

Newsletter November 2005

Welcome to this edition of the newsletter. The Parish Council responded to the request for a survey to be undertaken regarding the possible provision of a public toilet facility in the village. The results were (amongst those residents that responded) that the Parish Council was not to fund such a facility from the Precept. The Parish Council acknowledges that for many in the village the lack of such a facility presents many problems when shopping or visiting the centre of the village. The Parish Council will support anyone who wishes to undertake fundraising for such a facility, but are not able to support such activities financially. I feel that it is worth pointing out that the survey was FREE as we used the newsletter to distribute the mini questionnaire. The newsletter production costs are covered by the advertising space sold.

I hope that many of you were able to visit the Pulborough Society's Homefront Recall Exhibition at the Village Hall. It was a memorable event with a wealth of information regarding the lives of Pulborough residents throughout the War years. The voices of the village children singing some of the songs and 'anthems' of the time brought many a tear to the eyes of those who attended, and everyone enjoyed the authentic food and drink that was available. Huge congratulations to all those at the Society who had worked so hard to produce the event.

Pulborough Parish Council continues to work hard on behalf of the residents to maintain and improve the village both now and for the future. We currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and I would urge anyone who wishes to get involved to come along to one of the meetings, or to contact the Clerk.

It was great to have the hanging baskets looking so lovely, so late, into the season. They have now been put away for the winter and very shortly our Christmas decorations will be going up. This year (as we try to do every year), we shall be extending our lights further along Lower Street. Don't forget the shops in Lower Street for your Christmas shopping!

On behalf of Pulborough Parish Council I would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jan Botting
Chairman

PULBOROUGH CHURCH BELLS

Church bells are a quintessential aspect of English life. The method of ringing is unique to England and thus they make a real contribution to the life of the village. The oldest bell in the tower in Pulborough was cast in 1636 and so far as we know has been rung ever since.

Bells are rung to announce church services, at Easter and Christmas and at other festivals, for weddings, for funerals, to commemorate those who gave their lives in war, for all kinds of civic and national occasions, for village festivals and carnivals, for Coronations, royal weddings and other state events. Recently they were rung to celebrate the Queen Mother's 100th

birthday and then her passing. During the Second World War, while silenced for general ringing, they stood ready to announce invasion by enemy forces. In olden times they were rung to scare away thunderstorms and they still ring for each New Year, as a welcome to the new or to frighten away the Devil for another 12 months as you wish.

Following over 100 years of service with little more than routine oiling and general maintenance, the Tower Bells of St. Mary's Church, Pulborough suffered from worn bearings, loose gudgeons, thinning at the edges and were in need of tuning.

John Taylor of Loughborough, one of the two remaining bell founders in the country, installed the metal frame and three lightest bells in 1897 for a total cost of some £638. Now they have undertaken refurbishment work costing some £26,000.

Unfortunately tuning the oldest bell to an acceptable modern standard will be impossible. Consequently this bell has been retired and a replacement cast. This new casting alone cost nearly £6,000. The old bell will be rehung so that it can be used as a Service Ringing Bell. This is a fitting use for such a faithful old servant and far better than it becoming a dusty relic in some dark corner of the church.

The clock was stopped on 25th August and early in September, the bells were lowered

Rehanging took place during week commencing 28 November, which means that the bells were ringing again on the first Sunday in December well in time for Christmas. All that has to be done now is to pay for the work!

In return for a donation to the restoration Fund the ringers will be pleased to ring a quarter peal (lasting $\frac{3}{4}$ hour) to celebrate your family event, birthday, wedding anniversary, etc. Contact Ruth Brown on 01798 874149.

Further information and requests to try ringing the bells should be made to the Tower Captain on 01798 812788 and contributions towards the cost of the work may be sent to The Rector at 2 London Road, Pulborough, clearly marked for the Bell Restoration Fund.

Volunteer!

2005 was the Year of the Volunteer, new initiatives are increasing the level of support available to people living in villages and rural areas adding to the wide range of established community activities.

