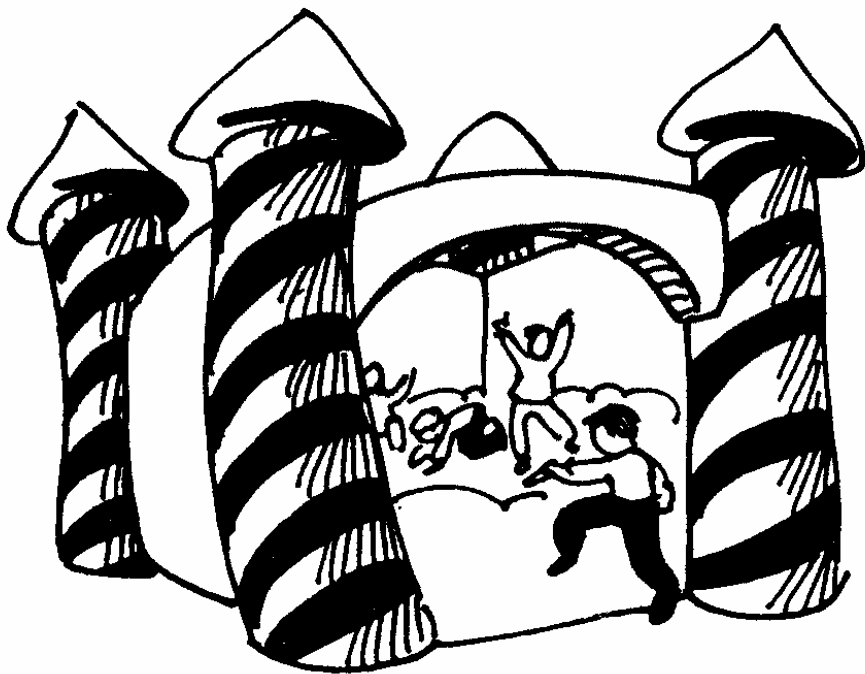


PURLEY PARISH NEWS

JULY 2003



35p

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES

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Sally Robertson	Lorna Herring
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CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Lorna Herring
Tel: 0118 942 1547

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

All enquiries should be made to the Rector

www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

FROM THE LOCAL MINISTER

Dear Friends,

I was reading an article earlier today about people who frequent the end of year exhibitions at art colleges. Some dream of picking up for a few pounds a work of art which will have to be insured for a five figure sum a few years later. I've never bought a painting in my life, but the article caught my attention because yesterday evening I was at one of these exhibitions to see what my daughter and her friends had produced in their year at college.



As the article pointed out, using these exhibitions as a way of predicting the future is a risky tactic.

For a few, the end of year exhibition will contain the last serious work the student will ever produce. College will have been an interlude which they used to pursue art before they went off to make their career in some other field. Perhaps at some points in life they will look back and think what might have been, but they will never go back to pick up again where they left off.

For others, the end of year exhibition will represent a stepping stone from which they will push off in some completely different direction – the promising student of ceramics who goes off to pursue a career making jewellery. Perhaps some of them will also look back and wonder whether they did the right thing.

For the rest, the end of year exhibition will represent a significant step in a life-long journey of development. They will continue to explore their chosen art form, responding to new inspirations, working within or gently pushing back the boundaries as their style evolves.

A few, a very few, of these will introduce a radical change in art. Some will even be hailed as the founder of a new movement.

At the moment I have no idea what my daughter's future will hold in the art world. I will be astonished if she gives art up – it has been so much part of her life for so long. The last year has seen her work develop so much that I believe that the end of her college course represents only an early milestone on her journey. Whether that journey will lead to quiet contentment or public acclaim remains to be seen.

The Christian life is one of being on a journey. We know a God who never changes, who is always doing new things. We do our best to respond to new inspirations, to new challenges, in the way God wants us to.

Are you on that journey? Is it a journey you abandoned some time ago, or perhaps never even started on? Did you decide a while ago to try some other spiritual experience, but you're not sure it's real? At St. Mary's we would welcome the opportunity to walk with you as you take the next step on your journey.

With warm Christian greetings,

Andrew

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

25 May Adam Henry Bugler
Charlotte Rachel Batson

WEDDINGS

14 June Gary Teague and Zoey Mylum

FUNERALS

4 June Vincent Maskell, aged 55 years (burial at Beech Road Cemetery)
5 June Gwendoline Wyatt, aged 94 years (cremation)
12 June Anne Burnett, aged 75 years (cremation)



HOLIDAY CLUB 26-29 AUGUST

It is hoped that this year we will be able to run a Holiday Club during the final week of the school holidays. Places will be limited so watch out for further details (via local schools).

Remember: No Parish News next month – it's back on 6 September 2003 (copy deadlines are both 15 August). Have a wonderful summer.

