

---

# PRIDE IN PORTBURY

PARISH NEWSLETTER NO.5 – JULY 2016

---

## A Momentous few months!!!

After the last many months of argument and national politicking it's a relief to start thinking about more local issues once more. Your Parish Councillors are do not represent any political party so we've all been free to have our own views on "in" or "out" of Europe without interference or coercion from Weston super Mare or beyond. It was good to see the Club lounge declared a "politics free zone" recently, I'm sure that was appreciated and provided a respite from the relentless media coverage. It's now time to get on with what we've got to do.



In this Newsletter we have also included extra contributions from the [Village Hall](#) and the [Church](#), just to let you know what is going on there too. We hope you'll find this a good way of keeping you in touch with what's happening; if you have things that you would like to include in the future then just let us know. Our next publication date will be in October.

**D** **Diary Dates** – no Community Cafe in August, Jo and her team get a well earned break!!! Please note that at the **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** Cafe there will be a further drop in discussion, this time on the subject of The Village Hall and Community Shop. Once again we will produce some questions for you all; these will also be e-mailed and posted on Facebook. You will also be able to attend the Parish Council meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September to share your views in person.

On **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>** September, at 7.30 there is a murder mystery event in the Village Hall organised by the Church. It is to be based on the 1930/40s and people are invited to dress to reflect that era – this is not compulsory but would be great fun. Tickets at £5 include entrance fee and a 'mock cocktail' on arrival, the bar will be open and there will be a raffle. Everyone welcome to this fun fundraising evening. Tickets @ Morgan Westley or contact the Churchwarden.



**C** **ar parking** and traffic consultation – Thank you to those of you who took time to fill out our questionnaire on this subject and some also attended our drop in sessions. We only had about 30 responses in total however, and whilst the trends in the responses was quite clear, it would be much better if we had more comments to work on to ensure that we are representing you all properly. We are now analysing all the feedback received and will publish the results. In general there seems to be strong support for a 20mph zone through the village, 79% in favour. There was also a clear request for more signage to deter lorries bound for the docks making an incorrect turn into High Street. With parking there was a more complex result, whilst many, 78%, acknowledge there is a parking problem in the village, most don't think that a controlled parking system would work. More double yellow lines had reasonable support, 65%. More focussed discussion led us



to conclude that restricted parking is needed at Church Lane to prevent car clubbers choking up the approach to the School. This restriction could be for just 1 hour, thus allowing parents to drop children off with much more ease than now. We will develop this idea further in the coming months.

**R** **oad Surfacing** – good news to report. After many, many years of badgering the residents of Forge End finally got their road resurfaced. The machines just turned up one morning and in a couple of days it was done. This was reward for the sheer persistence of a few residents there who kept the problem live with North Somerset Council. Well done!!!



**The Village Green** – I hope you may have noticed that the green is being cut more frequently now. We decided that the “regular” cuts by North Somerset weren’t regular enough and this was leaving long clumps of cut grass lying round. We are now cutting every week to 10 days as the grass needs it so that the cuttings are much less and will mulch in better. This ought to mean that the grass will look better for longer. We’ll soon be getting quotes for improving the centre path, a much needed investment. The WI garden is also looking fantastic now. More borders will be created in due course.

**N**eighbourhood Watch – crime problems have eased over the last few months, but there are still opportunists out there who will take advantage of insecure cars or buildings, so we need to keep vigilant. Some “ne’re-do-well’s” we think are using the footbridge as their escape route, parking a car or bike over in Sheepway to make a getaway. We are thinking about installing a CCTV camera near the end of the footbridge to act as both a deterrent to these people and as a possible source of evidence if any crime is committed. Early days yet, but please let us know what you think about this. Our Neighbourhood Watch group remains active and is linked into the Parish Council – if you want to receive data on crime that is happening, in order to keep ahead of the game, then contact us and we can get you on the mailing list.



