

PIXHAM POST

Type to enter text



Newsletter of the Pixham Residents Association: Issue 23: Sept/Oct 2015

YOUR COUNSEL NEEDED

Moves to start a Dorking Town Council have hit the news recently and the PRA invited two representatives from the Dorking Town Forum to a meeting on August 10th. Four PRA members then met a MVDC representative. The proposed Dorking Town Council at present will involve Dorking North and Dorking South constituencies, not Pixham, but we could choose to join. We would have one member in a Council of around fifteen and would pay an extra levy on our council tax of approximately £50 per annum.

There are many issues here: what would Pixham gain from such a council / would it be worth paying a levy / can we afford **not** to be involved / would it be better to form our own Parish Council which would also require a levy? Or shall we stay as we are?

We need **you** to decide what to do within the next few months. Please give your opinions via Sharon, sharonshoebridge@yahoo.co.uk. If people would like us to call a public meeting to discuss the whole issue, then please request one in your email, or drop a note to her at 36 Leslie Rd.



Pixham Summer Fête 2015

Pixham's annual fête was held on the 27th of June, and despite strong breezes we kept the marquees on the ground!

After suggestions last year we opened a little earlier to enable more visitors to enjoy the BBQ and Café, and of course the fine local ales and Pimms. As always, huge amounts of cake were consumed – the scones and the Portuguese 'Pastel De Nata' custard tarts were fabulous!

With all the usual stalls, fun, games, children's activities and raffles, we raised over £600 to support maintenance and improvements to the Old Pixham School building. Next year's Pixham Summer Fête is likely to be on the 25th of June – a 2016 date for your diary already! Please get in touch if you would like to be involved. We hope to have more stalls with local crafts and expand Brian's beer and Pimms stand into a full blown Pop Up Pub.



OLD SCHOOL REPORT

New carpets! Regular users will have noticed our beautiful, immaculate carpet-tiles, made possible by a generous donation from County Councillor Hazel Watson's discretionary fund. Thank you, Hazel.

New classes! By popular demand there will be several more sessions run by Cranford Physio (see page 3). And Anna Scott is planning **life drawing classes on Monday evenings**: 07944 738214.

New 'stuff'! The kitchen door and window have been replaced and we are working through other maintenance and refurbishment issues during the relatively quiet summer period. Heating is our biggest bugbear – we are currently throwing good money after bad with the antiquated system and are collecting quotations for replacement. The sums are eye-watering, but not unattainable – please think about making a donation, running a money-making event for us or doing one of those maintenance jobs!

Many thanks to our "outdoor crew" Sarah, Tony and Michael, who keep the grounds groomed and provide such beautiful flower displays. (And thanks to Mary Peckham who organises everything.)

Pixham Pong Update: Thanks for your surveys

PRA representatives used your information when they met Thames Water and Mole Valley's Environmental Health team in June to discuss ongoing issues with noise and odour from the Treatment Works.

We presented your details of the types, strengths and times of the smells and noise from the works and made sure everyone was fully aware of the impact it all has on Pixham residents.

Thames Water talked us through the processes to identify possible sources of odour and noise and determine what can be done to reduce them.

Odours: Based your information they were able to identify two stages of the treatment which may be responsible and make improvements.

Noise: they thought the main problem comes from pressurised air blowers used to aerate waste water. Pump house windows are often left open to avoid them overheating. To alleviate this, Thames are to investigate improving the glazing and also using chiller units. Work is also planned before April 2016 to replace the aeration system and thereby reduce the load on the blowers.

We will be meeting Thames Water again in October. Can you please once more gather evidence of odours and noise to judge the effectiveness of the work that has been carried out?

Included with your copy of The Post is a form which enables you to record up to 5 incidents. We will also distribute this by email and put it on the website. Thank you.

HIDDEN GARDENS

Hidden away in Pixham are two beautiful walled gardens that anyone can work in and enjoy. The first is the **Patchworking Garden Project**. Go through the five-barred gate to Aviva's sports ground and walk through the door in the wall on your right. There it is – a lovely wheelchair accessible space with productive vegetable beds, flowers and benches. Towards the rear there are secluded spaces to sit and enjoy the peace and they even have a solar-powered composting toilet.

