

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

JUNE 2003



35p

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES

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BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

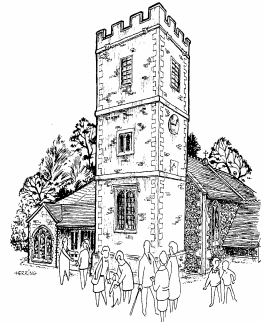
All enquiries should be made to the Rector

www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

FROM THE LICENSED LAY MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Last year Maureen and I visited several churches in rural Gloucestershire that had some connection with her family, a baptism or a wedding. Unusually for these days some were open so we were able to go in and have a look around at the inside.



I don't know how you feel when you go into a church for the first time, but I find that sometimes I go in and immediately feel that I am part of something that is both welcoming and alive, a place where things happen. Whilst at other times it does not strike me as a place where things happen it is more like an infrequently visited museum where even the seats seem as if they are only to be looked at and not sat on.

As far as I am aware there is no biblical formula or plan for the layout of a church building, nor, apart from the guidance given at the last supper, is there any formal liturgy or form of worship. Both have evolved over time the building being constructed and the liturgy formed as the people of that time felt appropriate to honour and worship God. I think that this was God's intention none of the church builders and none of writers of liturgy were creating some thing that would serve God's purpose for all time. God knew from the beginning that he had created man to develop new skills and to have different needs over the centuries.

I cannot say how I would feel if I were to enter Purley church for the first time, I am too close to the church and its worship to view it dispassionately, but I hope it would be a feeling of a place that is alive and moving forward. This can only happen if people are prepared to consider change as a way forward and not as the destruction of the past.

Yours in Fellowship

Wally Watkivs.

PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

30 April

Eric William Butler (Peter) Harvie (cremation)

NEW BISHOP OF READING

The Revd Canon Dr. Jeffrey Philip Hywel John, Chancellor and Canon Theologian of Southwark Cathedral, is to be the next Bishop of Reading.

Jeffrey John is well known for his teaching and evangelistic ministry. As Bishop's Advisor for Ministry in the Southwark Diocese, he has won the respect and support of Christians across the whole diocese for his biblically-based teaching ministry, for the depth of his theological studies, and for his commitment to open and honest dialogue.

Jeffrey John was born in Tonyrefail, a mining village in South Wales, in 1953. His religious upbringing was 'chapel', but he rebelled against it as a teenager. After a few years' attempting not to believe, he realised he could not avoid God, and having explored all the denominational options, was confirmed as an Anglican at eighteen.

He read Classics and Modern Languages at Oxford (his main hobby is still learning and reading foreign languages). Meanwhile his awareness of God's call to the ordained ministry grew, and he went straight on to read theology and prepare for ordination at St. Stephen's House. A curacy in South Wales was followed by eleven more years at Oxford, at Brasenose and Magdalen colleges, combining theological research and teaching with pastoral work as a chaplain.

He was appointed Vicar of Holy Trinity Eltham in 1992. Of his time there, he says: "It was a marvellous parish, with a very responsive congregation, eager to learn and grow". From there he moved to be a canon of Southwark cathedral and co-ordinator of training for the diocese, with a brief to unite all the diocesan training courses into a single department, and to set up new courses for lay people, post-ordination training and continuing ministerial education. "This has been a very rewarding task over the past six years", he says.

It is hoped that his consecration will be in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on 9th October 2003.



ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Please note that from the end of June all enquiries about hiring the extension at St Mary's church for parties or other events should be directed to Lorna Herring (Tel: 942 1547).

CHURCH SERVICES

8 June Pentecost	10:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Holy Communion Songs of Praise (in marquee on Pangbourne Meadow) Evening Worship
15 June Trinity Sunday	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Communion with combined Sunday School Morning Worship Evening Worship
22 June	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship with Sunday School Holy Communion
29 June	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion
6 July	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Worship with Sunday School Holy Communion Holy Communion
13 July	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship with Sunday School Holy Communion

Everyone is welcome at any service but those with children may prefer to bring them to the 9:30 services at St. Mary's which often include Sunday School either in small groups or with all ages together.

PETER HARVIE

Peter was taken ill at home on Palm Sunday, and died at the Royal Berkshire Hospital on the following day. The church was full for a Service of Thanksgiving which took place after the cremation service. He was known by lots of people in the Purley/Pangbourne area, having been the licensee at The Crown in Lower Basildon for 30 years. Purley will miss him for many reasons - not least for his untiring labours in the churchyard. He came down on 2 mornings a week, rain or shine to keep the grass cut, or tinker with the mowers to keep them in good order. All this he did until he was about 86 years old!

