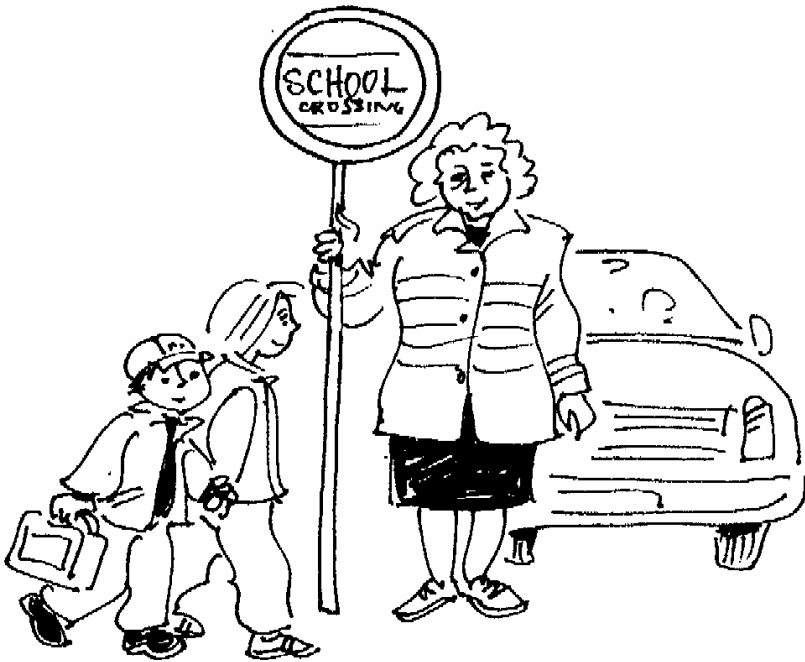


PURLEY PARISH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 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 RECTOR

Dear friends,

Headlines!

I have never before known a time when the news media have given so much time to the Christian Church in general and to the Church of England in particular. But in the last couple of months newspaper and TV news headlines have frequently concerned Church matters.



At the time of writing, the current issue (brought to a head with the appointment of Canon Jeffrey John as Bishop of Reading and his subsequent withdrawal) is the election in the USA of a bishop who is living in an openly-homosexual relationship. These events have been a source of rejoicing to many throughout the countries concerned and further afield. But at the same time they have been a cause of grave concern to others on an equally-wide front. I number myself amongst the latter. Both I, and the Parochial Church Council - after a discussion on the subject - made our views known to the Bishop of Oxford as well as to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Now, following the election in the Diocese of New Hampshire, the Archbishop of Canterbury has called a meeting of Anglican leaders for October. These are crucial days for the worldwide Anglican Communion!

I wonder what you think about it all? Has it been the subject of sniggers in the company you keep? Do you think that the Church is gradually coming "up-to-date"? Or do you think that the Church has lost its credibility (if it ever had any) with you?

Within the Church of England - and in other Christian denominations - there are those who think that homosexuality is an equally-valid alternative to heterosexuality. Moreover they think both are God-given and should therefore be welcomed. Those who applaud this view make great play of the fact that Jesus said nothing about homosexuality. If this is so important, why was He silent? My answer to that is this:

- Jesus said nothing about many things. Silence is always a weak argument.
- He would have been fully aware that in the Greek world homosexuality was common.
- As a Jewish man of His time, He knew the Scriptures (Old Testament), and He knew that homosexuality was forbidden.

- Homosexuality amongst Jews was not a problem; it was not an issue then, so He did not need to say anything.

But of course He did say something about other sexual matters which were a problem!

One of things which has saddened me in the media coverage of these things is the way in which those who have spoken against these Church appointments, have been branded as homophobic and bigoted. That there is homophobia and bigotry about I have no doubt, but it is simply untrue to say that all are in this category. One of our local MP's was quoted as saying that Jeffrey John was hounded out because of "pure prejudice." Such a statement is pure nonsense! The reason for opposition was and is, that we do not believe these appointments are in accordance with the teaching of the Bible, or the mind of God.

I end with this - St. Mary's Church is open to all. We welcome all people. Whatever people are, and whatever they happen to believe, they are people, and our mission as a church is to care for people. But in welcoming all, that does not mean I have to agree with what people believe - in this or other matters.

Roger

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

10 Aug Ethan Raymond Nutt
 Emilie Sarah Bieny

WEDDINGS

26 July Andrew Kimber and Lis Blackall
16 Aug James Britchford and Andrea Kochanek

QUIZ NIGHT - THANKS

The Quiz Night held at the end of June was a great success and £210 was handed over to Sally Robertson for Church funds.

Many thanks to all the teams who entered and contributed.