Volunteers have plenty of choice when it comes to deciding how to spend a little time making a big difference to someone else's life. It might include giving a much needed lift in a car to an older person, accompanying someone with mobility difficulties, one-to-one support via a Buddy Scheme or helping with the local Youth Club.

Joining a fundraising group for a local charity, or offering administrative skills such as bookkeeping would be very much appreciated by any number of local voluntary groups. Year of the Volunteer 2005 directories are available in the local library. Whatever your available time or interest you can pick up a directory or contact Horsham Volunteer Bureau for ideas and information on 01403 232100 or email horshamvcare4free.net.

**Women's Royal Voluntary Service
Meals on Wheels, Pulborough Village Hall.**

Urgently need new members (both male and female) to help with deliveries for this vital service to the vulnerable of our community. The service in Pulborough currently have 85 clients, last week alone 423 meals were sent out to people in the village who otherwise might not have had a hot meal. Two hours of your time once a week/fortnight/month can really make a big difference.

There is a petrol allowance of 40p per mile.

Please contact Linda Speer or Alison Purchase on 01798 874661 for details.

The Pulborough Society

We hope that everyone enjoyed the Home Front Recall exhibition which we organised on October 9 & 10th. A warm tribute must be paid to the children of St Mary's and Arundale Schools, who were magnificent both with their singing and their beautiful artwork, it was so wonderful to see all generations visiting and enjoying the display.

The Pulborough Society was formed in 1972 with the aim to preserve the beauty and amenities of Pulborough and the surrounding area. We keep a close eye on village issues and planning applications, as well as arranging a varied programme of speakers to attend our meetings. Recent talks have included fascinating topics such as The Brooks (RSPB), Paris, Ancient & Modern, and the Amberley Museum. The meetings are social, fun and informative. The Society welcomes new members of all ages to join and hopefully get involved with the Society's activities. We currently have 258 members, but the more members the greater the influence on issues which affect the village.

Membership subscription is £4.00 (single) and £7.00 for a double, please contact the Chairman Anne Ball 01798 873008 or the Secretary Don Pritchard 01798 874810 if you are interested.

For those interested in the history of Pulborough, the Society has copies of booklets by Davis Morris for sale. They make interesting reading and a great Christmas present!

Pulborough Community Partnership

October has been a very exciting month for the Partnership. Following its successful Annual General Meeting, the Partnership expanded the committee to provide an even wider representation of residents from the village.

The Partnership has been awarded a grant to develop a website to promote the heritage, scenery, visitor attractions, accommodation and businesses of the Pulborough area. The Pulborough Area Tourism Initiative Team will

manage its development. Anyone wishing to join the team should contact Rob Aylott on 01798 872823.

The Partnership Team (which developed guides to walks around Pulborough) staged an exhibition of Pulborough walks at a Sussex-wide "Walking For Health" event near Eastbourne. The exhibition was very well received and we look forward to Pulborough becoming a focus point for walkers everywhere. Other Partnership projects are making good progress and could achieve even more with additional volunteers – If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Mike Longridge on 07881 900568 or Rob Aylott on 01798 872823

Sussex Police Authority

Sussex Police attended a question and answer session at the village hall. It was an ideal opportunity for residents to find out more about what achievements have been made and to ask any questions. The evening was a valuable and interesting; one, which we hope, will be repeated in the future. Here are some key facts:

- Sussex Police recruited record numbers of officers with 3,185 officers policing the streets, more than ever before.
- 210 Police Community Support Officers now provide extra public reassurance and tackle anti-social behaviour in the community.
- Improved response to emergency calls. Performance figures indicate that they answered 92% of 999 calls within the target time of 10 seconds.

If you witness any acts of anti social behaviour it is essential that you report it on the following number 0845 6070999.

Sports News

Don't forget that the Multi Sports Facility at the main recreation ground is available for all to use – to book contact Lil on 07708582627.