The following message has been received from Peter's family:

I wish to thank everyone at St Mary the Virgin for their kindness to my father, during his life, at Hand of Friendship and lunchpot and to us, his family, after his death. On behalf of Cancer Research, thank you for £101 in the plate collection at his Thanksgiving Service.

QUIZ NIGHT – NEW DATE

There will be a quiz night at St. Mary's Church Hall on Saturday **28** June at 7-30pm. Tickets £5 to include a Ploughman's Supper. Teams of 6 people needed. Further details from Geoff and Sheridan Williams (941 1788), or Chris and Sara Lang (954 8052)

GIVE AS YOU BUY

UshopUgive.com is an online shopping mall that sells almost anything that you might buy on the High Street. However, when you purchase through the site, retailers make donations, on average 2% of your total spend, to the charity or church of your choice but you pay the same price that you would if you had bought directly from the retailer's website.

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 8th David Betts was elected Chairman for the ensuing year. In accepting office he paid tribute to the contribution made by the retiring Chairman, John Southall, over the last three years. Bill Ayling was elected Vice Chairman of Council and Chairman of the Highways & Footpaths Committee. Christine Taylor was elected Alternate Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Recreation Committee. John Devine, Rick Jones, Tim Metcalfe, Sally Robertson, Tim Whitaker & Penny Williams were co-opted to fill six of the seven vacancies. The remaining co-option was expected to be made at the meeting held on 29th May. Other Parish Council meetings have been scheduled for June 26th, July 31st, September 25th, October 30th, November 27th 2003, January 29th, February 26th, April 1st & May 6th 2004 and members of the public are welcome to attend.

West Berkshire Council is planning to arrange for the issue of travel tokens from the Parish Office on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 2nd, 3rd & 4th July between 9.30 a.m. & 12.30 p.m. Further information will be posted on the notice boards when this is confirmed.

Brian J. Smith
Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council

The office is located near the tennis courts and is open:

Mondays: 5.45 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
(except bank holidays)

Thursdays: 9.00 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.

Purley on Thames Parish Council
Parish Office
Goosecroft Lane
off Beech Road
Purley on Thames
Reading
RG8 8DR

Tel/fax: 0118 984 4507



WADS Summer 2003

"Heatstroke"

A thriller / farce by

Eric Chappell

Produced by Gloria McAdden

Thurs 26 June, Fri 27 June & Sat 28 June
at 7.45pm.

Woodcote Village Hall

Take a mix-up when a luxurious Spanish holiday villa is double-booked by two couples, when their identical holdalls get confused with a third that is full of money. Enter the sinister person hunting for the third holdall. All the ingredients for tension, mystery, startling plot reversals and farce!

Box Office - 01491 680494

Tickets £5, concessions £4 (not Saturday)



Thames Vale Singers
Present

Songs for a Summer Evening

To include Folk Songs and Show Songs

Musical Director: Alex Taylor Pianist: Peter Bernard

Friday 11th July 8.00pm

Pangbourne Village Hall

Saturday 12th July 8.00pm

Purley Memorial Hall

Tickets	Available from
Adults£5	Peter Farrow 0118 941 3887
Senior Citizens£4	or
Children over 12£4	Jenny Dimmock 0118 962 4651
Children under 12£1	

HELP THE HOMELESS WITH CHOCOLATE



If you eat chocolate from Berkshire chocolate manufacturer Mars, you may have seen strange codes printed inside the wrappers recently. Mars are running a promotion which allows you to accrue points for each bar of chocolate you eat. These points can give you discounts on various products but alternatively you

can donate your points to the charity Shelter to help in their work with the homeless. Each point is worth 5p to Shelter and Mars are aiming for a total of £50000! If you don't want to register yourself (at www.chocollect.com), please feel free to send me your codes and I'll donate all points awarded to the Shelter campaign.

Matthew Slingsby
(Contact details on page 22)

VITAL VILLAGES

Good News! The Vital Village Plan is now up and running. At the Parish Offices on Tuesday 12th May we had a remarkably large turn out for the first get-together to discuss how we would like to see the Purley of the future; to set out aims and ambitions and to form a Steering Group.

At the meeting a Chairman (Ian Burns), a Secretary (Penny Williams) and a Treasurer (Richard McDonald) were elected. With the guidance of Sarah Ward from the Community Council the plans for the future of Purley were discussed and each person present had their say and made an important contribution to the meeting. It was a joy to me to see that the plans for the future and how we would like the village to be shaped were discussed with such enthusiasm.

