
PRIDE IN PORTBURY

PARISH NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2018

INCORPORATING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Hi Portbury

I just can't believe we are in August already, and what a Summer we are experiencing, personally I love the hot weather but I know lots of you don't. In the Winter we always keep an eye on our elderly and vulnerable neighbours but it's just as important to do the same in the hot weather. If you are going shopping perhaps knock and ask if they need anything as it's best for them to stay inside in the cool.

I love my garden but because of the heat I, and I am sure you have also experienced the same, have lost some plants so if your gardens are suffering here are a few hints and tips:

- No point watering your grass, it's a waste of time waste of water and to make any difference you would have to completely soak it, it will come back green eventually and at least we are not having to continually mow it.
- When watering your pots, never water in full sun, never water the leaves or flowers this will just result in unsightly scorching and when using tap water stain or even promote mildew. Just stick your hose in the actual soil 1st thing in the morning or after the sun has set and feed them often. Pots dry out in the sun so try and do this on a daily basis if possible, water until it runs out of the bottom of the pot.
- Your veg will be getting stressed in this heat so if your tomatoes start turning orange, pick them, you can ripen on the window ledge or in a brown paper bag. Try and water every 2/3 days if possible, again on the actual soil, let it soak in, then give it another soak for good measure.
- Mulch around your plants, it will help retain the water and also keep them cool. but make sure the soil is wet before you mulch. If the heat wave continues you could also try shading them.
- Deadhead your flowers they will continue to bloom.

If you have any good advice for the gardens let me know perhaps we can have a regular spot in the newsletter.

Neighbourhood Watch



Luckily nothing to report this month I would though like to remind you to keep your sheds and garages locked and if you do see anything suspicious then contact the police. With the holiday season upon us it is important to keep an eye on our neighbours' premises, again if anything looks out of place call the police.

Pylons



Last month representatives from The National Grid attended the Parish Council Meeting to update us on the proposed work schedule next year on the Pylons, if you want to keep abreast of what and how this will effect out village and the surrounding area, you can log onto their website, the address is;
<https://hinkleyconnection.co.uk/map-and-timeline/>

Speed Limit



Do you think it is working? Personally I don't, very few adhere to the 30 let alone the 20. North Somerset Council are monitoring this but in the meantime we still need more Speedwatch volunteers. Just to update those of you that have shown interest we are waiting for our registration to be updated this will be followed by a training session on how to use the 'guns' correctly, let me or anyone on the Parish Council know if you are interested in being trained.

Another reason we need the speeding cars to slow down is that NSC have now made the decision to withdraw the school bus to Gordano School. Thankfully they will continue to provide free travel to those who qualify and have, in conjunction with the local bus company, had timetables moved to accommodate the school timetable. NSC do have to provide a safe route for the children to the bus stops, they have performed a risk assessment and this has resulted in measures being put in place to withdraw some parking on the High Street, this is to allow good sightline from Caswell Lane. There are notices displayed but if you have any comments please refer to NSC website.

This is another reason for us to keep the pathways as clear as possible, If you have hedges or trees hanging on or over the paths please be kind enough to cut them back. I notice especially over in Sheepway the paths are very overgrown some with lots of bramble, meaning you have to walk on the road, it is after all the land owners responsibility, so anything you can do would be appreciated.

Allotments



I am happy to report that the Allotments at the bottom of Station Road are now fully supported, the current and new users are transforming the site, go and have a look they look amazing, lets hope they sell us some of their produce soon, I know I would love some. The Priory Pub recently donated a bench table for them to use, how kind.

Dog Control

Over the last couple of months there have been a couple of very nasty incidents involving dogs, whilst I don't want to go into details just please be aware especially during the summer holidays when children will be out with their pets, maybe without adult supervision, let's be sensible and keep dogs on leads especially if you think they will not obey your commands if they feel threatened.

Around Britain Coastal Walk

We could very soon be prominent on this new initiative hopefully to be completed by 2020, how cool will that be. This will end up being one of the world's longest walking routes, it sounds very ambitious but that's what is planned. I will keep you all updated on the progress of the inclusion of Portbury.

This month we have a new posting from the Portbury Heritage Group, Rita Summerfield has been the custodian of the Portbury archives for many years, they now reside in St Mary's where Rita regularly takes groups sharing her extensive knowledge of our fabulous Grade 1 listed church, there is nothing she does not know about the history of our village.

That's all from me!

