

# Soulbury Parish News

## SOULBURY FETE

& Scarecrow Hunt

Sunday  
11 August

2 - 6 pm

In Aid of Soulbury Church



*Homemade Cakes, Dog Show, Kids Games,  
Tombola, Plant Sale, Stalls, Fresh Produce,  
+ much more*

# August 2019



Soulbury News

# Index

Parish Information.....	3
Dates for your diary - August 2019 .....	4
All Saints' Church Services .....	5
Marquee for hire .....	5
Church News - Philip's Message .....	6
Parish Council News .....	7
Soulbury Village Cricket Club.....	8
Social Group.....	8
Millennium Green News.....	9
100 Club.....	9
Women's Institute.....	11
Assistance with running our village.....	15
Yesteryear.....	16
Advertising rates .....	19
Local Policing.....	20
Shot gun licence information.....	21

Click on the page number to take you to a specific article

# Parish Information

## **Rector**

Rev. Philip Derbyshire 240287

## **Churchwardens**

Jane Luxton 270493

## **Parish Councillors**

Vic Wright 07704 801682

Maurice Cross 270503

Alan Stevens 270213

Margaret Rowe 270355

John Day 270036

Ian Culley 07787 784750

Wendy Taylor 279530

Parish Clerk: John Spires 370094

## **Millennium Green Committee**

Alan Stevens 270213

Vic Wright 07704 801682

Elizabeth Caplan/100 Club 07875 947662

Richard Caplan 07749 404000

Liz Miller 376198

Wendy Taylor 279530

Michele Nicholas (Soulfest) 270487

Barbara Wray 270492

Nigel Kemal 07398 825430

## **W.I. President**

Gay Henrick 376736

## **Book Club Leader**

Rita Marks 270687

## **Social Group Leader**

Elizabeth Caplan 07875 947662

## **Website Administration and**

## **Parish News Editor**

Wendy Taylor 279530

wendyptaylor6@gmail.com

## **Speedwatch Team Leader**

Vic Wright 07704 801682

## **Cricket Club Captain**

Nick Mead 07771 738546

## **Soulbury Allotments Co-ordinator**

June Wright 270537

## **Thames Valley Police**





## All Saints' Church Services

Team Rector: Rev. Philip Derbyshire, The Vicarage, Stewkley. Tel 240287

Team Vicar Wing & Wingrave : Rev. Helen Barnes

Team Vicar Cheddington with Mentmore : Vacancy

### Services for August 2019

Sunday 4th August	No service	
Sunday 11th August <i>Rev. Philip Derbyshire</i>	Parish Communion	11:30 am
Sunday 18th August	No service	
Sunday 25th August <i>Rev. Philip Derbyshire</i>	Parish Communion	11:30 am

## Marquee for hire



Have you considered using the Soulbury Millennium Green for events and functions? There are many facilities on the SMG to make your event a success which includes a 12m x 6m white marquee. To hire this marquee is £50 per event. So please consider the SMG for parties, children parties, birthdays, barbecues, wedding blessings, etc. Contact Alan Stevens or Wendy Taylor to discuss.

# Church News - Philip's Message

Dear friends,

August is the month when many things seem to close down, not just schools but also certain businesses. It is thereby quite often difficult to get appointments for various things including doctors/hospitals. Everybody needs a break and scheduling cover can be quite problematic but very important to achieve.

When Jesus wanted time to escape what Thomas Hardy called 'The Madding Crowd' he used to often go up a mountain for some quality time with His heavenly Father before engaging with those who wanted more and more of His time.

6th August marks a special mountain experience shared by Jesus with His closest disciples: Peter, James and John. Whilst speaking together Jesus was 'transfigured', that is, changed visually, before them and became blindingly bright and created a sense of awe and wonder in the three friends. Jesus wanted to share with them a foretaste of the glory of heaven which He had promised all who followed Him.