The Vital Village's Plan for Purley on Thames, with the help of the Community Council for Berkshire's Rural Team, is a highly successful way of initiating a community project.

With the help of the Rural Team, who have a wealth of expertise and knowledge, the Parish Plan for Vital Villages is set to help our local community in numerous ways.

For a start the Steering Group with the help of the Countryside Agency and Community council would like to present an exhibition of Purley past and future at which every member of the Community would be invited to attend. They would be invited to make their comments on what they would like to see for the future of Purley and what needs to be done to improve our village; such things as transport, litter, vandalism, policing would all, I'm sure, form part of the general response. At present there is no definite date fixed for meeting, but the Group felt it would be a splendid idea if it could be held in the Barn on the Sports and Social Club's Fun Day in August. More of that later when plans have been made and permission of the Council received.

The Rural Team will provide local advice and support to the Steering Group on the Vital Village's Scheme, whereby the formations of Parish Plans will help, influence and manage changes for the future. These plans will become increasingly important as they will provide a vision for the future of the village and is intended that they must involve the whole of the community. Sarah Ward stressed the need to involve particularly the young people in the scheme, and it is hoped the schools will back the aims of the Steering Group. The infant school of today has the citizens of tomorrow and their help at an early stage will have important ramifications for the future of the whole village.

The Vital Village Plan will provide the opportunity for everyone to take part in determining what we would like to see happen in our Village, and will be crucial in showing the needs, the evidence and the levels of local support. It will give everyone residing in the Village the opportunity of having their say on the future of Purley on Thames.

A Parish Plan can take about twelve months to develop.

In developing a Parish Plan it is important to promote it as widely as possible and for everyone in the village given the opportunity to be involved.

In the future Parish Plans will be crucial in identifying needs, providing the evidence to support the Parish Council, and others, through the Area Forums, to attract resources that will improve our whole environment.

It gives the whole community the opportunity to have a say in how they would like to see the village progressing in the months and years ahead. This is an opportunity to have a say in what you would like to see happen in Purley - your community needs you, your ideas and your enthusiasm: the future of Purley is Now is Here!

And we have the right people on the Steering Group to see it through! Please give them your help!

Bill Ayling
Vice Chairman Purley on Thames Parish Council

SCALE UP FOR JUSTICE



World trade rules rob poor countries of £1.3 billion a day - 14 times what they get in aid.

This needs to change. And this year we have a chance to change it.

September 2003 sees the next big meeting of the World Trade Organisation, due to take place in Cancun, Mexico. It's vital that the agreements made in Mexico swing the balance

in favour of the poorest people and the environment. That's why we're scaling up our efforts now.

To influence the UK Government's position in Cancun, we aim to lobby every one of the UK's MPs this summer, and ensure that MPs and decision-makers are bombarded with letters calling for trade justice.

For more information visit www.tjm.org.uk or speak to your local fairtrader

Matthew Slingsby

DISTRICT NOTES

ELECTIONS

There were elections for West Berkshire District Council on 1st May. The turnout from Purley Ward was 29.62% out of 4943 eligible voters. 188 voted by post. The result was:-

Tim Metcalfe (Cons)	577
John Chapman Cons)	550
Brian Dowding (L-D)	414
Bob Bird (L-D)	376
Miriam Kennett (Green)	194
Marlyn Lee (Green)	113
Senan Hartney (Lab)	108

Thank you to everyone who turned out to vote.

POSTAL VOTES

You may not be aware of it but you now do not have to give any reason for getting a postal vote. Many people found postal voting at the recent election much simpler and less bother than turning out to a polling station. The turn out was 188 out of 266 eligible voters i.e. 70.68% - much higher than the overall turnout. We would encourage all voters to try this method in future elections, so if you would like a form of application then please give me a ring on 0118 942 6999 or e-mail me at john@purley.demon.co.uk

PLANNING

Final plans were received for the site at 80 Long Lane but all is very quiet about the proposals for the Oxford Road and the paddocks behind Long Lane. We had an inspectors visit for the two sites at Carew Close and 171/163 Long Lane which are the subject of an appeal so we await the inspectors verdict.

FLOODING

The council held a public forum at the Barn on Weds 14 May to discuss the problems we faced during the recent flooding. We received some interesting feedback from the questionnaire which was circulated to residents of the River Estate and had some of our questions answered by the Council officers and representatives from the Environment Agency. We are now in the process of setting up the ongoing review team.

RAILWAY FENCE

Many people are outraged at the galvanised fence along the north side of the railway between Pangbourne and Westbury Lane. We have been

making strong representations to Network Rail and at long last they have replied to us and have agreed to paint the fence green.