Matthew Slingsby
Editor

CHURCH SERVICES

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
20 July	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Communion with combined Sunday School Morning Worship Evening Worship
27 July	9:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion
3 August	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion Holy Communion
10 August	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion
17 August	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Family Communion Morning Worship Evening Worship
24 August	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship Holy Communion
31 August	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Family Worship 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.

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

Christian Aid Week 2003

Thank you Purley on Thames
For your generous donations

Total £1138.39

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

At recent meetings the Parish Council nominated minor authority school governors as follows:

Bill Ayling - Purley Church of England Infants School (continuing)

Christine Taylor - Long Lane Primary School (replacing John Chapman)

David Betts - Westwood Farm Junior School (replacing Peter Mason)

The Council are pleased to note the formation of a strong independent Village Plan Steering Group under the chairmanship of Ian Burn with Penny Williams as Secretary & Richard McDonald as Treasurer. No doubt they will be seeking even more active participants.

We still expect to issue West Berkshire travel tokens from the Parish Office on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 2nd, 3rd & 4th July between 9.30 a.m. & 12.30 p.m. but please watch the noticeboards for confirmation.

The new Chairman of the Parish Council, David Betts, intends to walk the bounds on Saturday 5th July starting from the Church at 10.00 a.m. and heading along the river towards Pangbourne. The total length of the walk will be around 7.4 miles but anyone is welcome to join in for all or part of the route.

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.

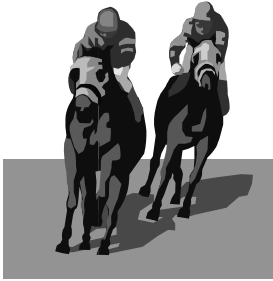
Purley on Thames Parish Council
Parish Office
Goosecroft Lane
off Beech Road
Purley on Thames
Reading
RG8 8DR

Tel/fax: 0118 984 4507

PURLEY PARK TRUST GRAND GARDEN FÊTE SATURDAY 2 AUGUST 2003

As the trust is re-developing part of its site at Purley Park, this year will be the last opportunity for them to hold this kind of event. The trustees and residents of Purley Park wish to welcome you all to what they hope will be "a grand and memorable affair".

There will be an entry fee of 50 pence for adults.



A Song for Ascot

Didn't we have a lovely time, the day
we went to Ascot.
The coach it arrived. We didn't have to
drive.

We could just sit back and relax.
When we got there, We couldn't help
but stare.

The hats, they were amazing.
With feathers and bows, And frills
anything goes,
At Royal Ascot.

Didn't we have a lovely time, the day
we went to Ascot.
We crossed to The Heath, Our picnic
to eat,
Smoked salmon, prawns, and English
strawberries.

Washed down with Pimms (We'd
brought it in tins),
Now this is the life, agreed girls?
A photo was called for, 'Gainst a
Limousine's door,
At Royal Ascot.

Didn't we have a lovely time, the day
we went to Ascot.
At the Silver Ring rails, We stood twixt
Tops and Tails,
Our cameras poised to catch a picture.
Royal Procession went by, We let out a
sigh,

When the Queen waved to us.
But what made our day, Frankie
Detorri said "Hey!"
At Royal Ascot.

Didn't we have a lovely time, the day we
went to Ascot.
We'd been given a hot tip. It didn't help
a bit.
We think the horse must have had three
legs.
Money in Heather's purse. The rest, we
did worse.
But did we care? Of course not.
It was part of the fun, Just to cheer our
horse on,
At Royal Ascot.

Didn't we have a lovely time, the day we
went to Ascot.
The races had been run. We'd been
blessed with sun.
Now it was time to make our way home.
Memories to muse, As we kicked off
our shoes,
And settled back in our coach seats.
Arrived home 7:10, Vowing 'Must do
this again!'
At Royal Ascot.



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

<p>Tickets</p> <p>Adults£5 Senior Citizens£4 Children over 12£4 Children under 12£1</p>	<p>Available from</p> <p>Peter Farrow 0118 941 3887 or Jenny Dimmock 0118 962 4631</p>
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MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

It is hay-making time and I am not supposed to lift a bale! The problem is that I have had a hernia operation and if I were one of my employees, I would have been laid off for 4-6 weeks. One afternoon, a week after the operation, while I was having the stitches removed at the Boat-House Surgery, I mentioned to the nurse that I had milked my cows at 5.30 that morning. After the look she gave me, I didn't dare to mention that I had spent the rest of the morning driving a tractor up and down the silage clamp lest the shock might have caused her to slip with the razor blade!