Ironic then that on 6th August 1944 an USAAF bomber named Enola Gay dropped the first nuclear bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima and created the most powerful artificial light ever seen by humanity. In a few moments many thousands of Japanese people experienced hell on earth not the heaven on earth of the disciples.

Most of us don't experience such huge highs and lows but life is made up of contrasting experiences.

I pray that you have a restful and positive August whatever you are doing and wherever you are.

All the best, Revd. Philip.

**Do you have too many books on your shelves?**

**Donate them to a good cause!**

**Soulbury Fete 11<sup>th</sup> August Book Stall would be very grateful.**

Please call Rita on 01525 270687



A great venue for parties, business meetings, fitness classes or rehearsal space

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To book, email: [soulburyparishhall@gmail.com](mailto:soulburyparishhall@gmail.com)

Table and chair hire also available

# Parish Council News

The meeting of Soulbury Parish Council took place on Monday 15th July 2019. There were 22 members of the public present. Apologies received from Cllrs Ian Culley and Maurice Cross. Minutes of Parish Council meeting on Monday 17 June 2019 were approved. Various accounts were paid.

## **Planning:**

19/02561 Liscombe Park Ltd: External alteration and provision of parking in association with change of use to office. This was put on the planning portal just before our meeting so there was no chance of some homework before the meeting. Since then Wendy Taylor has looked at the application and the following is what is proposed:

The application seeks approval for the use of the building known as Liscombe South for offices (B1a) with the associated external alterations to the building and the laying out of the car parking to serve the use. The application is similar in form to the planning permission obtained in February 2019 under reference 18/04295/APP, this application differs in that the parking provided to serve the offices has been revised in accordance with a tripartite discussion between the applicant, the neighbouring equestrian centre and their landlords Buckinghamshire County Council. The car parking spaces nearest the equestrian centre have been relocated away from the centre and the number of spaces has also been increased. All three parties are in agreement that the revised parking layout provides better estate management and quiet enjoyment for each.

Council determined at the meeting that the site will be visited to ascertain the level of development of the site as there are concerns re the amount of vehicle movements.

**Children's play area:** Karen Wood reported on site visit to the area. Facilities not wonderful. First thoughts that something should be put on the equipment to deter pigeons and the swing seats all need replacing. In terms of new equipment £10K won't go far. Karen told to produce wishlist and research still needs to be carried out as to who actually owns the freehold.

**Grass cutting:** Nothing to raise.

**AVDC/BCC:** Cllr Ben Everitt attended the meeting and reported that there is 9 months more to run before unitary council commences on 1/4/20. VALP getting approved - 33K houses to be built. Very busy time for planners Aylesbury Vale has twice as many applications as all the other district councils put together. HS2 Ltd appear to be doing stuff without permission to do so and are in 'ripping up' mode. Applications to halt this made but unsuccessful. East/West rail will be diesel not electric due to cost. Very concerned about lack of consultation on East/West expressway.

**Parish hall:** Nothing to raise.

**Soulbury Millennium Green:** Pond liner to be installed of make a feature. Need a lot of hands to do this on the day. Carpets, blankets, old duvets are required to under liner protection and liner on top. We cannot afford for the liner to be punctured by stones, etc.

**Public participation:** It appears that drivers coming up the high road drive onto the pavement if cars of coming towards them rather than waiting. This is highly dangerous for pedestrians due to the blind bend. A suggestion of bollards was made and Council will approach Transport for Bucks to discuss. Dash cams were discussed and those present made aware of a police website to download relevant footage. Apparently there have already been 1200 convictions by this method.

**Date of the next meeting: 16th September 2019.**

**No August meeting**

# Soulbury Village Cricket Club

Recent weeks have seen Soulbury take on two of the top four teams, winning well against Newport Pagnell CC but suffering a defeat against league leaders Great Horwood who look a good bet to win the division. The Newport Pagnell game saw Soulbury hit 262, despite a golden duck for young village tyro Rhys Nicholas, and bowl Newport out for just over 200. Against Great Horwood the village side once again failed to chase a relatively low target having bowled and fielded well. Soulbury's hopes of getting promoted as the second placed team were then dealt a further blow by a disappointing home defeat to Cranfield University who have done the double over them this year. Batting second, a total of 160 proved to be too much and has left Soulbury staring mid-table mediocrity in the face.