Quiz Night organisers

CHURCH SERVICES

7 Sept 9:30 a.m. Family Worship with Sunday School
 11:15 a.m. Holy Communion
 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Pat Blanchard (SAMS missionary) will be at the morning services. A shared lunch will follow.

14 Sept 9:30 a.m. Family Worship with Sunday School
 11:15 a.m. Holy Communion

21 Sept 9:30 a.m. Family Communion with combined Sunday School
 11:15 a.m. Morning Worship
 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

28 Sept 9:30 a.m. Family Worship with Sunday School
 11:15 a.m. Holy Communion

5 October 10:30 a.m. Harvest Celebration
Harvest 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion

12 October 9:30 a.m. Family Worship with Sunday School
 11:15 a.m. 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.

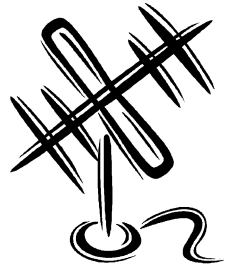
FAREWELL TO WALLY WATKIVS

Wally and his wife Maureen have been linked with St. Mary's Church for around forty years, but at the end of August they moved away to live on the outskirts of Bristol. I am not absolutely sure of all the various jobs Wally has done in the life of the church for I have been here for a mere twelve years. But for all of that time and more, he has been licensed as a Lay Minister (formerly known as a Reader) in the Diocese of Oxford. This has involved leading worship and preaching here, as well as occasional visits to other churches in the Deanery of Bradfield. Wally has also been a churchwarden in Purley and a member of the Deanery Synod. He and Maureen will be missed in the life of the church here, and we wish them every blessing as they settle into their new home and make new friends.

Roger Howell

TUNING INTO GOD (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS PRAYER)

To say that life is very busy these days is a massive under-statement. At times it is hectic and in the pressure of getting things done, we sometimes get our priorities wrong. There are a lot of things going on in the life of St. Mary's Church, but if we think we can get away without tuning into God we are making a big mistake. Our strength and effectiveness as a church - quite apart from the number of people who come on Sundays - is dependent on our awareness of God and the extent to which we seek to draw strength and wisdom from Him, rather than our own good ideas and efforts.



We shall seek to tune into God and listen to what He has to say to us on the following dates:

Tuesday September 9th

Tuesday October 14th

We meet in the Vestry at 8-00pm. I would be very encouraged to see a group of 12 people committed to this. Will you be one of them?

Roger Howell

HOUSEGROUPS?

Why should I want to join a housegroup?
What is it anyway?

Simply, it is a small group of people who regularly get together in someone's home. The "excuse" for the gathering is to have a chance for informal study of the Bible, and discussion of the Christian doctrines it contains. All of us find some things difficult to understand, and chewing over such things with friends helps to clarify our own thoughts.



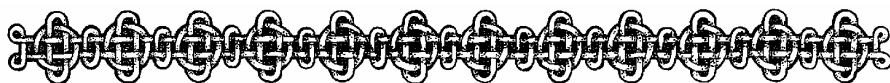
But this leads to far more - real Christian friendship results. Friends share things, good and bad, over a cuppa, and laughter often rings out. Such friendship enables people to support each other when times are difficult, perhaps through sickness, or maybe problems at work or home. Then the joys and the problems can also be shared with the unseen Friend in our midst, as we bring them to God in prayer together. It's all so much easier to share in than the formal service at Church! Yet it also makes it easier to go into that more daunting building - because friends are already there.

Just as all groups of people differ, so do housegroups. Some are more formal in their approach, others more relaxed. The ages of people in the groups vary – one group of young Mums have their toddlers with them, other groups may include tired commuters straight off the London train, or retired folk, or anyone! Some people may have been studying the Bible for years, whilst for others this is a very novel experience. (It's amazing how much the former can learn from the latter with their fresh "uncluttered" approach!) But all housegroups have two things in common – friendship, coupled with a desire to share with each other in learning about the Christian faith.

Why not join one, & make new friends – I did!

Contact Sally Robertson (962 5978) or Roger Howell (941 7727)

Jacky Brown



AUTUMN LUNCHPOT SPECIAL

The next Lunchpot will be on

Wednesday 15 October

12 noon – 1p.m.

St. Mary's Church Hall

Everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate the rich bounty of the harvest with such dishes as "Fruits of the Earth" soup, Hot Jacket Potatoes topped with a variety of wholesome toppings; and hearty Ploughman's Lunch. Of course, no Lunchpot meal would be complete without a slice of our famous cakes!

Children are catered for with half portions, or hot dogs and toys and some high chairs will be available.

A hot or cold drink is also included in the price of a ticket which cost:

£3 adult meal : £1.50 child meal

There will be a Raffle and Cake Stall so bring some change.

Tickets in advance please from Nicki Woodward, 984 1919, Cherry Acre, Purley Village (or see Nicky at church services)

(proceeds to St. Mary's Church)

GREAT PIP!