The only good aspect has been that Vicky has almost encouraged me to attend meetings, realising that at least I would be sitting down which would help my recuperation. Both Parish and District Council life are developing nicely. With the odd associated meeting, a few farming meetings and organising the Country Dairy Competition, spare time for the family is at a premium

At Parish level I have been placed on the Recreation Committee under Christine Taylor and with Rick Jones have formed the working party for The Barn. Rick is already aware that he will have to carry me on this one while I sit in the shadows and sample his beer. I did attend the first meeting of the P-on-T Flood Review Team. I will keep an eye on its development although I will not sit on the committee as any defence system, if constructed, would have to be built on my farm therefore giving me a huge conflict of interest.

District life is still an anomaly. The major full Council meeting specially called for mid-June to agree the new system of scrutiny was cancelled when the L.D's. decided not to take it up. I wonder why? I also sit on the Environment & Public Protection Select Committee, but travelling all the way to Newbury just to agree on the Chairman and Vice-Chairman seemed futile especially as all parties had agreed on the nominations beforehand. The most interesting and worthwhile meeting was the Eastern Area Planning Sub-Committee held at Calcot. For my sins, I was elected Vice-Chairman and have entered a huge learning curve. I have always believed that everybody should be allowed to do what they want to do at or to their own property – you know the old concept that every man's home is his castle – as long as they are not breaking any laws. All planning decisions are based on this; however the problem is learning the laws!

*Tim Metcalfe
Parish and District Councillor*

DISTRICT NOTES

The concessionary fares tokens are now available to anyone over 60. Previously it was women over 60 and men over 65.

This year's distribution will be at:

Purley Parish Office	2, 3 & 4 July	09:30-12:30
Pangbourne Library	2 & 9 July	09:30-12:30 & 13:30-16:30
Cotswold Centre	1 July	13:00-16:00

I have asked they reconsider the Cotswold Centre and have an additional session in view of the long queues last year.

There was some comment about the railway fencing in last month's magazine that rather missed the point – we welcomed the fencing but were concerned that in the very sensitive stretch between Pangbourne and Westbury Lane, which is visible all across the Thames valley they had installed a very ugly galvanised fence whereas from Westbury Lane eastwards they had used some green fencing.

I was very pleased to receive the inspectors report on the land adjacent to Carew Close. He dismissed the appeal and made it very clear that no development would be allowed there. On the other hand he allowed the appeal at 161/171 Long Lane and they can go ahead and build 6 houses and 8 apartments.

We have had a complaint about bonfires at the allotment. One particular individual has been warned he is causing a nuisance by burning newspapers on a regular basis. However I felt it was worth clarifying the situation as some people believe bonfires are illegal – they are not! What is illegal is causing a persistent nuisance but having a bonfire occasionally in your garden or allotment is quite OK but please be considerate of neighbours and do not burn plastic or rubber.

*John Chapman
West Berks Councillor*

BRING & BUY

Babs and Gladys invite you to a "bring and buy" sale (cakes, jams etc.)



Venue: **31 Long Lane**

Date: **17 July**

Time: **10am – 1pm**

VILLAGE PLAN

A better bus service? More shops? Curbing vandalism? New youth facilities? More housing? Being part of Reading? What sort of issues are you concerned about and what do **you** want for Purley?

As reported by Bill Ayling in last month's Parish News the Village Plan is up and running. This will set out a vision of what Purley should be like in the future - so it's vital that all of you contribute to make it genuinely reflect all the views of the community. Pangbourne down the road has just produced its plan and it's attracting huge local interest.

Ambitious plans are being drawn up here in Purley to start collecting the views of local people about what they want in what will be the first ever consultation about the future direction of Purley. There is a bid for resources from the Countryside Agency to help us fund this consultation.

The exercise is planned to be launched at the Sport and Social Club's Fun Day on the 24th August at Goosecroft Lane with an exhibition in the Barn on Purley past and future. Local people will be encouraged to tell us what they like and dislike about Purley so that we can gauge the issues within the community. This event will be repeated again in the Barn at the Horticultural Society and W.I.'s Late Summer Show on the 13th September.

Children from Long Lane Junior School and the Infants School will be invited to present pictures on how they see Purley with prizes for the best contributions.

And all the many social, sporting and recreational groups in the village are to be approached over the next four months to get the views of their members.

But core to the consultation is the intention to give a questionnaire to every household in Purley asking for their views on the issues and perceived issues identified in the earlier public consultations.

All these contributions will be carefully analysed to produce a picture of what people expect from Purley. This will form the basis of a plan which will be produced by next summer which will be widely debated and will go to every household in the village.

The plan won't be put on the bookshelf to gather dust. It will be used to support the Parish council in its work, to provide evidence to put forward the case for Purley to West Berkshire council and ultimately to attract resources that will improve our whole environment. So instead of hearing the familiar urge to "Vote Now" let us have your questionnaires back when the time comes. Your views will count!