LETTERBOXES

While I have been going around delivering leaflets I have noticed an increase in the use of American style letterboxes. These are a huge improvement on some of the tiny or inaccessible letter boxes that are still around and I am sure they are making the postman's job a much easier one. If you do have a letterbox at near floor level then please consider getting one of these boxes.

*John Chapman
West Berks Councillor for Sulham, Tidmarsh, Denefield and Purley.*

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

Many thanks to all who voted for me in the recent District Council Election and to all who worked hard for my election cause. My arm was twisted up my back when I agreed to stand, but as time goes on I am warming to the job, even if Vicky is not!

I have already attended several meetings at Newbury and I have to say that I am not very impressed. The meeting this week of the whole council could be described as nothing but a waste of time and money, and engendered a good deal of frustration to the newly elected on the back benches.

The following evening I attended the meeting in the Barn about the floods. It was good to see several officers from West Berks Council taking an interest, especially Jim Graham the Chief Executive. We heard several addresses from the top table and after a cuppa listened as they responded to written questions. However I was upset that no one in the audience, the people who actually suffered from the floods, was allowed to speak or even make a pertinent point. If this is the way W.B.C. runs their meetings they haven't bargained on a noisy farmer.

Tim Metcalfe

PURLEY PATHFINDERS

As Spring gives way to early summer we have been enjoying some wonderful walks. Our last walk in April was, in fact, our 'Springtime Special'. This year we booked two open-topped carts to take us for a memorable ride through the bluebells in the Chilterns. Arriving at Countryways we watched with excited anticipation as five beautiful Suffolk Punches were helped into their harnesses and bedecked with brasses and bells. It was lovely to see these wonderful horses, especially as this is now a Rare Breed. Our two carts set off in tandem along the farm track. However, we had not gone far before our lead horse, Duchess, being in



season, decided she didn't want to lead any more, preferring to be at the back with the boys! A farm helper led her back to the farm in disgrace, leaving Punch and Jake to pull the large cart alone. However, we needn't have worried as they powerfully trotted along beautifully. The second cart was driven by James Lawson who has driven the Lord Mayor's Coach in the Lord Mayor's Show for twenty years – we felt honoured to have him as one of our drivers. The hooves of the horses clip-clopped along the lanes around Nettlebed while a Red Kite gave us a superb aerial display, flying low over our heads. Under the lovely, fresh green canopy of the beech trees we continued along tracks with the heady perfume of bluebells hanging in the air.

Entering the Warburg Nature Reserve we continued between its fine trees, rising out of the bluebell strewn floor. Rabbits and squirrels dodged in front of us, as we dodged overhanging branches! Arriving back at Darkwood Farm we left the horses to a well-earned rest as we set off to the Visitors Centre of the Reserve. Here we just had time to enjoy our picnics in the sunshine before meeting Giles, a Warden on the Warburg Reserve, and our guide for the afternoon. It was a pleasure to be in the company of someone so knowledgeable. He explained the various aspects of preserving the balance at the Reserve and the hard work involved in maintaining the plant-life on the chalk grassland. He identified the numerous wild flowers, including orchids, violets, cowslips and primroses and pointed out wild strawberries. He disturbed an anthill to show us its inhabitants – yellow ants – a feast for green woodpeckers, and pointed out the different plant life growing in the microclimate on top of the hill, including wild thyme and salad burnet which we tasted. As a Red Kite flew overhead, Giles paused to identify various bird song. Two students accompanying us explained that markers along our route were there to trace sightings of solitary bees which they were studying. At a large badger sett Giles showed us freshly dug earth at an entrance, and claw marks on the tunnel sides made by one of the five badgers in occupation. Our interesting tour ended all too soon and it was time to make our way home after an exhilarating and adventurous day out.

May is the month that Pathfinders took their first walk, and to celebrate our fourth birthday we gathered at Greys Court on a glorious sunny day. We sprawled on the grass to enjoy a birthday picnic and cake before going for a lovely walk within the woodland surrounding the estate. Here the bluebells were stunning, stretching away in a carpet of deep blue. Arriving back at the entrance just as the gates of Greys Court opened we eagerly explored inside the wonderful gardens – the White Garden,