On Sundays a couple of cancellations - one world cup final related - have book-ended a defeat to local rivals Stewkley who put out a strong young side which proved too good for Soulbury's finest. The return fixture is on the 1st September and we will be out for revenge!

The quiz night was well attended and raised over £400 for the club as the female side of the Neighbour's Boot pub quiz team were comfortably victorious over the male side, perhaps revealing where the strengths lie on High Road.

In August in the league Soulbury are home on the 3rd, 17th and 31st against North Crawley, Aspley Guise and Harlington.

On the social side on the 11th August we have Captain v Chairman's match, one of the most hotly contested of the Sunday fixtures and a race night after the last home game of the season on the 31st August.

The final Boot match is on Saturday the 7th September. The more support for the better - if you'd like more details on any of the above drop Tim Collins an email [tim.collins@collinst.co.uk](mailto:tim.collins@collinst.co.uk) or a message 07813 883473

## Social Group

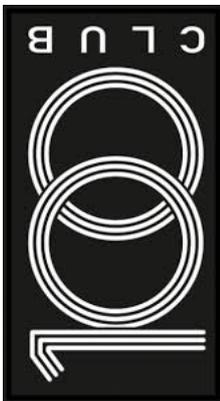
Spent all of our last meeting wrapping gifts for the children's lucky dip which will be part of the Village Fete on the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month. Lots of effort will be involved in this event, so do please come along and support all the hard work put in by all the volunteers. Apart from wrapping presents we also decided on our outing for this month and on the 15<sup>th</sup> we shall be taking an evening cruise on the Grand Union Canal from Cosgrove. Let us hope the weather is kind to us. Catering facilities are on board so we shall be enjoying tea and cakes during the trip, maybe even the odd glass of wine.



# Millennium Green News

At the time of writing preparations are well in hand for Soulfest, our annual music festival. Our charity this year is Keech Hospice Care, which we hope you agree is a very worthwhile cause. By the time you read this it will all be over so now would be a good time to thank everyone who has taken the time and trouble to get involved. We know it is not always easy to find the time and make the effort, but as this is a community project it is good to see the community taking part. The weather forecast is good and we have plenty of music and entertainment for youngsters too, so it should be a good day. Thanks also to everyone who has donated our raffle prizes, all gris to the mill, as they say. Next month I hope I can report on a bumper result to our fund raising.

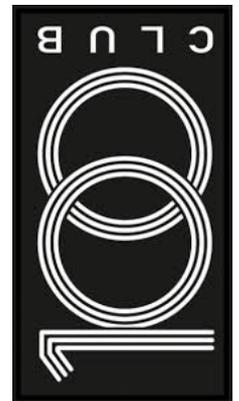
[www.soulburymillenniumgreen.co.uk](http://www.soulburymillenniumgreen.co.uk)



## 100 Club

### Winners in 2019

January	Jean Housley
February	Vickly Rolls
March	Peggy Stevens
April	Julia Foulsham
May	Peggy Stevens
June	Jean Housley
July	Christine Sheppard



Go to AmazonSmile, choose your charity and then shop in the usual way to help raise funds for the Millennium Green

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## Women's Institute

The July meeting of the WI was rather less formal than usual as we had a Members' Evening. This was arranged by two of our members, Helen Burtwell and Emily Miller, who, as our meeting was close to 4th July, organised an American themed evening. This took the form of a variety of quizzes which tested our knowledge (or lack of it!) of all things American. We first were asked to identify the states associated with various typical American dishes. Next was a musical round featuring songs performed by American artists, and another on famous American women throughout history. Finally we were presented with a set of photos of famous American landmarks and buildings to identify. Some of us fared better than others, but everyone had a most enjoyable evening, which was rounded off by American themed refreshments. Emily and Helen were congratulated on a most entertaining evening, and thanked for all the hard work they had put in to make the evening such a success.