An exciting new service will soon be launched at the new community hospital which opens early in 2004. A new voluntary service called Patient Information Point (PIP) is the brainchild of Dr. Paul Millard and he, together with the primary care trust and several voluntary groups have been working to design a friendly and efficient service that will provide a dedicated team of trained volunteers who will enjoy helping to provide the right information about medical conditions and other related issues within a special area at the new hospital.



Newbury Volunteer Bureau is now searching for the right volunteer team to fulfil this great new way of helping the community. Volunteers will enjoy being busy, be good talkers, have friendly faces and have a natural empathy with people who *may* be worried or a little distressed. People with basic computer skills would be particularly useful as a degree of 'surfing the net' will be part and parcel of these voluntary posts. A full training programme will be available to people who have a desire to help. The PIP helpers will also be happy to commit to regular hours and be happy to fill in for others from time to time.

If you or someone you know would be interested in this post and would like to find out how to get involved then please contact Garry Poulson, of the West Berkshire Volunteer Job shop based at Newbury Volunteer Bureau.

Tel. 01635 49004 or e-mail newbury@volunteerbureau41.fsnetco.uk

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council will be reviewing procedures for grants to local organisations and hopes to provide more information shortly. Applications will require more specific funding information than in the past as requests are usually in excess of the budgeted expenditure available. Written applications will still need to be made during November/December each year and if agreed payment will be made before the end of the financial year.

There are currently two marked disabled parking bays outside the Barn & a further one outside the Sports & Social Club at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground in Beech Road. It is hoped to add to the latter shortly but both the Council & the Club will be monitoring them closely to avoid possible misuse.

Please observe the parking restrictions and respect those who have difficulty in walking.

As there have been problems with the West Berkshire Council travel tokens this year the Parish Council will continue to issue them to anyone holding the required form during normal office hours. If you did not receive the normal blue form please contact the Concessionary Fares Team on 01635 519800 to ensure you have a replacement form before visiting the office. When the regular token issue took place in early July an umbrella was left at the office. Please ring on the number below if you wish to claim it.

The local police have again asked that incidents of crime or vandalism are reported direct to them at the time of the incident to ensure that not only are they recorded but to assist future provision of resources for responding. Please play your part in helping to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Problems with the highways may be reported direct to Streetcare at West Berkshire Council on 01635 519080 or through their website on www.westberks.gov.uk

Congratulations are due to the South East Berkshire Emergency Volunteers (SEBEV), who provided much needed assistance during the floods, on being presented with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award.

Due to annual leave the Parish Office will be closed on Monday 15th September & Thursday 18th September.

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

THE THAMES VALE SINGERS

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We will be performing our Christmas Concerts on Friday 19th December at Purley Memorial Hall and Saturday 20th December at Tilehurst Methodist Church Hall.

More details will be available in the October edition.

Jenny Dimmock
(Secretary, Thames Vale Singers)

SAVE THE CHILDREN WEEK APRIL 2003

The committee of the Pangbourne & District Save The Children Branch wishes to thank all collectors and members of the public who gave so generously towards our total of £2,897 raised.

Elise Harris



1ST PURLEY AND PANGBOURNE SCOUT GROUP

FOREVER YOUNG

Scouting has been re-vitalised in Purley and Pangbourne thanks to a dynamic merger of the two Groups.

The two Scout Groups serving both villages were struggling for Leaders and supporters and so last year, under new leadership, merged to form a new Group; 1st Purley and Pangbourne Scout Group. We now have a Beaver Scout Colony, Cub Scout Pack and Scout Troop, catering for boys and girls from 6 – 14 years of age.

Scouting has undergone some key changes over the last 12 months with some age ranges, badges and the uniform changing for the 21st Century but the essence of giving young people something challenging, exciting and most of all, fun, is still the same. Along the way, we hope to give them some skills useful for adult life such as decision making, self reliance, taking responsibility, communicating, organising and leadership.

Were you ever a Cub or Scout? Did you ever go to camp? Sleeping in a tent, cooking on an open fire, learning about the environment... all of these things still apply today, along with encouraging an understanding of learning to live with others – perhaps more important today than ever before?

Fancy doing something for nothing? Then come along and try one of the meetings as a helper. And if you have fun, please do come back for more! We, (along with every other voluntary organisation, we know!), need *your* help – how ever much or little you can give.

All Sections need more Leaders and helpers – and it's very simple – the more adult help – the more young people we can provide Scouting for. We particularly need help with the Cub Scout Pack (8-10½ year olds, Wednesday evening, 6.45 – 8.15pm) and the Scout Troop (10½ – 14 year olds, Monday evenings, 7.30 – 9.00 pm). Both weekly meetings are term

time only and this help can be uniformed or non-uniformed. If you can't commit to a weekly meeting, perhaps you would consider helping out with fund raising, administration or offer any other skill on a one-off or regular basis. We would be pleased to hear from you how ever much or little you can do.