Cricket

Once again Pulborough U16 had a very successful year and the team continues to go from strength to strength. The U14's did not do quite so well but they started the year with new players who had not played very much cricket before, the season ended with vast improvements having been made with much promise for next year.

For up to date information about Pulborough Cricket Club visit

www.pulboroughcc.play-cricket.com

Pulborough Netball Club

If you are aged 14 + why not get fit and have some fun on a Friday night? The Pulborough Netball Club meets at the MSF at the main recreation ground every Thursday night from 7.30 to 8.30. Just turn up for a game £3.00 per session.

For further details contact Gill 01798 872022 or Carol 01798 875567

Pulborough Stoolball Club

Another successful season for one of Pulborough's oldest running clubs!
For further information please contact Mrs J Hooper 01903 742695

Pulborough Short Mat Bowls Club

Are looking for new members, join in on Wednesday evenings 6.30 –8.30 at the Village Hall.

Community Care

Pulborough Community Minibus Community Minibus Celebrates 30 Years

It was 30 years ago on December 23 1975 that the West Sussex Community Minibus officially carried passengers for the first time. But the seeds were sown back in 1973 to provide a means of transport to villages hit by cuts in vital bus services. Len Phillipson, then secretary of the Pulborough Community Care Association had heard of a new bus available from Storrington Round Table, but the problems involved seemed insurmountable, but he did not forget the idea of a local bus service and was supported by the Reverend Desmond Bending from the United Reform Church and other interested people.

Eventually, Mrs Pamela Finn was the saviour, she knew someone with a 12-seat bus that could loan it for use every Friday morning. Pam organised passengers to be picked up at their front door and brought into Pulborough village for shopping. It was greeted with great enthusiasm and local organisations formed a rota to stock a shop with homemade cakes to raise funds.

Unfortunately the bus was becoming unsafe and needed to be replaced. Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Hardy Roberts became President of the Association and with lots of fund raising a new bus was purchased.

A proper constitution was formed and drivers took tests so that the necessary insurance could be obtained. Harwoods garaged the bus and the West Sussex Community Minibus was 'officially' born.

The Association has grown and there are now 9 buses servicing the villages of Billingshurst, Petworth, Steyning, Storrington and Pulborough. The service is still run entirely by volunteers and membership is open to all residents. Not only does this valuable service provide door-to-door transportation, but also it gives members the opportunity to maintain a personal connection with the local community, and enjoy the social facilities within the villages.

For information about the Minibus Association in the Pulborough area please contact:

Monica Mason –Divisional Organiser 01798 873003

John Denison 01798 872613

Margaret Henderson 01798 873119

Pop Into Pulborough

Every Tuesday at the village Hall, all ages meet to chat, have a cup of tea or coffee. Local crafts and produce always available. If you would like to attend

but have mobility or transport problems, please contact Jean Seagrim on 01798 872300.

Wednesday Club

A lunch club for Senior Citizens every Wednesday, it offers social gatherings and outings for the over 50's. For further information please contact Mrs Gwen Parr on 01798 872819.

Useful Contacts

Pulborough Parish Council

Swan View, Lower Street

Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2BF

01798 873532 email: clerk@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

Office hours; Mon- Friday 9am – 12.30pm

Keep the Parish Clean

Horsham District Council is responsible for recycling and refuse collection, dog bin emptying, litter bin emptying, clinical waste collection, highway sweeping, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles. If you have a problem please telephone 01403 733144

Highways

For potholes, floods and other maintenance problems with the roads please telephone County Highways on 01243 642105 or online at www.westsussex.gov.uk

Street Lights

West Sussex County Council owns most of the streetlights in Pulborough.

Most WSCC lights are on numbered concrete posts. They are serviced by SOLVE who can be contacted on 0845 7581622. The Parish Council owns 66

streetlights. These are checked regularly and serviced by SEEBOARD.

Please let the Parish Clerk know if you have a problem with a street light which is not on a concrete post or telephone SEEBOARD direct on 01273 432541.

Pub Too Noisy?

Any incidents associated with licensed premises can be reported on

01403 215603