Preparing the plan and making the bid for funding to do this is being led by a steering group of local people chaired by Ian Burn. All are passionate about making Purley even better to live in. Meetings are held each month. So if you would like to know more or are keen to become involved then please contact:

Ian Burn 0118 984 5045 (email ian.burn3@ntlworld.com)

Tim Whitaker 0118 984 5553 (email TimothyWht@aol.com)

Through the Parish News we will also be keeping you updated on what hopefully will be a most important initiative for making Purley even better.

Tim Whitaker

WALES

(CARMARTHEN COAST)

Fully equipped house sleeps 6.
Stunning views to Gower
Near harbour, shops,
Pembrey Country
Park (Blue flag beach)

Open All Year.
Tel: John or Sally Utton
(01554) 833879

CHIROPODIST

A Clinic is held in the Memorial
Hall on Friday afternoons.

To make an appointment,
please telephone:-

John Quarterman
MBChA MSSCh
0118 933 3177

Music for a Country House

Friday 18 July 2003
Wokefield Park Mansion House
Mortimer, Reading.

Bar available from 6:30
Concert starts at 7:30 p.m.
£11 including programme
and finger buffet after concert.

'Sweet Harmony'
(in 18th century costume)
play music by Mozart
and his contemporaries

All proceeds to
Macmillan Cancer Relief
Berkshire Appeal

Ring 0118 942 9665
or send cheque and s.a.e. to
63, Armour Hill, Tilehurst, Reading
RG31 6JH

THE JUNE MYCROFT SCHOOL OF DANCING FOR ADULTS

First my Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Tap, Freestyle and Dance and Exercise examinations in May. Everyone had Honours or Distinctions, and needless to say we are all very pleased with ourselves.

All of my students are adults and live busy lives and our classes are a relaxation as well as a learning process. Not everyone wants to take exams but they do progress through the system at their own pace.

The National assoc of Teachers of dancing have launched a new syllabus. Freestyle is just what it says it is and choices of movement and music are much wider, enabling everyone to join in.

We start our classes on Sep 9th with a new range of work, and we can't wait to get started:

Tues evening at Battle hospital Gym 8-9 30pm for D and E and Freestyle

Wed evening 8pm at St Marks for beginners TAP and Advanced

If you would like to join us please phone me on RDG.

Mrs J Mycroft
967 6376



PURLEY PATHFINDERS

As I write this report it seems unbelievable that it's Midsummer's Day. Although provoking panic in some people, for those who get out into the countryside, another season around the corner means yet another wealth of beauty and interest to enjoy. We enjoyed Early Summer as we strode out within the arable land around Ewelme. What struck us most was the enormous variety of 'greens' within the miles of open countryside. A light breeze danced with the grasses and rippled the crops into waves, whilst rapids of cow parsley rushed by in a torrent of white foam. With our lungs full of fresh air we arrived back in Ewelme, a village steeped in history. We explored inside its ancient church, finding the tomb of Thomas Chaucer, son of the poet, Geoffrey Chaucer. In the graveyard lies Jerome K. Jerome, author of 'Three Men in a Boat'. Quietly we entered the Cloisters, surrounded by quaint Almshouses, and noticed the building housing Ewelme Primary School, the oldest Church School, now incorporated in the State system. Its small population of children tumbled out to play in the field opposite while we headed for the village pub for lunch.

Driving along the High Street of Whitchurch on Thames, it is impossible to appreciate this old village, the history of which can be traced back to at least Roman times. It was, therefore, lovely to explore the village on foot. We took every opportunity to gaze through gateways at the lovely early June gardens, and admire the architecture of the houses. We spent some time inside St Mary's Church. Being over 1.000 years old it held many interesting treasures. We admire the Medieval window near the altar, the Medieval roof, and the Medieval cross, now under preservation in a glass case. We went outside to find the South porch over which a fine replica of the cross now hangs, guarded on either side by two Medieval carved angels. We left this interesting building, by way of a wisteria-clad walkway, to find ourselves alongside the Mill, the millstream busy with various ducks, geese and swans with their young broods in tow. We passed 'Thames Bank' where General Eisenhower stayed before the Normandy Landings. Our historic tour continued as, just past The Ferryboat, we noted the house with low windows, and door beneath road level. This came about when Whitchurch Hill was dug out by hand to reduce its steepness, and the soil deposited at the bottom of the hill to alleviate flooding! We enjoyed a pleasant walk along Eastfield Lane, admiring the numerous pretty gardens. At Hardwick Rd we took the Jubilee Walk from where we gained good views across the Thames Valley and towards Purley. We admired the alpaca in their fields before retracing our steps to continue along Hardwick Rd, passing a splendid white wisteria, and cottage gardens billowing with old roses. Soon we were welcomed into the Thameside Meadows belonging to one of our members. Here we were met by a botanist who led us through the water meadows, pointing out numerous wild flowers – water forget-me-nots, yellow irises, meadowsweet, ragged robin, comfrey, water mint, and some lovely early orchids. Walking back beside the river, we found the perfect place for our picnic in the shade of an awesome oak tree.