Just a week later we were on our trip to Hughenden Manor, the former home of Benjamin Disraeli. On arrival, we had a most welcome cup of coffee or tea, served with some delicious shortbread. This we consumed while being given a most informative talk by one of the Manor guides. She gave us a potted history of the life of Disraeli, from his humble beginnings to his time as Prime Minister. He was born of Jewish parents but converted to Christianity at an early age. Wishing to pursue a political career, he set about achieving his ambition. With the assistance of several benefactors, he finally became Chancellor of the Exchequer. A few years later he became Prime Minister and introduced several domestic policies including the Public Health Act. He was also concerned with the bill which brought the vote to the working man. In 1880 he was defeated by Gladstone, and died a year later. After a tour of the manor and the beautiful gardens, we set off for home after a lovely day out.

There is no meeting in August, so the next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th September, when the speaker will be Tom Henrick who will be telling us all about U3A, University of the 3rd Age.



Soulbury WI celebrating American Independence Day at their July meeting

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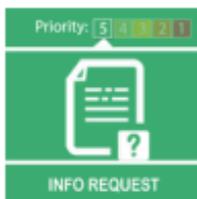
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## Prevent Your Home From Becoming Hot Property This Summer

The summer is a time when Thames Valley Police, and other forces around the country, experience an increase in residential burglary. This is due to opportunist thieves taking advantage of doors and windows being left open in hot weather, and properties not being left secure while residents are away on holiday.

It only takes seconds to steal valuables that are within easy reach. Window opening restrictors can be fitted to ground floor windows to allow ventilation while preventing burglars from being able to climb through. If going out, even just in the garden, you should always close and lock your windows and doors.

The consequences of being burgled reach far beyond the cost and inconvenience of replacing stolen items. It is also the emotional impact of having your summer holiday ruined, and the feeling of being violated, after an uninvited stranger has been in your home.

If leaving your car at home when you go on holiday, remember to remove any valuables and check the windows are closed and doors are locked. If your vehicle is stolen you could lose your motor insurance excess and no claims bonus. You will still be responsible for any vehicle finance owed and likely to pay higher insurance premiums in the future.

Avoid checking-in on social networks at the airport and wait to post your holiday photos until you get home. Some home insurance policies become invalidated if you post that you are away from home.

### Holiday Checklist:

- Lock all windows and doors.
- Check side gates, sheds and garages are locked and tools and ladders are not accessible for burglars to break into your home.
- Store all keys out of sight and away from your letterbox.
- Use a RFID pouch to store fobs for keyless entry vehicles.
- Make your home look occupied by using a timer switch to turn on lights at night.
- Ask a trusted friend to look after your home while you are away.
- Invite a neighbour to park their vehicle on your drive while you are away.
- Don't post details of your holiday on social media until you return home.

For more burglary prevention advice, download your free Home Security Guide from the Thames Valley Police website here:

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/thames-valley/advice/home-security-guide.pdf>

By working together we can build community resilience to deter burglars from targeting homes in the area.

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# Assistance with running our village

At a reasonably busy parish council meeting this month a discussion was had about who does what and it was decided to put a list in this publication of the sort of things the parish councillors do for the village. This is not a 'pat me on the back, aren't I good' type list but one to illustrate what the councillors actually do in their 'spare time' and would appreciate some support. The councillors do them because they need doing as the jobs don't do themselves. So, please look at the list below and have a think. None of it is onerous but it becomes so when the few who do them are continuously out there with no let up.