I spoke to Carmel, visionary GP at the heart of this project. "I had to retire early because of mental health issues," she told me. "I've always loved to garden and thought I might find a place where people who need space and tranquility, or who might feel a little left out of life, can come along and relax. We have lots of volunteers who can listen and chat over a cuppa – and of course there's always gardening to do."

"We only started in November and the place was a wilderness. We've worked incredibly hard – it's really satisfying to hack away at brambles and know you're doing something so worthwhile."

They had an Open Day in July and around 300 people turned up. "We had lots for children to do – watering plants and crafts, for example. It was a lovely occasion when people could wander around and see what we've achieved." Right now they're fund-raising for more timber for raised beds and they plan to build a large wooden workshop which will also be a meeting place in colder months.

"The hardest bit is coming for the first time," Carmel said. "When you're not feeling great it's difficult to pick up the phone and even worse to walk through the gate. But groups come in from nursing homes and we love it when individuals turn up, though it's best to phone first and check someone will be around. Come for a chat, to sit quietly or do a little gardening if you feel like it. We always try to give people a small gift when they leave – perhaps a plant or a few seeds in a container. We need

HERE AND THERE

volunteers to actively garden and we'd love more people to come along and see how the garden may benefit them.

Contact Carmel on 0781454442 or email her on

info@patchworkinggardenproject.co.uk.

Pixham Potager is another beautiful walled space with wonderful views to Box Hill.



Their slogan is 'Eat well, eat fresh, eat local' and they produce fresh fruits and vegetables through the year. Volunteers come when they can and take or buy produce in proportion to the amount of work they've done. "It works really well," said Jenny, an energetic founder member of the scheme. "People with small gardens or who are away a lot so can't run an allotment can join up. We have around 20 right now and could always do with more. They don't have to be experienced gardeners – we're all learning. Anyone of any age is welcome. It's a brilliant chance to meet new people and work in a lovely space to produce healthy and delicious food." Productive greenhouses, poly-tunnels, fruit trees, bushes and vegetable beds made it hard to imagine a wilderness but she told me the garden was derelict when they started.

"Work-days are popular," she said. "One a month in the winter, when we get loads of things done: there's something for everyone."

Jenny is also trying to develop a garden-share project, where people who want to garden can 'adopt' someone else's space that's too large for them. "Contact me if you're interested," she said. "And we need someone with website skills to set up a good site for us."

Anyone who'd like to find out more can email her at ja.whiting@ntlworld.com

EXCITING DEVELOPMENT AT THE OLD SCHOOL: NEW CLASSES FOR PAIN SUFFERERS

Cranfold Physio is a team of private Chartered Physiotherapists with years of experience helping patients who have joint, back and soft tissue problems. A few years ago they decided it'd be useful to not only get people better, but to actively help them stay that way, and their first Clinical Classes were born.

They are increasing their sessions at Pixham to the following:

- Mondays: Pilates at 12.00, Lower Limb Rehabilitation at 1.00, both with Lindsey. The latter targets leg joint replacement, arthritic and post operative patients.
- Tuesdays: Pilates at 11.45, Back School at 1.15, both with Karen.
- All classes are in "terms" of 5 or 6 weeks and cost £10 a week ie £50 if it's a 5 week term.

Classes have a slow pace and are kept deliberately small, with a maximum of 10 participants.

How do you join?

- Call 01483 267747 or visit www.cranfoldphysio.co.uk
- For Pilates you'll need a 1:1 session of 30 minutes before joining the class when Lindsey or Karen will find out your medical history and goals, then assess you and teach the basics. This costs £25 and is only needed once.
- For Lower Limb and Back School you'll need a 45 minute physio assessment and treatment session to gauge the most suitable class for you and to give you an individual treatment. You can join either class privately, or through a GP referral. Most of the individual sessions will be in the Medwyn Centre.

AROUND PIXHAM



Sorry to see you go:

Farewell to Aviva who will be closing their Pixham office in 2016. As Friends Provident then Friends Life they were major employers in the area and their Club has been a focal point of Dorking's social life for years. They also encouraged football tournaments and sporting events in their magnificent grounds.