inspired by Sissinghurst; the Knot Garden, reproduced from the 17th century; the Cherry Orchard with its blossomed boughs, and the Kitchen Garden, styled after an early monastic garden, its wooden owls protecting some fine vegetables including some large globe artichokes. Paths flanked by roses led us to the Gardener's Statue, then on to the Archbishop's Maze which challenged us to reach the sundial at its centre. All these areas proved delightful, but the highlight of the garden on this day in May was the magnificent Wisteria Garden. Passing beneath its lilac panicles along one path after another, we soon became 'drunk' with the sheer intensity of its perfume. Refreshments were called for, and these were provided in the form of mouth-watering cakes and teas from the Cromwellian Stables. We devoured these with relish as we relaxed on the lawns in the sunshine. Refreshed, we tackled the steps which took us to the top of the Tower, part of the original Manor House. Our reward was the most fantastic view over the entire garden and away across miles of rolling Oxfordshire countryside. Our ticket allowed us to explore inside the picturesque, 16th century house, built beside the ruins of the Manor. We also discovered the Tudor Donkey Wheel House. Crossing the ha-ha by way of the Moon Bridge, passing through the Gate of the Good Companions, dedicated to four Labradors, we entered the parkland where lambs fed from their mothers. We found the beautifully restored thatched Ice House, once a valuable asset to the Manor. There was just time to browse in the bookshop before our lovely birthday outing came to an end.

We were back in Oxfordshire for the first walk of our fifth year as we climbed out of Whitchurch to be rewarded with wonderful views, picturesque scenery, and a myriad of wild flowers. Weaving between one field after another we caught snippets of views across to Purley. Sheep grazed in their field, and cows were in their buttercup meadow – as one of our ladies remarked – a truly rural English scene. Eventually we arrived at Path Hill to drop down beside The Baulk to the green 'pillows' which make up Boze Down. Walking beside fields of alpaca we passed Boze Down Vineyard. Then, taking the leafy Millennium Walk we arrived back at Whitchurch after our very pleasant walk.

We have some excellent walks planned for the summer term, including a Midsummer picnic on Watership Down, a visit to the Festival of Flowers at Dorchester, a tour of a Wildflower Farm, and morning coffee beside the Thames at Marlow. We end the term with our Summertime Special which this year will be a boat trip to Sonning. Any ladies who would like to join us on weekday mornings please give me a ring for a programme. You will be made very welcome!

Photos taken on our walks can be viewed on St Mary's web site. www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk GO to Purley Pathfinders.

Nicki Woodward
9841919

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Two inches! I believe it is also ten centimetres - but I'm not very good with the new money[†]! Two inches was the distance between my last wood and the winning wood in the Thames Shield Final at the Bowls Club on Bank holiday Monday. I thought for one glorious moment when the wood had left my hand and was going along the path I had chosen it was there! My name at last on the Honours Board for winning the first trophy of the season - but it was not to be. Rodney's two woods were just that bit closer than mine! So once again I'm the bridesmaid and not the blushing bride!

There was an excellent turn out for the Thames Shield. Quite often the weather is a little on the rough side - gales and pouring rain is about par for the course - but this day it was wonderful. The sun was warm, hardly a cloud in the sky and a soft zephyr fanning the sweating brow.

This was one of those matches where the players all bring along "a plate". That is sandwiches, a quiche, sausage rolls and probably some cake. Mick Drew, the new President, had the bar open early and seemed to be doing a good trade. At least I had to wait a little while before I could place my order before him. I still think the whisky in the club is probably the cheapest in Berkshire - a double Grouse for £1.50 - not of course that I allowed myself to sample it, at least not until the end when I needed some comfort for loosing to Rodney Bracey in such fashion.

This year we have lost a few of our old established players, and they will be sadly missed, not least for their skill, but also for their warmth and friendship.

But on the more positive side we have seven new bowlers - all of whom show promise, and with the help of such dedicated members as Ralph and Doreen Miller I am sure they will quickly feel at home at the Bowls Club. Two of the new members come from Purley - it is quite remarkable just how many members we now have from Purley, twenty-three out of a total of about ninety! It is great just how the game of bowls has taken off in the village.

Each Thursday we run a beginners' class and it appears that even some "well seasoned" bowlers are taking up the opportunity of brushing up their game. Bowls is like no other game - you never stop learning. The Coaching team not only teach line and length, how to hold the wood and the basic (and not so basic) rudiments of the game, but also how to grit the teeth, choke back the tears and mutter "well done!" when you've been beaten by two inches!

Bill Ayling, Secretary Pangbourne Bowls Club

[†] Bill, I think you'll find it's about five centimetres!

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT!

Due to a popular programme this phrase is being banded about at the moment, but how often do we hear "I've hardly got time to breathe let alone think!"? I have managed to 'Pause for Thought' over the last month, however. In fact, this first 'Pause for Thought' has been playing on my mind quite a bit. During an episode of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' the ten contestants were challenged, on the 'fastest finger first', to place, in order, four words from The Lord's Prayer. Only two gave the correct answer. I'd like to think that had the other eight paused longer for thought they would also have given the correct answer – I do hope so!