On a beautifully, sunny morning in mid-June, we arrived at Dorchester-on-Thames, ready to explore this pretty village. After passing Dorchester Lake we turned into a pleasant footpath which led us to a bridge over The River Thame. Entering Hurst Water Meadows we followed the pretty, meandering river, alive with dragonflies, damselflies, ducks and a swan with three cygnets. An old weir came into view as we followed the millstream to peaceful Overy Mill. Gorgeous roses were a feature of the next part of our walk as we passed the gardens of lovely cottages, with glimpses of Dorchester Abbey over the rooftops. Dorchester Bridge took us over the Thame from where we passed more picturesque cottages set in their pretty gardens, the Dyke Hills, with Wittenham Clumps as a dominant backdrop, coming into view. At a picturesque meander in the Thame, we came to a bridge, and the point at which the Rivers Thame and Thames converge. Now we were walking beside the Thames along an attractive path where dragonflies danced and birds sang. Eventually, with Wittenham Clumps rising beyond the riverbank, we arrived at Day's Lock.

As a Red Kite patrolled from above, a path enclosed by stunning wild roses took us back to cross the Dyke Hills once more, with a lovely view across the fields to Dorchester Abbey. Passing pretty cottages and a thatched terrace we reached the village centre. Here our lovely walk ended, but more treats were in store as we spent the afternoon visiting the Abbey's Festival of Flowers. The sixty-nine stunning displays were a delight, setting off the recent refurbishment of the Abbey. More wonderful arrangements were on display in the Church of St Birinus nearby. The sun shone down on the Abbey tearoom garden, and the garden at St Birinus where refreshments were enjoyed. The beauty of the day seemed to enhance the beauty of the flowers, and we left with a feeling of well-being. We pondered on the words written, from Wordsworth, in the guide... 'I gazed and gazed, but little thought, what wealth to me the show had brought.'

On the eve of Midsummer's Day we left Kingsclere to climb in the footsteps of Richard Adam's furry characters, as we made our way to the top of Watership Down. Pausing often to enjoy the view as it unfolded, and to admire the many orchids lining our route, we took our time to reach the top. Once there, we sat and took in the breathtaking panorama. 'Bigwig's' words came to mind when he called the other rabbits to "Come look! You can see the whole world from up here!" Indeed, it seemed one could! We continued our walk along the North Hampshire Ridgeway, with the next target clearly in view, Cottington's Hill. At this 751foot high summit we sat 'on top of the world' to eat our picnic on this sunny, almost Midsummer's Day. Afterwards we simply bowled down the hill towards the cluster of houses of Kingsclere where we ended our 'get away from it all' walk.

In June the Pathfinders enjoyed their first, purely social, day out with a visit to Royal Ascot. The report is written in the words of a song, which can be found on page 6.

Our Summertime walks continue with a walk around Sonning Common with a visit to a Herb Farm, with its Saxon Maze to test us; a tour of a Wild Flower Farm, and a walk along the Thames at Hurley and Marlow. The term ends with our Summertime Special. This year we will cruise along the Thames from Caversham to Sonning. After a picnic we will walk the pleasant towpath back. Any ladies wishing to join us, on various weekday mornings, please ring for a programme. We are renowned for our friendliness, and you will be made very welcome.

Nicki Woodward
9841919

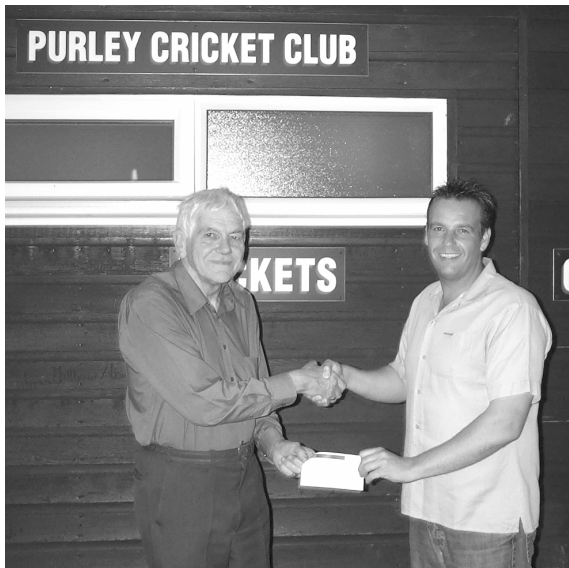




PURLEY CRICKET CLUB

Mr Dougie Bufton, Managing Director of Triple Pole Electrics Ltd., presented the cheque to Tony Brown, Captain of Purley Cricket Club Saturday 1st XI at the match which recently took place between Purley CC and Triple Pole Electrics Ltd. (pictured)

Martin Bishop, Club Chairman said "As a club we are delighted to be involved with Companies locally who are keen to support cricket at grass roots level. This generous Sponsorship allows us to develop and grow as a club and offers our members better facilities and the opportunity to play cricket for a reasonable cost. We would like to thank Triple Pole Electrics Ltd for this generous support."