1. Someone to create a Soulbury Parish website and maintain it. Wendy has already done work on this, collecting info for a history section and drawn a suggested structure. It is not built yet.
2. Help with opening the Parish Hall on Saturday and Sunday for the Pay Back teams and setting up for their use. Rota basis.
3. Help with managing the Pay Back team on Saturday and Sunday. A list of jobs is created and the supervisors use this to direct the teams. They know us and so just get on with it. Rota Basis.
4. Help with maintenance on Millennium Green. A crazy amount of work has been done this year and it is really looking good. If you can handle gardening equipment (or are happy to learn if you can't) we would be pleased to see you. Those with 'green fingers' hugely welcome but those without equally welcome - maintenance of the garden furniture and play areas is needed too.
5. Help with grass cutting on Children's Playground by the vicarage. Not onerous but needs doing more often than the contractor can do.
6. Someone to report road and pavement defects, pot holes and the like. Residents in the parish could have one point of contact and that person will go online and report them to Transport for Bucks.
7. News gatherer for the village, write it up and send it to the LBO weekly. Those who supply info to the Parish News can also direct their emails to you so their activities can be included. You copy and paste that into an email. Otherwise, for other weeks, just keep your ear to ground and be responsive to the bush telegraph and you will have loads to write each week. Thursdays are deadline day for publication the following Tuesday.
8. Help with maintaining The Village Green. Some people are doing a grand job helping by mowing this area and it does look nice. Once the pile of cuttings has been removed it will improve even more. Sadly the planted Christmas tree died as did the Jubilee Oak but they will be replaced. We have to be mindful when planting trees to ensure appropriateness. Common land does have restrictions by law too.
9. Litter Picking manager to set up litter picking days and other small maintenance jobs such as clearing the edges to paths.
10. Help with events in the village such as Soulfest, Firework night, Easter Egg hunt and the village fete.
11. Change the batteries on the mVAS (mobile vehicle activated sign). Again not onerous but each 'light up' uses power and for continued use they need changing and recharging.

# Yesteryear

NUMBER 10

SOULBURY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1976

## The Stapleford Bridge Charity

This charity was formed in the middle of the 17th century. At that time there was a ford over the River Ouzel, near where the Three Locks are now, and Bletchley was non-existent, the main residential areas being Leighton Buzzard, Soulbury and the Brickhills.

It was decided that a bridge would be built and a charity was formed to maintain the bridge. There were several benefactors, the Lovett family being the main one and another being a family at Brickhill whose name was not recorded. Over the years the funds became less and the cost of the up-keep of the bridge was more than the charity could afford. Finally, the County Council undertook the maintenance of the bridge and the charity pays a nominal sum to the Council each year towards the up-keep.

There is some land in the village, still belonging to the charity, which is let to local residents. The rents from this land, together with other investments by the charity, bring in a regular annual income which in years gone by was used to provide comfort in the form of blankets for the the poor and needy of the village. Nowadays, the money is used to buy coal for the older members of the parish and this is done twice a year by the trustees of the charity, who are six in number, and one of whom must be a member of the parish council.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Allotment/Gardening

Following a very fruitful meeting on Monday 19th July, Soulbury Gardening Association was officially formed. With much enthusiasm, the various officers were elected and subscriptions paid to allow the Association to become formally recognised by the National Society of Leisure Gardeners. The next open meeting will be held on Wednesday, 22nd September, by which time we hope to have their catalogue for general perusal and ordering. We do hope that many other interested parties in the village will be able to attend, for it is emphasised that the Association is not only for those wishing to have an allotment but also for enthusiastic gardeners wishing to take advantage of the many facilities and advice offered by the National Society of Leisure Gardeners. All our efforts now are being geared to find a suitable piece of land in our village for those interested in allotments. For any wishing to know more of the Association, please contact either: Mr. H. Austin (Chairman) Soulbury 269 or Mr Lake (Secretary/Treasurer) Soulbury 373.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Garden Party

On Saturday, 14th August a garden party in aid of Women's Institute funds will be held at Dr. & Mrs Sutton's home, Leylands. Everyone is welcome. Stalls include tombola, grocery and produce, and teas, squash and ice cream will be on sale. There will be a raffle and several side shows including skittles, welly throwing, hoop-la, etc. Anything you may have for the above stalls will be gratefully received by Mrs Hammond at The Thatches, Soulbury 318.