If, like me, you have enjoyed walking amongst the bluebells recently, you will have realised why The Bluebell has been voted Britain's favourite flower. However, whilst taking in the spectacle of colour and scent they provide, it made me 'Pause for Thought' over the fact that, of Britain's ancient woodland, in which bluebells thrive, half has been lost in the last eighty years.

Arriving home from church on Easter Sunday I was greeted by the fine assortment of Easter Eggs received by the children. One particular gift caught my eye with its glossy purple foil wrapped egg, chocolate bunny, packet of mini eggs, and six assorted cream-filled eggs. A wonderful gift for any chocoholic! On the carton, Cadbury proudly proclaimed this gift to be 'Easter in a Box'. It was not long before bits of foil, and the carton with its grand message lay crumpled and abandoned – the chocolate gifts inside gone forever. It caused me to 'Pause for Thought' as I realised how different this gift with its consumable Easter promise was, from the lasting, true promise of Easter – the Good News of the Resurrection, and the Promise of Eternal Life.

Rushing around between conveying offspring to clubs, preparing dinner, walking the dog – you know the kind of thing – I glanced over at the green hills rolling down to Mapledurham, and the sight made me 'Pause for Thought'. The words sung on the previous Sunday morning came to mind. 'I lift my eyes to the quiet hills, in the press of a busy day;'.....'I lift my eyes to the quiet hills, to a calm that is mine to share;' I realised that I need to 'Pause for Thought' every now and then 'in the press of a busy day' to find that 'calm that is mine to share', for, as the verse ends, 'as green hills stand...so God is my strength and stay'. Or – as a little card in my kitchen so simply puts it, 'Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that You and I can't handle together'.

Now – there's a THOUGHT for a PAUSE!!

Nicki Woodward

DEFRA RURAL ENTERPRISE SCHEME

Defra has approximately £1.3m for community projects in the South East of England between now and 2006. Defra wishes to use all this money to support good quality projects that will bring wide ranging benefits to rural communities. There are three categories as follows:

Basic Services for the rural economy and population.

Possible projects: minibus links, out of school childcare schemes, information and communication technology links and other types of infrastructure.

Renovation and development of villages and protection and conservation of the rural heritage.

This could include projects that promote the revival or expansion of local artisan crafts (thatching, stone masonry, woodcarving, hedge laying etc.) village museums, access to historical features and landscapes and the renovation of historic village buildings.

Encouragement for tourist and craft activities.

Projects could include the marketing and promotion of local tourist initiatives, upgrading accommodation, facilities for on-farm tourist activities and craft activities and links to local food catering.

If you have a community project that would benefit from support from Defra please contact initially:

ABBY THOMAS at the COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR BERKSHIRE on 0118 961 2000 or email: abbyccb@aol.com to discuss.

Further information about the scheme can be found on the Defra website

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/res/default.htm>

PROJECT PURLEY

The Project Purley summer outing has been arranged for SATURDAY June 28th. This will be a visit to Lydiard Mansion and the church of St Mary the Virgin Lydiard Tregoze near Swindon. Members should make their way by car and meet at the mansion at 11.15 for a conducted tour at 11.30am. Full details from Rita Denman tel. 984 4682. Lydiard Mansion is of particular interest as the St John family, who were Lords of the Manor of Purley Magna for 300 years, were also Lords of the Manor of Lydiard Tregoze and this was their principal country home until the 1900s.

The guest speaker at the meeting on April 11th was Christine Milne from the Reading University History Library who gave a meticulously prepared and illustrated talk about the library and its services. Christine also paid particular attention to items in the collection, which gave specific reference to Purley on Thames. She began by explaining that the library contains over one million volumes and is spread over five floors. However historians are most likely to use the fourth floor, which has an information desk staffed between 9am and 5pm on weekdays. The library is arranged by the Dewey classification system but the library catalogue is also available on the website at www.library.rdg.ac.uk.

Connections to Purley on Thames to which Christine referred began with extracts from the Dictionary of National Biography dating from the 1920s. Famous past residents of Purley included Frances Ann Vane (Lady Fanny) who spent the last 20 years of her life in bed studying the Philosophy of Lord Chesterfield and Anthony Morris Storer, a man of fashion, who left £20,000 in his will to complete the building of Purley Park.

