
PRIDE IN PORTBURY

PARISH NEWSLETTER NO.6 – OCTOBER 2016

Diary Dates – welcome back to the Community Cafe after its August break. It's lovely to see villagers coming together for a natter, we are also here to hear about things that are bothering you all. This time we are very keen to hear from you all about your concerns on crime. Whilst we don't have a plague of incidents at the moment we want to hear from you about what you feel our biggest risks are. Please fill out our questionnaire either on line on Facebook or the one attached to this newsletter. Then come to the Cafe on the **5th of November** if you want to discuss anything with us. Please read on to hear about our Neighbourhood watch.

There is the Annual [Village Hall](#) and Social Club AGM on Monday **the 7th of November** at 8pm. This is also the time when the Company AGM report is given and people can get involved or ask questions of the governing Board of Directors. Please come along and give your support, but most importantly consider becoming involved in the running of the Club. We need a constant supply of volunteers to help in keeping our treasured asset going. Most importantly we need a Chair to take over from Sharon Worthy who has done her bit for 2 years now. The Club is well organised so the job of Chair is not too onerous; please give it a bit of your time if you can.



Remembrance Sunday is on the **13th of November** this year. As usual there will be a special service at the [Church](#) followed by a short ceremony at the War Memorial just before 11 o'clock. It is 100 years now since the battle of the Somme. Do come along and show respect to our fallen villagers and also hear about a local hero who lost his life in that horrible carnage.



Neighbourhood Watch. For many more years than I can remember Roy Ball has been our leader of the Neighbourhood watch, and a fantastic job he has been doing. In the early days it was formed as a patrolling team because we had an alarming number of house break ins around the village. On one patrol that I was on we just missed someone who had broken into a house on Priory Road and snaffled a rather nice tele!! Later we mobilised the police after a break in at the Priory Inn and some villains were arrested, one with part of his trousers missing courtesy of a police dog!! Thankfully we haven't had that amount and seriousness of crime since, but we are ever mindful of the need to be vigilant.



Roy would like to stand down and the Parish Council have agreed to bring the Neighbourhood Watch under its wing, with the help of Julie Kearsley, the previous secretary of the group. For the moment what this means is that we will be synchronising mailbases so that we have one list of contacts and then we will take over the distribution of the Police monthly reports. The prime emphasis on crime these days is on prevention and deterrence and so we think the main initial task is to keep you all informed of the trends and to remind you of the good housekeeping habits that will help to keep you safe.



In the questionnaire that we have circulated we are also asking about coordinated groups who can look out for each other, especially when people are away on holiday. We are well on the way to the installing a CCTV camera on the footbridge which will deter villains from using that route for entry and escape from the Village. Please do tell us your views if you have concerns about this.

Dog Poo!! – I'm very sorry to have to bring this item up again but we continue to have a problem on the playing field and there has been a problem at the Lodge by Priors Wood too. Extra signs have been posted and a warning letter has been sent to a resident. If you do see anyone failing to pick up their dog's mess then do ask them to. If that isn't possible then give us their name if you can and the Parish Council will write to them. A fine of up to £1000 can be levied on repeat offenders; that ought to encourage tidier habits!



Whilst on the subject of dogs, a very distressing attack happened at the Lodge and Naomi Sweeting lost her cat as a result, and suffered a huge Vets bill too to add to the trauma of it all. We don't think the dogs and owners come from Portbury, but again anyone who has information pass it on to us. I'm sure our dog owners don't need to be reminded but if your dog has aggressive tendencies then do keep it under control.

Neighbourhood Plan – the last questionnaire was on the subject of the Village Hall and possible Village Shop. There was universal support for the idea of a shop and plenty of indication that there would be local trade for it. When it comes to making that a reality however there was a mixed picture. From what we can gather there would be insufficient volunteers to staff a community shop, a commercial venture would thus be a better option. Whoever runs it there would need to be a car park – a sadly lacking feature for our Village Hall! If this is to go further therefore we do need to resolve this issue. Response to the Village Hall was positive, with general support to allowing a proportion of our rate precept to be earmarked for support each year. This is important because of potential rate relief changes in 2017 which will eat into the surpluses generated each year by the Club.

The Village Green – work continues to develop a plan for the Village Green which will include a new centre path, more benches and a new border. Right now we are busy trying to raise grant funding for it all, thus limiting the amount of our own funds that we have to spend. A mosaic artwork is planned for the back of the War Memorial, subject to funds; we shall be offering a few design ideas for a public vote on which one looks most fitting. Watch out in the New Year.



Mike Phipps – Chairman Portbury Parish Council

And Village Hall News from Sharon

The Village Hall – we've had a really busy time with continued work on our Hall. There has been redecoration in the main Hall, Reading Room and the toilet areas; this makes everything look very clean and attractive, especially for external bookings. More windows have been renewed and the area outside the rear door has been concreted. During October we will be doing pointing work on the exterior to help control dampness, mainly in the lounge. All in all, thanks to the good funding position we are in, we have now just about completed all the high priority building work.



As mentioned last time I am standing down as Chair of the Club at the end of September, and new blood is needed. The Club continues to be in a very good position financially and the Committee members do a lot to take their share of the work in running the place, a big thank you to each and every one of them. Please do come along to the

AGM on the 7th of November at 8pm and get a little involved in the Club, you will enjoy it and hopefully will help our precious asset to flourish.

Don't forget too that annual membership fees are now due, as from the end of September. We raise over £1000 for the Hall this way, but lately the amount has been reducing. It's great value at only £10 per adult, £20 for the whole family and £5 for OAP's. In return you get to be able to hire the Hall at special rates and take advantage of our fantastically competitive prices in the Lounge Bar.

[Back](#)

Sharon Worthy – Chair of the Village Hall and Social Club

And News from Ann one of our Churchwardens

St Mary's Church – I'm happy to tell you that the Church is in the process of setting up a toddler group and we'd like to get this going as soon as we can. There is no such provision for our little ones in the Village at the moment and we felt that this would be a very worthwhile thing to do. We know of a few parents who are interested in this, if you would also like to know more contact me on 07552 629928.



We are in the process of installing a new sound system in the Church which will make our services much more clear for our congregation; it's such a huge building only the most powerful of voices can be heard at the back!! I can't imagine what our ancestors did before the days of electricity!



As mentioned in the Diary notes we have our annual Remembrance Service on the 13th of November. It's important that we continue to remember the sacrifices made by those who serve in the armed forces. Portbury was fortunate in that we lost relatively few soldiers in both the World Wars. Our service will begin at the Church, we then process down to the War Memorial to hear a short dedication before the 2 minutes silence at 11.00. Please do come along to any part of the event.



On our new notice board at the Church you will find news about all our up and coming events.

[Back](#)

Ann Longstaff – ChurchWarden

And a final word from your Parish Council – we continue to work on the Neighbourhood Plan and your views are very important to this. It is disappointing that only about 40 residents have responded to our questionnaires and polls. Whilst the views we are getting are reasonably consistent, this does only represent 4% of our population, not enough! Please do get involved in the process and give us your views either at the flagged community cafes, next one in November, or our Parish Council meetings, next one 8th November, or on Facebook.

There remains a vacancy on our Council. If you like what we are doing and can spare a little time to get involved then please do contact us. We still need women councillors in particular and/or “younger” residents to give us a wide perspective on what the village needs – but any interested party would be most welcome.



MAP – 18th October 2016