\*\*\*\*\*

The church fete held on Saturday, 3rd July raised the sum of £307; two donations have since been received making the final total £317. The P.C.C. would like to thank everyone for their support towards this most enjoyable day.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Clubroom Committee will be happy to receive any contributions towards the tombola which will be an added attraction at the Produce Show on Saturday, 21st August in the Clubroom..

\*\*\*\*\*

We extend a very warm welcome to all those who recently moved into Andrews Close and to all other new residents who have moved to the village.

\*\*\*\*\*

For Sale

Games, including new Monopoly, children's books, jig-saws, etc. at Hill Farm, Hollingdon on Thursday, 5th August from 2.30 p.m. onwards.

Lawn mower with box. Good condition. £2.75 - call Soulbury 380.

---

Methodist Chapel

Minister: The Rev. N Burrows, The Manse, Stewkley  
Telephone: Stewkley 251

Sunday 1st August 2.30 p.m. Dr. Owers Family Hour  
Sunday 8th August 6.00 p.m. Rev. N. Burrows  
Sunday 15th August 10.30 a.m. Mrs. Dimmock  
Sunday 22nd August 6.00 p.m. Mrs. Mettam  
Sunday 29th August 10.30 a.m. Mr. Barron

No Sunday School during August

Bible Study 2.30 p.m.

2nd August - 27 The Green  
9th August - 25 The Green

16th August - 11 The Green  
23rd August - 10 High Road

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All Saints Parish Church

Vicar: The Rev. Paul Drake, The Vicarage. Stewkley  
Telephone: Stewkley 287

July

Sunday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th 11.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist  
Sunday 29th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Saturday 7th August 12.00 noon Wedding of Mr Stephen Redding and Miss Rosalyn Kirk

---

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday 10th August 7.45 p.m. Women's Institute Guests of Stoke Hammond W.I. at the Village Hall. 7.30 p.m. pick-up on the green.  
Wednesday 11th August 2.30 p.m. Social Circle to be arranged  
Saturday 14th August 3.00 p.m. Garden Party at Leylands, Soulbury  
Wednesday 18th August 8.00 p.m. Women's Fellowship Barbecue at Hill Farm Hollingdon. Bring your own beaker and something to sit on! If anyone has a Hurricane lamp, please bring that also.  
Saturday 21st August 3.00 p.m. Produce Show in the Clubroom. Judging 11.30 a.m. Sale of produce 4.30 p.m.

---

Published by Soulbury Women's Fellowship - Editor D. Booth.

**Are you looking for a baby  
sitter?**

Emily Stevens

01525 270514



**BUCKS COUNTY SHOW**  
Thursday 29th August 2019

Countryside Area

# Advertising rates

To advertise in this magazine the rates are as follows:

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Contact Numbers:	Non emergency 101 To talk to officers 101 Emergency/crime in progress 999
Local Police Office:	Wing Police Office, Leighton Road, Wing
You can also email the team at:	<a href="mailto:greatbrickhillwingivinghoeNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk">greatbrickhillwingivinghoeNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk</a>

## HMRC Alert - What you need to know

- Action Fraud has experienced an increase in the reporting of malicious calls and voicemails, to members of the public purporting to be from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC).
- Fraudsters are spoofing genuine HMRC telephone numbers to deceive their victims over the phone. The fraudsters state that as a result of the victim's non-payment of tax or other duty, the victim is liable for prosecution or other legal proceedings in order to settle the balance. The fraudsters suggest victims can avoid this, by arranging payment to be made immediately by methods such as bank transfer or by purchasing iTunes gift cards.
- If the victim is hesitant or refuses to comply, the suspect makes a threat such as immediate arrest, sending bailiffs to the victim's address or, in some cases, deportation.
- Often, the period for which the tax is allegedly due is distant enough to guarantee the victim will have little, if any, paperwork or ability to verify the claims. Once the money is paid the suspects sever all contact with the victim.
- In genuine cases, HMRC will initially make direct contact with you via post/letter and potentially follow up that letter with a phone call at a later date.
- If HMRC contact you via telephone they will quote the reference number on the initial letter you should have received. HMRC will not discuss something you are not already aware of, like a tax investigation, and will **NOT** demand immediate payment.