And the Jubilee Nursery, which closed its doors at the church during August, to the dismay of parents throughout Dorking. We'll miss you.

CALENDAR BOYS!

The Cricket Club has just finished shooting its 2016 NAKED calendar. All in the best possible taste, of course and in aid of their Pavilion fund. Copies cost £12 from Alison: alisonclairep@gmail.com.

SCOUTING ROUND

The 3rd Pixham had its first Annual General Meeting in July, which celebrated both a culmination and a beginning – it was the first AGM of the newly restarted group, and celebrated the end of a fantastic year of building and growing. There was a huge amount of support from parents and friends of the Group as well as a delicious BBQ, outdoor games, and a 10 year Service Award for Andy, our Scout Leader. Our youngest waiting list member - Isla, daughter of Assistant Scout Leader Paul, 6 weeks old – also made a brief appearance. Many thanks to everyone in the Pixham community for their support and warm interest in the Group. If you'd like to get involved like your wonderful neighbour Lynn Agent, please contact Julia on 07766380377.

Lynn is the Beaver Leader and has organized the Beavers into their Lodges. They have made lovely pictures of the animals that their Lodges are named for and have had an exciting term both at Pixham and farther afield!

A letter from Neighbourhood Watch

I'm going to harp on about security of outbuildings. They are still an easy target for criminals. Please consider purchasing extra locks/bolts if you haven't done so already. Perhaps upgrade the flimsy lock supplied with your shed. Let's make it difficult for these people to get into your outbuildings.

Another thing we can do is security mark our garden tools with various paints/messages. Nobody stole an ashtray from the Ritz Hotel after they put on them "Stolen from The Ritz"...

Did you know there is a Police desk in the Mole Valley Council Offices? The staff are very helpful. They can provide information on home security and even arrange a visit from a Crime Prevention Officer who will assess the risk your property poses and any vulnerable areas.

Finally on the subject of visible property there have been a number of thefts from handbags left dangling, or inside, supermarket trolleys. I've seen it myself - a handbag open with purse exposed. Whilst you're distracted trying to determine whether the 3 for 2 offer is worthwhile a ne'er do well has taken your purse. I know all this sounds common sense but as some great mind once said: "The only sense that's not common is common sense".

Roger Mortimore

Roger Hurst's round-up of news and information

Parking Problems: On 6th August Surrey County Council launched the formal consultation process about changes to parking in Dorking. This included a whole raft of controls in the Rothes and Wathen Road area and in Spital Heath. Some Pixham residents are concerned about possible 'knock-on' effects, especially as we already have many commuter cars parked locally. Have your say on the Surrey CC website or write to: Parking Team, Rowan House, Merrow Lane, Guildford GU4 7BQ by 10th September 2015.

Good Moaning. None of us want to be perceived as a wildlife haters, but wouldn't life be less challenging if the pigeons roosting under the Lincoln Road railway bridge would move house so pedestrians don't have to walk through pigeon poo (*or duck, or rush along with hand clasped to head: Ed*). Moaning at Network Rail to get them to upgrade the pigeon deterrents has at long last persuaded them to agree to survey the bridge, but when? If you wish to join in the 'Good Moaning', Network Rail have an online form in the 'contact us' section of their web site or email john.ecles@networkrail.co.uk. The bridge number is BTH 19/22m15ch.

Aircraft Noise: Have you noticed more aircraft noise recently? If so the reason might be operational changes in Heathrow's Ockham Holding Stack. This is one of four around the capital where aircraft are held at busy times to await landing space at Heathrow Airport. At Ockham they fly as far east and west as Ashted/Bookham and as far south as N. Dorking/Pixham. Reputedly the circuit can contain up to nine aircraft 'stacked' vertically at 1,000ft intervals from 7,000ft.

The trial is designed to improve navigation techniques and a few people have mentioned hearing an aircraft drone or hum (more consistently). It may be more noticeable in summer with windows open and also early in the morning as overnight flights wait for clearance to land. If you are disturbed by this aircraft noise contact noise@heathrow.com or use the Heathrow Airport website at <http://www.heathrowairport.com/noise/what-you-can-do/make-a-complaint-about-noise>

Regular events update

Mondays: Old School 9.15,
Sam's fitness.