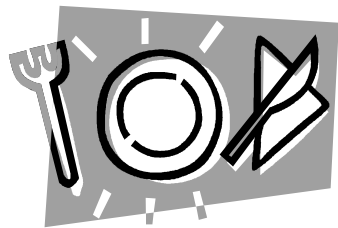
We are also keen to encourage more 10½ – 14 year olds to join the recently started Scout Troop. We currently have 12, but would be happy to take more! So if you have a son or daughter, niece or nephew who you think might like a change from school activities, the television and computer games, why not give us a ring?

We will keep you up to date with our activities with regular news throughout the year!

*For more information, or to offer your help, please contact Ron Spencer
Tel: (0118) 941 0897 E-mail: 1st.purley.pangbourne@dsl.pipex.com*

COMMUNITY HARVEST SUPPER

The Parish Council and St. Mary's Church are organising a Community Harvest Supper to be held on Saturday 11 October at 7:30 p.m. at the Barn, Beech Road.



Tickets - Adults £3, Children £1.50 - available from:

The Post Office

Christine Taylor (Tel. 942 9531)

St. Mary's Church (941 7727)

Please get your tickets as soon as possible and in any case by Thursday 25 September so that we cater accurately for the event. After the meal there will be an auction of donated goods*. Money raised will be given to the Air Ambulance. We look forward to seeing you there.

*We would be glad to receive items for this - eg. wine, chocolates, biscuits, unwanted gifts etc. Please contact Roger Howell (941 7727) if you have goods to offer.

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Just at the moment we are experiencing a major heat wave - mind you by the time you read this it could be raining buckets with North Easterly gales sweeping the Thames Valley — but just at the moment a hint of a strong Nor'easter with accompanying rain would not go ahead on the bowling green. It is really hot! Standing on the hard baked closely mown yellowish green turf really does take some stamina.



As "Skip" - that's the person who has charge of the rink and should tell each bowler how to bowl, what wood to bowl and at what target - it doesn't give you the opportunity of having a quiet breather while the other bowlers bowl their woods. This is what experience is all about in bowling - how to build and develop a "head", and at the same time knowing that your opposition skip is planning your downfall. Of course there comes the time when your team have bowled all their woods and you then have their unenviable task of bowling yourself. Believe me, there is nothing worse than going to bowl and knowing that you are six down and only your last two woods can stop it being a whitewash. Your first wood misses everything. Grit your teeth, close the eyes and swing the wood along the line you have chosen - mind you don't have to close your eyes! Hopefully you'll hear somebody say grunt "good shot" or, worse still, "hard luck" - you then know you've missed the lot! Still it is an interesting way of spending a baking hot afternoon... At a recent Reception at the Barn Roger asked me where I had been on my holidays as I had a deep tan, I had to confess that it was through playing bowls at Pangbourne, I was pleased he didn't press the point on whether I also play on the Sabbath!

This year I was lucky enough to make the last eight in the County for the Secretary's Cup. Never before have I reached such dizzy heights. I was disappointed (although not too surprised) to be beaten at home by last year's champion. For a while I had visions of reaching the finals that are played at Worthing, but not this year for me.

Full marks to Pat Robson of Purley the Ladies Captain; she is having a wonderful year and is also playing really well in the Thames Valley League. This is a Ladies only League and captained by Sheila Drew - who is probably the only lady shorter than Pat! This is the ladies first year in the League and they are at present laying joint third. Well-done Ladies!

Several other Purley people are doing well in the club competitions including Frank Lewendon, Alan dark (again), Pat Robson, Kevin Gilliver and yours truly - if that doesn't sound too immodest - are all in the semi finals of the various competitions.

Speaking of Purley people and competitions, sincere congratulations to Mickie Robinson of Beech Road who this year won the Dr Thomas Triples with Mary and Fred Joyce. It was a scratch team that Mickie got together, but she played with tremendous skill and, as always, grit and determination. It was wonderful to see her in action. She and her husband, Tom - now sadly, because of ill-health, unable to play, the game he loves, but still comes down to the Green to watch and support Mickie - have been stalwarts of Pangbourne Bowls for many years, this though is the first year she has been in the winning team for the premier triples finals in the club.

I was recently made a Governor of Purley Church of England Infant School. So as an English Bowling Association Coach I put myself up for auction at the recent fund raising day - the highest bidder to have coaching lessons from myself. This was Wally West. It was the first time he had ever bowled and at the first coaching lesson at Pangbourne I was astounded by his natural ability at judging the correct length at which to bowl the wood. It normally takes hours of patient coaching, and even then some never get the knack of it, quite incredible. The only other person I've coached who had this knack was Doreen Miller.