For further information on Purley Cricket Club, please contact Martin Bishop, Club Chairman on 0118 984 1726, or look at the club website

<http://purleyonthames.play-cricket.com>

Tidmarsh and Sulham

FÊTE

Saturday 2nd August

At Sulham House 12.30 to 4.00pm
(Lunches available)

**Tidmarsh and Sulham
FLOWER FESTIVAL**

2nd and 3rd August

In St Nicholas Church, Sulham
10.00am to 4.30pm

PROJECT PURLEY

The next meeting of Project Purley will be the annual BBQ, which will be held on Friday July 18th 2003.

Despite the overcast sky and intermittent drizzle of a dull May evening, twenty one members of Project Purley gathered just outside Whitchurch at Grid Reference 652778 to begin the annual walkabout. The trek began with a climb up the steep Path Hill to the folly known as The Baulk, which was built in 1809 after the Whitchurch Enclosure Act. After following the tarmac road to Path Hill Farm we turned right into the bridleway to Mapledurham. A pause for a group photograph enabled us to watch a couple of Mallards flying overhead, pass comment on the variety of headgear being worn, and pat Dougal the Dulux® look-a-like dog who accompanied the expedition.

Now we moved down the valley into the Forestry Commission woodland where the bluebells began to lighten a previously dark environment. Undeterred by 'The Really Useful Sign' which is anything but, at the fiveway junction we started to climb once again this time to the top of Westfordhill Copse, where the bluebells were even more plentiful. All the group's exertions suddenly became worthwhile as after negotiating a stile, we stepped into an open field and were able to study a panoramic view of Purley. Despite the evening mist Tilehurst Water Tower was visible in the far distance and the constantly pealing church bells of St Mary's could be clearly heard through the still evening air. High-speed trains slithered like long silvery worms along the railway track at the bottom of the valley. This was the best part of the walk and we halted for several minutes before descending carefully down the steep grassy slope to the track which passes Hardwick House.

The whole length of the track, from Hardwick Road to Mapledurham, can only be used by those on foot or horseback, so this part of the walk gave us time and security to gaze at the delightful buildings of East Lodge and Straw Hill with its abundance of cowslips and an occupied badger's sett in the bank by the side of the track. However, most of our attention was focussed on Hardwick House itself, a Tudor building dating from 1588, and where Queen Elizabeth 1 is said to have slept. We passed Hardwick Stud Farm and walked through the wrought iron West Gates before returning to our cars and completing a most enjoyable evening.

David Downs



If God is your co-pilot - swap seats



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I was intrigued by the suggestion from Hugh Lewis that Purley on Thames Parish Council might want to consider a merger with Pangbourne. Happily, we now have a full complement of enthusiastic and highly qualified Parish councillors in Purley and plenty of volunteers contributing to the Village Plan committee....although more are always welcome.

It seems to me that community spirit is particularly strong in Purley at the moment, with local organisations reporting the best membership figures for years; the tremendous success of last year's Jubilee celebrations; etc. We don't set our own parish boundaries anyway, but I think our priorities here would be the return of that part of the church parish which is currently administered by Tilehurst and fighting off the unwanted attentions of Reading.

We do work closely with Pangbourne, Tilehurst and other local parishes as a matter of course in our dealings with West Berkshire District Council and only last month West Berks. Chief Executive Jim Graham attended a joint meeting to hear some of our concerns.

As far as the railway fence is concerned, I don't think anybody is suggesting that providing a secure fence along the railway is a bad thing. I for one have always welcomed it. Our concern was with the cavalier way the work was carried out – with no consultation and a complete disregard for the safety of footpath users - and with the insensitivity shown towards the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in using galvanised fencing rather than the less intrusive green-coloured alternative.

The Strategic Rail Authority has now acknowledged its error and agreed to paint the fence.

*David Betts
Chairman, Purley Parish Council*

HELP NEEDED

A few weeks back I received a request for helpers at a play scheme for children with special needs that will take place in Tilehurst from 10am to 3pm, 28 July to 8 August. If you are over 16 and could help then please contact Gill Cleaver (0118 941 9705) for more information as I'm sure that more helpers would always be welcome! Volunteers will be asked to attend a training day prior to the start of the scheme.

Editor

PURLEY W.I.