**P**ortbury Wharf Nature Reserve – You may have been trying to follow events as they have unfolded at the Nature Reserve at Portbury Wharf. I know many of you will have a keen interest in this. It’s a pity the picture of what has been going on has been so muddy, but now it is possible that matters are settling down. Attempts are being made to set up a Community Trust to look after the land. This will be independent and democratic and will safeguard all the land as a conservation area. Volunteers who wish to get involved in this should e-mail the [FRIENDSPWNR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FRIENDSPWNR@GMAIL.COM).



*Mike Phipps – Chairman Portbury Parish Council*

**T**he Village Hall – sharp eyed amongst you will have noticed the brand new windows on the side of the Hall. The original windows were in a bit of a mess and so we decided to spend reserves on replacing them before internal decoration started. A lot of people thought the Hall had already been decorated but it was just that the new windows let in so much more light! Decoration inside the Hall and Reading Room is now finished, and looks amazing. The toilets will follow in August. With external brickwork repair coming up too, along with electrical work this means that we’ll be spending nearly £10,000 this year on keeping the building up together. Keep supporting us so that we can carry on looking after our lovely building for years to come.



Our summer skittles league is now running and it’s good to see a lot of people in the Lounge enjoying the banter over a drink or two. The Cider festival was a great success again as well as giving everyone a good time we were able to “bank” about £2000 in surplus – to help with all the things involved in running the Social Club.



I am standing down as Chair of the Club at the end of September, I am glad I’ve been involved in so many good things over the last 2 years. The Club is a very good position, financially we are doing well and you can see that the building is being “refreshed” from the funds we’ve raised. It’s now time for someone else to take over. We have a good team of people doing various essential tasks so anyone interested in taking over from me needn’t worry about having to do “everything”! If you are interested please do get in touch, it’s essential that there is a full Committee and Chair to run things, and you will have a good time doing it.

[Back](#)

*Sharon Worthy – Chair of the Village Hall and Social Club*

**S**t Mary's Church - This is our first insertion on the Parish Notice Board and we hope to update you on what is going on in subsequent newsletters.



Those of you who already know us will know our Rector, the Rev Ruth Legg. We are very sad to announce that she will be retiring this year and her last service will be held at Portbury on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September. This is a harvest festival and farewell service for Ruth which will start at 11am, followed by a sharing lunch.



We are a friendly bunch and would love to see you at any of our services or fundraising events. Why not find out more about your local 12<sup>th</sup> Century church and the wealth of Church history and of local families that we now house in the heritage room in the church? Portbury historians have recently donated their life's work to this venture. Eventually this may move to a more prominent position behind the Berkeley Chapel. We hold guided talks of the Church from time to time and also upon request. The Church is open most Wednesday mornings (and most days upon request), when our team of volunteers come and do maintenance jobs and keep the graveyard tidy. If anybody is free to help with strimming the graveyard either regularly or occasionally please contact us.

We have been busy over the last couple of years updating the church giving it a new Chancel Roof, carrying out complete rewiring and installing new modern spotlights. Boundary walls alongside the lane adjacent the school have been rebuilt to make them safe. The bell tower has also had attention so that bell-ringers can continue to ring safely.

Our Sunday services start at 10am except the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday which is a short Communion service at 8am. The first Sunday of the month is a family service which is more informal and relaxed. We are delighted that we now have our own Portbury musicians.

For contact ring Ann Longstaff – Church Warden 374987

[Back](#)

*Ann Longstaff – Church Warden*

And a final word from your Parish Council – we too have lost a long standing colleague from our office in Portishead. Sara Thompson has left us for pastures new after a long association with the Parish Council as our administrator. She is the one on the end of the phone, e-mail and latterly Facebook posts, making sure that these are passed on to the right person. She does a lot more besides and has been a tremendous support to all of the Councillors and to the recent past Chairmen in particular. We wish her well.

There remains a vacancy on our Council as Nick Lange had to step down due to work pressures, entirely understandable. If you like what we are doing and can spare a little time to get involved then please do contact us. We need women councillors in particular and/or “younger” residents to give us a wide perspective on what the village needs – please get involved.