As Wally said afterwards "I didn't know it was possible to have so much fun in one hour!"

Nice one Wally -I hope you'll continue to play when your lessons are completed!

Bill Ayling

URGENT SECURITY ADVICE

Do you have a UPVC front door with a handle that initially prevent opening from outside but can be additionally secured by locking with a key whist inside the house?

IF YES:

Always use the key to lock the door from the inside and remove it to a secure location

Always ensure wallets, handbags, credit cards or other valuables are not left on view or near the front door.

Always ensure your car keys are not left on view or near the front door.

URGENT SECURITY ADVICE



PURLEY PATHFINDERS

To the East of Sonning Common, we crossed lovely wildflower meadows which were alive with the flitting of butterflies and the singing of grasshoppers. Our route skirted Morgan's Wood before passing the pretty thatched Frieze Cottage, both of which appear on maps dated 1797. Even older is Crowsley Park which was created in 1685. We passed through the gate into this ancient Parkland, soon to stand in front of the imposing Crowsley Mansion. The coat of arms of the Baskerville family is displayed above the front porch, beneath the Gothic Battlements and Turrets. The splendour of the house, however, was almost dwarfed by a giant redwood tree which can ultimately grow to 300 feet. Climbing over two unusual metal stiles, we entered the open parkland, now rough pasture, but with many of the fine trees remaining, giving a clue to the layout of the grounds in a past era. We crossed an avenue of oaks leading from the house, and we imagined finely dressed ladies and gentlemen 'taking the air' along this walkway. After leaving Crowsley Park we walked along the edges of crop fields where the nodding heads of poppies gave a dazzling display. Eventually we arrived back at Sonning Herb Farm. Here we enjoyed lunch in the garden, served from the new Orangery. It was tempting to remain seated in the sunshine, the scent from herbs filling the air. However, we decided to rise to the challenge to find the centre of the maze. After passing various herbs with their medicinal uses proclaimed on notice boards, we eventually reached the gazebo raised up in the centre with a good view of the outline of the maze, which has been laid out in the form of a Saxon sea creature. A browse around the interesting gardens and shop completed our lovely walk.

At the height of summer, we were met at a Wildflower Farm, near Hungerford, by the farm manager, Bob Anderson, and his wife. They were to be our guides for the morning and they took us on a most interesting tour of the farm. Bob took time to identify numerous wild flowers for us, and to explain some of their healing properties, highlighted in many of the common names. We were interested to learn the process by which the farm had become organic, and the very fine balance needed to keep the land in good form. We paused at 'Oak Tree Wood', planted with various trees 16 years ago. This seemed unbelievable as they appeared quite small, and it was quite humbling to gaze over them to the majestic oak tree rising up in the background and obviously over 200 years old. We saw the long borders of wildflowers which are grown for seed production, and it was lovely to see some varieties which are no longer seen in the wild. We crossed a field of sheep which have a crucial role in the four-year organic cycle. As we walked a wildflower headland, Bob explained that the farm was paid to keep this strip of land uncultivated. The benefits



If you were your son's age... you'd probably like to attend Presentation College

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-Professional, highly committed, supportive staff

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-Excellent results at Key Stage 2

-Member of IAPS

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-Continuous education (3-18)

-Average of 8 GCSE passes per candidate

-100% A Level pass rate in 2002

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-Strong learning support for pupils of all abilities

Open Day

Saturday, October 18th 10:00 -12:30

63 Bath Road, Reading RG302BB

Tel. (0118) 957 2861 & 958 1709

'Excellence within a caring environment'

E-mail: admin@presentationcollege.reading.sch.uk Headmaster: FJ Loveder MA

to the countryside were obvious as some of the 22 species of butterfly it attracts happily sought out their favourite flower from the wide choice growing here. Our tour ended in the Wild Flower Meadow which 'defies description'. Bob said that this one meadow alone had fuelled numerous peoples' ambition to create a wildflower area of their own. We could see why. After our tour we were welcomed into the Butterfly Garden where we could enjoy our picnics alongside the dragonfly pond. Afterwards, we explored the Wild Flower Garden with its 150 named wild flowers, followed by the Visitors Centre which holds interesting hands-on and pictorial exhibits. Clutching some wild flower plants to plant in our own gardens we made our way home feeling we had witnessed something very 'English' on this very 'American' day, 4th July.