Articles in periodicals are harder to find but do include the most recent research and often excellent ideas about which the author is unwilling to write a complete book. The library includes 'The Local Historian' and 'Berkshire Old and New.' And those with access to the Internet can use the Royal Historical Society Bibliography, a free way of tracking down books and articles. Local directories can be found in the library though the more systematic collections will be found at Reading Central Library or the Berkshire Record Office. These directories are particularly useful in tracing family histories in the village, not just concerning the major landowners but also the working class. Some of the history books only skim the surface of Purley life but more academic volumes such as the Victoria County History series, go into greater detail, explaining for example how 'cow money' of six shillings per year, would be distributed among the poor widows of the village.

The speaker referred to the Rural History Centre, based on the Whiteknights campus, which has an extensive library, museum and archive and is open to the public for reference purposes from 10am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. It contains many Project Purley publications and also many photographs and glass negatives of Purley from the Collier collection. The Centre makes a nominal charge to produce prints from these negatives.

Christine Milne's talk lasted for 45 minutes but the time flew by as she is an enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable speaker about her subject.

David Downs

PURLEY W.I.

A pleasing number of members attended this month's meeting, despite the fact that many needed to attend the environmental meeting at the Barn, concerning "flooding".

This years Resolutions (shown below) were discussed, votes taken and forwarded to Her Majesty's Government. Thanks were expressed to Sandra Breen who kindly filled us in on many aspects regarding these matters.

1. This meeting views with concern the increase in obesity and diet-related health problems in children, and the associated risk of chronic disease in later life, and urges HM Government to regulate the promotion to children of foods that contribute to an unhealthy diet and to ensure increased opportunities for exercise and practical food education in schools.
(East Witton WI, North Yorkshire West)
2. This meeting calls upon HM Government to take urgent action in order to ensure that the necessary facilities and services are provided to enable older people, irrespective of their means, to spend their remaining years in comfort and dignity, whether this be in their own home, or in a nursing or residential home of their choice.
(Sheringham Evening WI, Norfolk Federation)
3. This meeting calls upon the Government to concentrate its efforts in promoting and strengthening modern apprenticeship schemes to provide skilled workers for the future.
(Gosforth WI, Cumbria-Cumberland Federation)

We were grateful to Kath Hodge for accommodating us at her home for an evening of Scrabble® and hopefully we'll arrange another get-together later in the year.

Sybil Pryor will be more than delighted if we attend her Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy. Pleasant company and magical garden guaranteed; so see you there. Wed 18 June, 11 o'clock onwards, Old Rectory Garden House, Purley. (ACWW Charity)

We ended our evening with a hectic game of Railway Riot and as we hurtled around the hall like mad things this helped burn up calories from a welcome cheese and wine supper!

Flower table	1 st Bernadine Perry 2 nd Daphne Howard
Competition (flower arrangement in an egg cup)	1 st Daphne Howard 2 nd Pam Gilham

June's meeting: Air Ambulance

Competition: Members participation

Stall: Store cupboard

The meeting takes place at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road on
Wednesday 11 June 7:30pm - **Visitors Welcome**

*Sylvia Conquest
941 1936*

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PLANT SALE

The plant sale held on 17th May was very successful, thanks to the support of the many people who bought plants and members of the Society who looked after the sales, as well as our luck with the weather keeping dry. Sales increased compared with last year. We hope that plants will grow well and people will be pleased with how the plants perform during summer.

Visit to Clematis Corner, 15 Plough Close, Shillingford on 29th June at 12 noon.

There are still a few places available; please ring J. Armstrong (0118 942 1645) to book. The garden specializes in clematis, with more than 300 varieties, grown in different ways within mixed flowerbeds, and includes the National Collection of herbaceous clematis. We have to visit the garden as a party, and meet in Plough Close by 11.50 a.m. so that the admission fee of £2 per person can be collected. From Wallingford go across roundabout at the junction with the A4074 and proceed onto A329 towards Warborough. Clematis Corner is about 200 yards from the roundabout and it is the first house on the left inside Plough Close. Parking is in Plough Close, so please try to share cars to minimize the number parking.

SHOWS

Schedules for the Late Summer Show to be held on Saturday, 13th September are available at the Trading Shed.

TRADING

The Shed in the Memorial Hall Car Park is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. until the end of October. If you have not renewed your subscription for this year, we would be grateful if you could do so in the near future. If you are a new resident in this area, why not visit the Trading Shed to see the advantage of being a member of the Society. The yearly subscription is only £1.

*Marion Dabbs
9422349*

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

In my last article I outlined that we have had many notable successes in arresting prolific criminals. Many are visiting criminals from other areas, particularly Reading. I emphasised that this Sector is not and will not be a soft touch for criminals. A huge amount of effort is put in to target criminals and focusing on areas where they operate in, ensuring they do not operate long in that area before they are caught. There are three particular problems we are focusing on and which I am determined to reduce.

