreaths. We hope to see many of you there.

Our monthly meeting is the following day on Monday 9th November at 8pm at The Fox, Fox Corner. Anyone is welcome to join us

Contact: Anne Hawkins

Tel: 01252 404276

Friends of Pirbright Surgery

You are invited to Fundraising Coffee Morning at ***Mulberry Cottage, Chapel Lane on Saturday 14th November from 10.30am to 12pm***. Come along and enjoy a selection of homemade treats. We look forward to seeing you there!

Pirbright Tennis Club

www.pirbrighttennisclub.com

Winter Woking League: Great start for the Men's A team on 10th October with a 6-2 victory against Byfleet.

Tuesday 3rd November: Club Night with Tennis, Cheese and Wine. All welcome.

Club Night is every Tuesday with free floodlights from 6.30pm.

Club Treasurer Required: This is a vital, volunteering role. Members and Non-Members can apply.

Contact Peter Robotham: ***info@pirbrighttennisclub.com***
All Enquiries (inc. new membership) contact Fiona Robotham: ***info@pirbrighttennisclub.com***
Coaching Michael Jefferies:

07748 767339

Pirbright WI

Our meeting this month is on Tuesday 17th November at 7pm in the Club Room in Lord Pirbright's Hall and is our Annual Meeting when we will be reviewing the past year and deciding on the new committee.

The WI is serving coffees & teas with biscuits on Thursday mornings 10am to 11.15am at Lord's Pirbright's Hall. When you pop into the Country Market why not visit us for tea or coffee.

Irene Dredge 01483 233279 or email irenedredge@outlook.com

Pirbright Country Market

Every Thursday 10am to 11.15am at Lord's Pirbright Hall.

Homemade cakes, preserves, free range eggs & meat. Home grown plants & seasonal vegetables with a large selection of greetings cards and crafts. Orders welcome.

Rawlins Club

We are having our next meeting on Friday 13th November between 2pm and 4pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall. William French will talk about "Welcome to my World. What the Butler Saw".

Denise Granger 01483 472070

Pirbright Horticultural Society

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th November 2026 with a talk entitled ***"Roses from Production to Blooming in your Garden"***. The Speaker is Peter Goold who is a member of the well-known Henry Street Nursery

Do come along to the Clubroom at Lord Pirbright's Hall at 7.30pm all welcome. Website: ***pirbrighthort.co.uk***
PHS Secretary Tel: ***07453 106657***

secretary@pirbrighthort.co.uk

Gardening and Eco Tip for the Month

Gardening tips for November

Clear fallen leaves from lawns and paths, and remove them from flower beds if they form a thick layer. A light covering can be left for worms to break down and incorporate into the soil. Tidy climbers and wall shrubs by tying in long, whippy shoots to protect them from strong winds. Prune roses to reduce wind rock and prevent damage to their roots. November is also a good time to prune most deciduous trees. However, many deciduous ornamental grasses are best left standing until spring.

Prune grapevines after the leaves have fallen, but before the end of December, to avoid excessive sap loss, known as 'bleeding'. Plant bare-root plants while the soil is still workable. Plant them promptly to prevent the roots from drying out. If conditions aren't suitable, they can be temporarily heeled into the soil until you're ready to plant them properly.

Plant tulip bulbs once your other spring bulbs are in the ground. Planting them later in the season can help reduce the risk of tulip blight, a fungal disease. Protect overwintering brassicas with netting to prevent pigeons from damaging your crops.

Plant garlic and shallots if you haven't already done so. Lift and divide rhubarb crowns to rejuvenate established plants and create new ones.

Harvest parsnips after the first frosts, when their flavour is often sweeter. Sow peas and broad beans during the first week of November, traditionally considered a good time for these early sowings. Begin winter pruning of apple and pear trees. Lay turf while the ground remains workable and is not frozen. Avoid walking on lawns during wet weather, as this can compact the soil and damage the grass.

Eco tip for November

Portugal is the world leader in cork production, supplying over 50% of the global corks. This is a zero-waste industry, taking 25 years for the tree to grow before the first harvest. The tree is then harvested every 9 years, and the trees will live for about 200 years.

I have recently realised that we can now recycle natural corks. There are free collection bins in all Majestic Wine Shops, there is a shop in Goldsworth Road, Woking or East Street, in Farnham. These are reused by the Eden Project for enriching soils and protecting roots after being chopped into small pieces.

Or you send to "Recorked UK" – who resell them and a % of their profit goes to charities and schools. The address is Recorked UK, 22 Newquay Close, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 3EP

The 25th November is "FUEL POVERTY AWARENESS DAY"

On 28th November 2026 it is "BUY NOTHING DAY" – maybe we could give it a go, quite a difficult achievement for most of us.

Pirbright Community Calendar November 2026

Date	Time	Event
Sun 1st	9.30am	Holy Communion Service at St Michael's Pirbright
	11.15am	All Age Service at St Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA
	6.00pm - 7.00pm	Prayer and Worship at St Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA
Tue 3rd	7.15pm	Alpha at St Michael's Pirbright Church Room
Sat 7th	10.00am - 12.00pm	Operation Churchyard at St Michael's Pirbright
Sun 8th	8.00am	Said Communion Service at St Michael's Pirbright
	10.00am	Remembrance Sunday Service at St Michael's Pirbright
	5.00pm - 6.00pm	Taize Reflective Service at St Mark's Church GU3 2DA
Mon 9th	8.00pm	Royal British Legion at The Fox Inn, Fox Corner
Tue 10th	7.15pm	Alpha at St Michael's Pirbright Church Room
	7.30pm	Pirbright Horticultural Society at Lord Pirbright's Hall Club Room
Wed 11th	7.00pm	Pirbright Twinning Association AGM at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Fri 13th	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Rawlins Club at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Sat 14th	10:30am – 12:00pm	Friends of Pirbright Surgery at Mulberry Cottage, Chapel Lane
Sun 15th	8.00am	Said Communion Service at St Mark's Church GU3 2DA
	9.30am	Holy Communion Service at St Michael's Pirbright
	11.15am	Contemporary Service at St Mark's Church GU3 2DA
Tue 17th	10.15am 7.00pm	Midweek communion followed by Cafe Club at St Michael's Pirbright WI at Lord Pirbright's Hall in the Club Room
	7.15pm	Alpha at St Michael's Pirbright Church Room
Sun 22nd	9.00am	Pirbright Parish Dash ASR 2.5K to 5k at Lord Pirbright's Hall
	10.00am	Church On The Green at Lord Pirbright's Hall
	11.15am	Holy Communion service at St Mark's Church GU3 2DA
Sat 28th	10.00am – 11.30am	Cosy Christmas Market at St Michael's Pirbright Church Room
Sun 29th	10.00am	Joint Holy Communion Service at St Michael's Pirbright Church
Every Mon	10.00pm - 11.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group at St Michael's Pirbright Church Room (term time only)
Every Tue	6.30pm	Pirbright Tennis Club Night with Tennis, Cheese and Wine
Every Thur	10.00am - 11.15am	Pirbright Country Market Lord's Pirbright's Hall

Pirbright Village News is produced and delivered by volunteers on behalf of St Michael 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 Michael and All Angels Church

Vicar: Rev George Watkinson Admin:

Pirbright.office@gmail.com

07984323709 Website: www.pirbrightchurch.org.uk