June 7th saw some of us struggling with laughter to erect an awning at the Pangbourne fête, where we held our stall of mixed goods. The weather was wonderful, with a lovely crowd and a handsome profit. Thanks to the Pangbourne organisers and W.I. members who made it such a sunny success.

We were reminded of the Horticultural Show Sat September 13th; it will soon be here so get potting!

Bob Trayling, the fund raiser for our own County Air Ambulance, held our interest and breath, telling us of cliff hanging experiences. Sadly the service now runs only on voluntary donations and not the NHS, ironic when you consider 56% of calls are for road accidents. Two paramedics are always on board and sometimes a trainer and because of grid references (like the postal code) a pilot knows exactly where to land. It could be in next door's garden, so watch your roses!

Travelling can be at 150 miles per hour and depending on what the patient suffers, the air ambulance will deliver to the necessary hospital. The paramedics have 3 years training, two years on land then 25 hours low level flying. Fitness is of utmost importance and yearly medicals are given and pilots must be A1. The craft are "garaged" at White Waltham, so visits there are encouraged. To boost their economy they provide their own lottery. If you're interested in the lottery give me a ring 0118 941 1936. Can you imagine landing "comfortably" in a field but then the crew has to climb over a six foot wall and then back again with a patient!

Sadly a crew of four were rowing in a very remote area when a member suffered a heart attack. Another member, a doctor, phoned 999, they landed the patient on the bank where he stopped breathing. The remoteness of the area would have been a problem for land ambulances but not the crew in the air and within 14 minutes the "body" hospitalised, breathing started and now the character is rowing again. Time matters. We need this service don't we? Or perhaps we hope we don't need it, who knows!!! The cost of running the air ambulance service is £6500 per month so when you throw that old mobile phone away - don't! Let them have it and they can cash it in for their funds.

Our competition was to wrap a balloon completely in toilet paper, so we needed to pair up with a partner for this scatty game.

Competition winner

Sylvia Conquest with Edna Bint

Flower table

1st Marilyn Hoare

2nd Gillian MacDonald

July's Speaker: Ann Seagrove

How to make a card from things around the home.

Competition: Home Made Card

Stall: Book/video

The meeting takes place at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road on
Wednesday 9 July 7:30pm - **Visitors Welcome**

Sylvia Conquest
941 1936

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

LATE SUMMER SHOW

This will be held in The Barn at the Recreation Ground, Beech Road, Purley on Thames on Saturday, 13th September, 2003. Schedules are available from the Trading Shed and we look forward to a good number of entries, but you do need to be a member of the Society or Women's Institute. The Spring Show saw an increase in the number of entries and hopefully we will see this repeated in September. Entry forms must be handed into the Trading Shed or to Mr. J. Armstrong, 169 Long Lane, Tilehurst by Wednesday, 10th September. The Show opens to the public at 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. with presentation of trophies at 3.45 p.m. Entry to the Show is free.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GARDENS

As an affiliated Society we hold a card which provides reduced entrance prices to the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley, Rosemoor and Hyde Hall. The reduced price is available for one member and one guest (member or otherwise). If you require further information or would like to use the card, please contact Pat Brightwell on 9412424.

TRADING

The Shed in the Memorial Hall car park is open from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays until the end of October. Membership is only £1 and garden supplies, etc can be purchased at discounted prices. New members will receive a warm welcome.

If you have not taken your summer holiday yet, we hope you will have an enjoyable one with good weather.

Happy gardening.

Marion Dabbs
9422349

PANG & KENNET VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS

The Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valley Countryside Project has been set up to represent all of the people who care about the countryside in the two valleys. The events below are co-ordinated by The Friends and give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10am and finish by 4pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools.

FRIENDS' DIARY

Conservation tasks

- Tue 15 July Meadow Management Pangbourne**
We will be clearing ragwort from Sulham Meadows SSSI, so that this important site can be grazed. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00am or phone the project office for details of meeting on site.
- Sun 20 July Pond Management Stanford Dingley**
Help with our annual task to maintain Pangfield Pond and the surrounding habitat. This task includes grass cutting and clearing back vegetation to allow educational visits. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00am or phone the project office for details of meeting on site.
- Tue 5 Aug Meadow Management Pangbourne**
We will be clearing ragwort from Sulham Meadows SSSI, so that this important site can be grazed. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00am or phone the project office for details of meeting on site.
- Sun 10 Aug Tools Maintenance & BBQ Englefield**
All the hard work we put in through the year puts a strain on our tools! We will be working at our tool store to repair those broken handles and sharpen those worn blades. We will also be having a BBQ so why not join us to find out more about what we do? Meet at the Old Estate Office, Englefield Road, Theale from 10.00am onwards.
- Tue 12 Aug Glade Management Ashampstead Common**
Spend the day in one of the valley's most attractive woodlands helping local resident Dick Greenaway improve wildlife habitats on the common. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00am or phone the project office for details of meeting on site.
- Tue 19 Aug Footpath Work Aldermaston**
Help to clear some of the unknown footpaths to improve access to the hidden treasure of Paices Hill, to further its transformation into a country park. Meet at 10.00am at Paices Hill (through Youngs Industrial Est.) or phone the project office for details. Grid ref: SU586638