They are:

1. Burglaries particularly domestic burglaries i.e. break-ins to houses.
2. Car crime i.e. theft of and from vehicles.
3. Anti-social behaviour i.e. intimidating and yobbish behaviour, including assaults and vandalism.

My strategy is to focus on individual criminals and areas where they operate, this includes youths who gather in groups and make peoples lives a misery. You can make it more difficult for criminals to operate by ensuring that your houses are secured when you go out and that includes garages and sheds. Please also ensure that you do not leave valuables in vehicles. You would be surprised at what items people leave in full view when they leave vehicles unattended.

As stated in my last article I cannot emphasise the need to report crime, anti-social behaviour and also anything that you think is suspicious the telephone number to ring is 0118 953 6000. The reality is that we are on top of crime and anti-social behaviour. All parish council clerks have my email address and some now act as a conduit to inform me about low level anti-social behaviour issues. I would encourage all parish councils to do this, communication being the key to effective policing. Pangbourne Police Station is open office hours daily from Monday to Friday, so if you prefer to report issues in person then attend the police station.

On 1st April 2002 our crime recording procedures changed resulting in an increase in recorded crime. The purpose was to ensure that our crime recording was more accurate, to assist with highlighting problem areas giving the scope to focus with an increased chance of catching offenders and hence reducing crime. I have told you about the results we are having and as a result crime this April is lower than last April. In April 2002 there were 420 crimes in the Pangbourne Sector (that's from Streatley to Brimpton and Compton to Mortimer including Purley, Tilehurst and Calcot). In April 2003 there were 388 reported crimes. The point I am trying to make is that I have an enthusiastic and hard working team of officers who are policing effectively. Criminals are being locked up and crime is

reducing. From the period 1st January 2003 to 7th May 2003 1,450 prisoners have been arrested on the West Berkshire Police Area i.e. Pangbourne, Newbury and Hungerford Sectors. Please support and help us and we will drive down crime more.

Insp. Andy Talbot

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Basildon C E Primary School
Sat 28th June 2003
Midday until 4pm

Entrance - adults £1 or with
programme (available from school)

Tel: 01491 671445 (school)

We'll be having tractor rides, a beer
tent, Pimms tent, bouncy castle,
Maypole country dancing, Pig roast,
fun and games, karaoke, ice cream,
cakes, plants and much more.

PURLEY SCHOOL CARNIVAL FETE

Attractions include

Auction of Promises

Children's Dancing Exhibition

Beer Tent

Barbecue

Homemade Cakes and Sweets

Children's Games

Tombola including a Chocolate Tombola

And many more...

At **Purley CofE Infant School**

On **Saturday 5 July 2003** at **noon**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOUND – On the morning after May Bank Holiday I discovered a collapsible canvas chair (fisherman’s type) on a flowerbed near my front gate – deposited there, perhaps, by some revelling vandal the previous night. The rightful owner is welcome to it if he will ring 984 4185, preferably early evening.

H.G.Critchell, Westbury Lane



I read in the Parish Magazine that the Parish Council has several vacancies and note also that Pangbourne Parish Council has a similar problem.

Is it perhaps time to consider merging the Councils of Purley and Pangbourne because the two villages are already inter dependent?

A more powerful Council might bring pressure on the West Berkshire Authority who, while very willing to take the Council Tax from this area, are only interested in improving facilities in and around Newbury Town and do very little for us.

I do not understand why many people are outraged by the erection of the new safety fence to the north of the railway at Westbury Lane; a train journey will show that many miles of this standard fencing has been erected in recent years. The original fence revealed when the landowner opened the pathway to Pangbourne several years ago, was in a very poor state of repair with several gaps giving access to the main line. We were fortunate that there were no fatalities.

Many countries do not fence their railways, considering that it is the responsibility of the individual to keep clear of the tracks. In the USA there are over 3000 fatalities per annum involving trespassers and level crossing incidents.

I think we should thank the railway industry in this country for being safety conscious.

H.M.Lewis, Allison Gardens

John Wigmore also wrote in expressing bewilderment at the fuss over the fencing!

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

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I welcome contributions from anyone to this magazine, particularly on local issues and events. Contributions can either be delivered in writing or, preferably, as a WORD attachment by email. Please note however, I reserve the right to edit contributions to suit space availability.

Comments and opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the P.C.C. of St. Mary's Church, Purley on Thames – publishers of Purley Parish News.

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