Tuesdays: Old School.
Jingle Bugs at various
times. Contact Surrey
Arts: 01483 519303.

Wednesdays: Old School.
Baby massage & 'Relief into
Life'. 6 weeks from Sept
23rd. Sophie:
info@reliefintolife.co.uk

Sundays: Pixham Church
from 10.00 for coffee,
service at 10.30.

The Old School can be
hired for one-off or regu-
lar bookings by contacting
Mary Peckham,
mpixham@btinternet.com

STOP PRESS!

**Pixham's Christmas Festi-
val Weekend is booked.**

Fri 4th Dec: Quiz Night

Sat 5th: An 'event'???

**Sun 6th: Christmas Café
Mayo AND**

**Christmas Carol Service
at the Church.**

Welcome to the Pixham
Post. If you have any contri-
butions, comments or ques-
tions please contact Pat: pix-
hampost@gmail.com.

Deadline for next issue:
October 20th.

Enjoy the newsletter, sup-
port local events and love life
in Pixham!

And don't forget the PRA
website.

Holmes Guide to What's on: Sept / Oct 2015

September

Sat 12th: **Pixham's Got Talent!** 10-4 at St Mary's Church, Pixham. Delight for the eyes and ears at the MUSICATHON - continuous performances by choirs, instrumentalists and soloists : refreshments.

Wed 16th: **Chester Close Management Committee meeting:** Old School: 7.30.

Fri 18th: **Quiz Night:** 7.30 at Old School. Come on your own or with a group; £7 includes a meal. Teams of 8 but don't worry if you don't have enough. Brains optional! There is a bar which might help. And a prize for the winning team.

Sun 20th: **Walk.** 10.00 outside the Old School. Wear walking boots and be ready for mud. Call John Hammond on 01306 742996, Linda on 07890 547002 or just turn up; we'd love to see you.

Fri 25th: **Coffee morning & light lunches:** Old School, 10am-1pm as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer support.

AND **Shiny Side Down Film night:** '20 Feet From Stardom'. 7.30 for 8: bar. See article below.

October

Wed 7th: **Coffee morning** at the Old School, 10-12. Delicious cakes, craft stalls and great company. Preserves and cakes to buy. Bring a friend, your children or come on your own. All ages welcome. Phone Pat, 07867558284 for more information.

Sun 18th: **Walk:** another muddy and magical meander in our beautiful local countryside. Find out ore about the area where we live. 10.00 outside the Old School.

Fri 23rd: **Shiny Side Down** proudly presents another magnificent film. 7.30 for 8, Old School. Tickets from Sue (senichols357@hotmail.com)

Fri 30th: **Hallowe'en special Quiz Night**, as above.

November

Wed 4th: **Coffee morning:** see above.

Mon 9th: Next edition of Pixham Post out.

SSDFG ARE BACK!

Ladies and gentleman, boys and girls, it gives us great pleasure to announce that the Shiny Side Down Film Group will be back in September for our third season of cinematic revelry. Did you miss us? We've definitely missed you!

We've been extremely busy over the summer wangling all sorts of films to build our third season's programme and poring over cookery books to dream up some new food offerings. We have a new 5.1 surround sound speaker system, about 1/2 mile of plastic trunking, a new stretch of speaker cable, some plyboard, metres of grey expanded foam...oh and a little box thingamajig on the wall (fingers crossed!).

Doors open on Friday the 25th of September at 7:30pm for our first film, 20 Feet from Stardom (Cert. 12), a tribute to the unsung voices who brought shape and style to popular music and a reflection on the conflicts, sacrifices and rewards of a career spent harmonising with others.

Unfortunately our experiment with a reserve list last year didn't really work so once the seats are gone they're gone...although this doesn't stop advanced booking! Tickets are available from Sue (senichols357@hotmail.com)

We can't wait to share another season with you all, so come along and join us once more for another Pixham celluloid adventure.