Guided Walks

- Sun. 6 July Historic Norreys Hampstead Norreys**
A two mile walk around Hampstead Norreys with Ted Palmer to look at woods and forestry, organic farming and local history. Meet at Hampstead Norreys Village Hall (SU 526762) at 11am. Bring a packed lunch. Dogs on leads. Booking essential as numbers will be limited to thirty.
- Thu 17 July Nightjars and Glow worms at dusk Bucklebury Common**
Join BHCG leader Tim Culley for a late evening walk looking at heathland restoration and some of the specialised wildlife associated with the habitat, including Nightjars and Glow worms. Stout footwear is necessary. Meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common at 8.30 p.m. SU 550 688.
- Sun 27 July Holt Lodge Farm Kintbury**
Join farmer Ian Freeland on a walk around his farm to see traditional farm buildings, flower rich unimproved wet meadows and wet woodland set in the picturesque North Wessex Downs AONB. Meet at the farm (SU 390647) at 2pm. No dogs. Booking essential, as numbers will be limited.
- Sun 3 Aug Marsh Meadows 2pm Thatcham**
A two-and-a-half mile walk starting from Marsh Meadows – a Kennet Valley Community Project site – and heading north towards Cold Ash, before visiting Southend on our way back to Thatcham. An opportunity to appreciate both the urban and rural wildlife value in the valley. No dogs. N.B. This walk includes passing through a field containing cattle.
- Sun 17 Aug Corn, pill boxes, ancient woods. 11am-3pm Haw Farm**
A four & a half mile walk with Dick Greenaway across the World War II airfield and through ancient woods to Hampstead Norreys and back. The walk starts at Haw Farm Grain depot (SU 548771) with a talk about the harvest by Yattendon Estate's Farms Director Alistair Jeffrey. There will be a lunch break at The White Hart pub at Hampstead Norreys or bring a picnic. Booking essential as numbers are limited to thirty. Anyone planning to have lunch in the pub should mention this when booking. Dogs on leads through the woods. Please note that this walk contains a steep hill.
- Sun 24 Aug Exploring Bucklebury Common 10.30am Bucklebury**
Join Ray Clayton and the Pang Valley Ramblers on a 3 mile ramble exploring the many footpaths on the common. Meet at Angels Corner near the scout hut on Bucklebury Common, about 400 yards west of the junction with Pease Hill & Carbinswood Rd (signed Bucklebury Farm Park). SU550688
- Sun 28 Sep Sheep Fairs and Chalk Downs 11am East Ilsley**
A five and a half mile walk with Dick Greenaway to look at the head of the Pang Valley and the view over the watershed followed by an optional look at historic East Ilsley village. Meet at East Ilsley pond (SU 494810), bring a packed lunch. Well behaved dogs welcome. Please note that this walk contains a steep hill.

Talks and Events

Wed 9 July Pang Cons. Vol. AGM

Rushall Manor Farm

Join the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers for their AGM. There will be a talk by Richard Clark, Director of the North Wessex Downs AONB. Meet at Black Farm, Rushall Manor Farm* at 7.30pm

Sat 12 July Water Vole Field Signs, 10am

Bradfield

The BBOWT Water Vole Officer will be leading a training day on the tell tale signs of the presence of Water Voles. The day is aimed at training volunteers who will be willing to help in the Water Vole survey. Limited to 20 places so call on 0118 930 5336 to reserve yourself a place. Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm*.

Sun 27 July Dragonflies and Damselflies 2-4pm Hosehill Lake, Theale

Join Ranger Adrian Wallington and local experts for an afternoon looking at the many different dragonflies and damselflies at Hosehill LNR. Park at the Fox & Hounds Pub opposite.

Sun 7 Sept Wokingham Show

Spencers Wood

This year we will have a stand at Wokingham Show.

20/21 Sept Royal Berkshire Show

Newbury

Come and meet the new team in person at our stand in the Countryside Area.

* The Black Barn is situated off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield, to the west of Scratchface Lane (Grid ref. SU 583723).

Baby Clinic

St Mary's Church

2nd Thursday of the month

Jobs include tea-making & preparing tables and chairs.

9:30am – 11:30am

About 30 mothers with babies attend. Cheerful atmosphere

Contact Carol Porter
(Health visitor)

0118 984 2217 or 01635 862174

Want to fill an hour or two?

Please contact Jane Stapleton

Home: 984 1538

Shop: 984 3754

OXFAM NEEDS YOU!

(Pangbourne shop)

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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