We were back beside the Thames at Hurley for our next walk. We were able to test ourselves on how many wild flower names we could remember, for our route was lined with numerous species. We crossed from Berkshire to Buckinghamshire via the 1989 Temple Bridge, and continued along the towpath, watching the activity on the river. Soon we could see the boathouse belonging to Bisham Abbey on the opposite bank. The Abbey played a vital role in English history, and the property now belongs to the National Sports Council, and is occasionally used by the England Football Team. Alongside the Abbey grounds the church of All Saints stands with its solid Norman tower. Soon the river became busier, and ahead we could

see the suspension bridge at Marlow, one of the most attractive bridges over the Thames, and the tall, slender spire of All Saints Church, dominating the skyline. We left the riverbank to cross the bridge, finding welcome seats at our 'coffee stop'. After our refreshments we crossed into the parkland gardens of the Sports Centre, stopping for a photo by the splendid floral display in a large circular flowerbed, and another beside the fine sculpture of Sir Steve Redgrave. Now we were walking parallel to the river along a countryside path, enriched with wildflowers, which took us past a field of llamas. After crossing Temple Bridge once more we were soon back in Hurley where we enjoyed lunch in the garden of the Rising Sun.

We ended the term with our Summertime Special. On the hottest day of the year we were grateful for the cooling breeze from off the water as we sailed along the Thames in style aboard the Caversham Lady. Soon after leaving Caversham Prom we passed through Caversham Lock. Our rural route offered much to see with various waterfowl with their young, the lumbering flight of a heron, and the blue flashes from a pair of kingfishers. Bulrushes nodded their heads above the other lush waterside plants, and water lilies opened their blooms to give a colourful display on the water. We happily sipped our coffee and took in all the sights, and all too soon, Sonning Lock came into view. Here we left the boat and made our way to Sonning Church. Numerous trees around the church provided shade in which to enjoy our picnics. There was time to explore inside the church before setting off back to Caversham, this time on foot. We left the river briefly to walk around the Nature Reserve with its many varied and interesting lakes. Eventually we arrived back at Caversham where we headed for the ice-cream kiosk! A great way to end our 'special' day out.

On 17th July we met up again, this time at Mapledurham Lock, to witness the spectacle of The Swan Upping. Coffee and cake were enjoyed as we waited with the crowd. First round the bend in the river came the accompanying steamer, closely followed by a boat sporting the Swan Upper's flag. Then, in a colourful array of blue and red, the Uppers arrived in their six skiffs. There was much excitement as this year the Purley swans have four surviving cygnets. Through the lock came the skiffs, then, with loud hails from the Swan Uppers, the cygnets and their parents were surrounded and guided to the riverbank. Skilfully, each was secured with ties around their legs, before being lifted ceremoniously onto the meadow. Each bird was carefully given a health check, and the cygnets weighed. David Barber, the Queen's Marker, examined the adult cob, discovering that it belonged to the Queen. However, as there were four cygnets, he awarded one to the Vintners, one to the Dyers, keeping two for the Queen. The cygnets were then ringed with the appropriate rings before the whole family was released back into the water. Job done, the Uppers returned to their boats to continue their merry way towards Pangbourne. This ceremony dates back to the 12th century and we were pleased to have witnessed this nostalgic piece of tradition.

With no walks in August, we are looking forward to continuing our programme in September. As Summer gives way to the approaching Autumn, we look forward to admiring the countryside as it takes on a mellow hue. If any ladies would like to join us on various weekday mornings then do ring for a programme. We are fast becoming famous for our friendliness so you can be sure of a warm welcome!

Nicki Woodward
9841919



PURLEY TOTS AUTUMN FAYRE

Come and join in the fun at our Autumn Fayre.

Saturday 25 October, 2-3.30pm

Attractions include: Raffle, cake stall, books & toys, tombola.

Refreshments available.

Free Entry.

Baby Well-Being Day

Providing Positive Support and Information

Saturday 13th September 2003

Baby Safety & Resuscitation
(St John Ambulance)

10 am - 4pm

Baby Homeopath and Osteopath
(With the Fairbourne Clinic)

Newbury Town Hall

Admission Free

Baby Massage
(with Sue Pitts)

Baby Health & Nutrition
(Linda Barr (DIP ION) 'The
Nutrition and Health Company')

Ask the Experts
(Dr Andrew Boon Consultant
Paediatrician at RBH)

Monkey Music
Baby Music and Dance

**PLUS lots of other stands, demonstrations, information
and a free Goodie Bag for every attendee!**



Baby Wellbeing is organised by
The Cot Death Society - Supporting New Life
4 West Mills Yard, Kennet Road, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 5LP
Tel 01635 38137 Fax 01635 38141
Charity Registration Number 1092653

DO YOU WANT TO WORK IN CHILDCARE?

Are you interested in becoming a Registered Childminder?

In some areas there is a shortage of registered childminders and we are looking to recruit men and women into this rewarding profession

A Start Up Grant (£300) is available to newly Registered Childminders.

Do you think that you could make a difference to the lives of children and their families?

Want to find out more about childminding or considering a career in any other childcare setting?