Wenda Cowlard - Parish Councillor

Portbury Heritage Group

An American lady tourist contacted the Portbury Heritage Centre and asked if she could have a tour of the church. On arrival it became clear that she was tracing her family roots back to the time they left England in the 1600's at the time of the Pilgrim Father's.

She had already followed up a number of her ancestors from around England but was particularly interested in the name Lowell. In the 35 years that Rita and I have been involved in the local history had never heard of it.

The old spelling is Lowle and a Percival Lowle was the individual that she was researching. Percival was born in 1571 and lived in the Clevedon/Portbury area. We checked our Elizabethan records from 1560 to 1640 at the church. After great difficulty in reading the handwriting and the French/Latin inscriptions, we managed to decipher entries of six of his children's baptisms at the Norman font in Portbury church between 1602 and 1611. There were also entries of burials at the church of two of his children in 1610 /1614. We are continuing to research for others. He married Rebecca Goodale in 1599 which may also have taken place in Portbury but this is not yet confirmed. Percival was also Portbury Church Warden in 1613 and became the Bailiff to the Manor of Portbury from 1621. This he carried out alongside his main career as a Bristol merchant at Percival Lowle & Co. As Bailiff he may have lived in Portbury Priors. In 1639 at the age of 68 he departed to Charlestown, USA on the 'Jonathan' with some of his children/grandchildren and business partners to join the first settlers in America.

He is now revered as the patriarch of the famous dynasty of Lowells from whom all American Lowells have descended, and who have been described as one of America's most successful families. (Check out notable Lowells of USA on Google) In the 1600's Percival Lowle progressed from a wealthy Portbury businessman, Church Warden and Bailiff to one of the Founding Fathers of America. Portbury church stands silently watching as we pass daily. What other secrets does its 900 years hold?

Les + Rita Summerfield - Portbury Heritage Group

Portbury Village Hall



The village Hall continues to be well supported with many user groups now booking regularly, mainly due to our competitive pricing and flexibility.

Half-year membership is available for those who just like to pop in for skittles or refreshments during the Summer Months. If you are interested please speak to any committee member.

Pizza night Thursday fortnightly is still proving very popular.

We have a live band Hooper playing on 17th November who are fantastic and sell out fast, Tickets available at £7.50 from Sharon.

New members are always welcome we meet on a Monday at 8pm every 6 weeks.

Sharon Worthy – Chairman Portbury Village Hall

St Mary's Church



A lot has been happening again and we are thrilled there is continued interest in using the church from musicians and art groups to our toddler group which continues during term times 9.15 to 11am. We are so pleased too, to continue to host the Community cafe during the summer months too.

A note for our diaries: This year we will be open again for 'Gordano Open Days' on Sat 8th and Sun 9th September. Do come along, have a look at the beautiful church, meet us and why not join in with our special event this year 'Bring Along, Sing Along'. This is an invitation to all to bring a friend and join us singing our favourite hymns with our resident musicians Matt and Sarah. This is very informal and you can come and go for an hour from 11.15 on the Sunday. You are, of course, invited to our annual Patronal service immediately preceding this Sing Along, which starts at 10am. You are also invited to bring a friend/picnic lunch and share with us. On both days you will be able to meet our historians and have guided talks and tours again – which you will find fascinating. We continue to be amazed at the wealth of history we have in Portbury, including our latest discovery that a previous Churchwarden was one of the Founding Fathers of America.

We at church strive to do our best to preserve our 12 Century church and, whether you come regularly or not, perhaps have never ventured inside this lovely church, or would like to find out more about our faith and what we believe, our mission is to be available to all. Please see our website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com> for further information and what is going on.

We are currently developing a project for urgent repair works on the church, which will start in the early part of next year. This is a difficult task but we are getting there and we would love to be able to do some clock repairs and re-gild the two clock faces to restore them to their former glory at the same time, as it will save on costs— we know how many people rely on them as they drive past. This historic clock was originally donated to the church by the villagers of Portbury, including Mr Gibb from Tyntesfield, to commemorate Queen Victoria's 60th Jubilee. We have raised £3,000 towards the work on the clock but thought some of you may like to help us raise funds and become part of the history too. It costs £4000 just to re-gild the two clock faces and another £4,000 for the clock mechanism repairs.

If you are interested do contact me for any further information.

Finally, we must take this opportunity to give thanks for the growing band of volunteers helping at church, particularly to the new team of graveyard gardeners who came to the rescue at the right time, the stone walling pointers (boundary walls) and, of course, our historians Les and Rita. If you would like to help us in any way, do let us know, you are always welcome.

Ann Longstaff - Churchwarden