**It is vital that the public exercise caution when receiving messages or telephone calls of this nature.**

## What you need to do

- Always question unsolicited requests for your personal or financial information. Just because someone knows your basic details (such as your name and contact details), it doesn't mean they are genuine. Instead, contact the company directly using trusted methods such as a known email address or phone number.
- Legitimate organisations wouldn't ask you to pay taxes, bills or fees using an iTunes gift card, or any other type of voucher. If you're contacted by anyone that asks you to do this, you're likely the target of a scam
- Don't be rushed or pressured into making a decision. Under no circumstances would a genuine bank or some other trusted organisation force you to make a financial transaction on the spot.
- Report Phishing attempts. If you receive a call, text or email of this nature and have not lost money, you can report this as phishing to Action Fraud

# Shot gun licence information

## **Shot gun licences. Information notice - Changes to Medical Information**

You are now required to provide medical information verified by a GP for all firearm and shotgun applications - this includes renewals. This applies to any application, whether declaring a medical condition or not. The change is being implemented to enable the Police to make informed decisions which will protect both the shooting community and the wider public. The change will mean a consistent and fair process for all applicants, and will assist in improving application processing times. The fact you have a condition may not necessarily mean your application is refused. However, a false declaration could result in your prosecution, or your application being refused, or your existing license being revoked and your firearms or shotguns being seized.

This change will affect any application submitted from 1st August 2019.

## **FAQs**

**What does this mean for you, the applicant?** On applying for the grant or renewal of a firearm/shot gun/RFD application (online or paper) all applicants will be required to submit with their application a completed GP pro forma that has been agreed between Thames Valley Police and the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Local Medical Committees (LMCs). This pro forma can be found on the Thames Valley Police website or can be obtained direct from your GP.

**Who contacts my GP?** Applicants will be responsible for contacting their GP for this information.

**What happens if I do not submit the pre medical screening information?** Applications received without the applicant's medical information (GP pro forma) will be returned to the applicant with a request to submit this information. If the application is received again without this supporting documentation the application may be refused.

**Why are Thames Valley Police implementing this change in policy?** The Firearms Act 1968 (as amended) and Home Office Guidance states that before granting or renewing a firearm/shot gun certificate the Chief Officer of Police needs to be satisfied that applicants can be permitted to have the firearm(s)/shot guns/ammunition without danger to the public safety or to the peace. Details that are required in order to make an informed decision on an applicant's suitability, includes information relating to their medical history.

The current medical process in place may leave a substantial gap in the available information and intelligence assessed at the point of grant or renewal. Medical evidence is pivotal to police decision making.

The introduction of a pre application medical screening will ensure that the firearms licensing department has all the relevant available information as to the suitability of the applicant prior to grant or renewal. This will help to mitigate risk as far as reasonably practicable. This single process will also make the process more streamlined and quicker for applicants, as the police will no longer have to contact the GP and await a reply.

**Why is Thames Valley Police not complying with Home Office Guidance on this matter?** Whilst Home Office Guidance is intended to assist with consistency of practice between forces it is Chief Officers who are ultimately responsible for the administration of firearms licensing in their force area. Home Office Guidance acknowledges this and understands that it may be necessary for forces to depart from the guidance when each case is assessed on its merits and the circumstances justify such a course of action. Home Office Guidance also has no statutory footing and our legal advice is that if harm was done as a result of the police issuing a certificate the responsibility for failing to properly manage the risk, would from a legal perspective, fall to the police.

**Will there be a fee from my GP?** Guidance from the BMA and LMC is very clear that this type of work falls outside of the NHS remit and as such surgeries will request a fee from the applicant.

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