Contact Childcare Development Workers

Helen Anstey 01635 519094 - E-mail hanstey@westberks.gov.uk

Or

Liz Wilcock 01635 519745 - E-mail lwilcock@westberks.gov.uk

WHITCHURCH BRIDGE

The Whitchurch Bridge Company would like to inform bridge users of some important developments which will take place over the next 6-9 months. The Company is proposing these changes so that it can continue to improve its operational efficiency and prepare for major refurbishment of the bridge in about 10 years time.

The key elements of the changes are as follows:

- The introduction of a statutory weight limit of 7.5 tonnes mgw, to protect the bridge from damage by heavy vehicles. The buses used by Thames Travel for the local bus service are within this weight limit.
- Partial automation – machines will be provided which will accept cash or prepaid decremental cards and operate the barriers. Collecting times will remain as now, and the toll booth will remain manned at all collecting times.
- Replacement of the yellow disc and ticket-based discount schemes by a simplified scheme using prepaid cards purchased at the toll booth.

- A revision of toll rates with a higher cash toll, but a bigger discount for regular users to encourage the take up of prepaid cards and reduce cash handling.

The Company proposes to increase the cash toll from 10p to 20p (the next single coin) for cars and other vehicles under 3.5 tonnes mgw. The simplified discount scheme using prepaid cards will work out at 8p a crossing, which compares with 7p now for yellow disc holders from the local parishes, and 9p now for other ticket users. Vehicles over 3.5 tonnes mgw will not qualify for the discount scheme, and will have to pay a cash toll of £2 each time.

There is a statutory procedure through which the Company applies for permission to increase tolls. It starts with a formal application to the Secretary of State for Transport, includes a public consultation process, and can take six months or so to complete. It is expected that the toll increases, if granted, will come into effect early in 2004.

Tolls were last increased in July 1998, and at that time it was anticipated that the next increase would be in July 2003.

For further information please contact either of the following members of the Committee of Management:

John Elkins, 0118 984 3126 or 07813 115171, john.elkins3@virgin.net

or

Geoff Weir, 0118 984 4172, geoff.weir@btinternet.com

*Michael Beckley
Chairman of the Committee of Management
Company of Proprietors of Whitchurch Bridge*

THE HEARTACHE OF SEPARATION

Living away from home, from mum and dad, when you're just a child is hard enough. It's doubly difficult when you have to separate from brothers and sister too. Sadly, it's a reality for a number of children in foster care across our region.

According to local fostering agency director, Andy Clipson, "children are often separated from brothers and sisters because there are simply not enough foster carers and those that are available nearly always have a full house."

familyplacement.com is launching a new recruitment campaign this autumn to urge more people to come forward to care for these local children. If you think you can help, or would simply like more information, please telephone 01993 706925 or email: info@familyplacement.com

PROJECT PURLEY

The Project Purley autumn programme will commence on September 19th at 8pm at The Barn Goosecroft Lane when Ken Wells, Curator of the Police Museum at Sulhampstead will visit us to talk about the museum holdings.

June 28th dawned a perfect English summer day and Project Purley members headed west to Wiltshire and Lydiard Tregoze for this year's summer outing. There was great anticipation as the St John family who first came to Lydiard Tregoze in the 15th century also held the Manor of Purley Magna from the 1500s to late 1700s. Lydiard Mansion in its present form dates from 1743 when an older H plan house was remodelled. Lydiard is an impressive neo-Palladian Georgian mansion set in a country park. The house was the country retreat and was lived in continuously by the St John family until the early 20th century by which time due to a decline in the family fortunes the house was in such a state of disrepair, that the estate was broken up and sold. To the great credit of Swindon Corporation the potential of the house was realised and the virtually derelict house was purchased in 1943 together with 147 acres of the parkland, for £4,500 and a loving programme of repair, restoration and refurnishing was begun. As a result many of the original contents and fittings have been reinstated. The interior is now as lavish and opulent as it was in its heyday and open to the public. There is an exciting project of restoration ahead, when with the aid of charitable funding it is planned to reinstate the kitchen garden, a walled garden and the lake.

The church of St Mary the Virgin, an ecumenical partnership of West Swindon and the Lydiards is sited next to the mansion and was open to visitors. Decorated for a flower festival, the theme was 'Colours in God's World'. Parts of the church date from the 14th century and there are wall paintings, which date from 1400 to 1450 and were uncovered in 1901. The church is full of family monuments including a triptych depicting the family of the 1st Baronet circa 1683. The box pews are still in use, and although there is so much history contained in this small church it is obviously a place of worship in full use with a vibrant congregation. During the day the organist gave a recital on the pipe organ and members of the congregation added their voices to 'Jesus be the Centre'.

Rita Denman.

PURLEY W.I.

With a soft breeze fluttering through the Memorial Hall and that magical view of Mapledurham, we thought how lucky we are – but down to business – so...

A report was given from our local representative who attended the Royal Albert Hall; with our votes on this year's Resolutions, votes were forwarded for parliamentary discussion.

Anyone wanting to visit a new garden centre near Wallingford was given the chance of a trip and to finish with a cream tea (always inviting).

Thanks were expressed to Sybil Pryor for allowing us the use of her home and garden for our yearly coffee morning event, with raffle and bring & buy we made a magnificent £160, for Water Wells for Women in the Third World – wonderful.

We don't meet in August, this is the chance for our hall to have its annual M.O.T. This does not deter us getting together. A couple of our members invited us to their gardens. One is with a garden party theme, so wear your posh hat and secondly we'll indulge in a fish and chip supper (do I have to wear a cloth cap? I think not!)

Horticultural Show – Don't forget Saturday 13 September at the Barn. The Barn really does show off flowers and fruit to their best advantage. You don't have to be an avid gardener to enjoy the show – it's a local event, extremely pleasant and worth an hour's viewing; come along, you'll love it, trust me!

Our speaker Ann Seagrove gave a demonstration of how to make cards from items around the home. So much in the way of "freebies" arrive in the mail like CD's, packets of seeds etc. it's not difficult. Plunge further around and scrunch up baking foil and those bathroom back scrubbers and you're away. Along with gold and silver pens plus a personal message, the world is your oyster.

Competition: Home made card

1st Daphne Howard
2nd Sylvia Conquest

Flower competition

1st Sylvia Conquest
2nd Betty Dawkins
Pamela James
Phylis Hasemore
Kath Hodge

September Speaker: T Selfe

Carry on in the background – an artist of film and T.V.

Competition: Home Made Card

The meeting takes place at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road on Wednesday 10 September 7:30pm - **Visitors Welcome**

Sylvia Conquest
941 1936



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sitting in my garden on a lovely June evening I spied a rather fat rat, which I discovered is coming into the garden under the fence from beneath a neighbours shed in which he keeps a rabbit.

Following this discovery my husband has since spoken with other neighbours only to find there appears to be a rat explosion. Is it possible the flood has displaced them from the river bank?

We are using rat poison (with care) but this does not seem to be having any effect!

West Berks council are not in the least bit interested.

If any other readers are having a problem I suggest they contact the parish and district councillor - Tim Metcalfe, perhaps he can have some influence with west berks council.

R. Pink

I have just had my annual issue of travel tokens (44 blue @ £1 and 2 red @ 25p). Fortunately, the July parish magazine was delivered just in time to let me know that the last date on which I could. collect them was the following morning. Hitherto I have had a reminder from the District Council, "but perhaps they are saving on postage this year.

I calculate that with a "bus fare of £1.05 to Pangbourne (my nearest shopping centre, now that one of our shops has closed) this allowance of tokens will enable me to make 21 return journeys before next July, i.e. about once. in every two and a half weeks.

In the other 31 weeks I presume I must find another means of making the journey, and for me (as I do not have a car) it can only be by bicycle or on foot. Has anyone experienced the joys of cycling along this dangerous stretch of the A329, which must surely be near the top of the league on accident records? For much of the distance there is, supposedly, a speed limit, but motorists disregard it, as well as the double white lines, with impunity. When was there ever a prosecution I wonder? I cannot remember the last time I saw a uniformed policeman on foot.

If, on a wet day, I prefer to walk I am faced with the uncomfortable prospect of a journey along a rough footpath with overhanging branches which make using an umbrella a nightmare and sometimes oblige me to walk on the carriageway - a dangerous business on this road. In any event I get soaked by the splashing from speeding motorists.

Presumably, I must predict when I am going to be ill or have the toothache and combine a visit to the doctor or dentist with one of my shopping trips, and if I need to travel to Reading for a better choice of merchandise the bus fare is higher.

I would welcome an explanation of the way in which my allowance of tokens is calculated, as two and a half weeks' shopping can be a heavy load, even for an active elderly man. Or is the issue based on the theory that it will be enough to cover travel during bad weather? Would either of our District Councillors care to enlighten me?

I have long ago come to the conclusion that we desperately need another local government reorganisation to rid us of the present unviable 'all purpose' Authority.

George Critchell



SING THROUGH THE WINTER'S LONG DARK EVENINGS

The Pangbourne Choral Society will be celebrating their **30th Anniversary** this coming season and would like to invite new or lapsed members to join the celebrations. Their major event will be on February

8th when their previous Directors of Music, Ralph Allwood and Robert Barsby will return to share the rostrum with Darren Everhart their current Director. They will conduct **Fauré's Requiem, Barsby's Cantata 2000 (A Ring of Change) and Rutter's Feel the Spirit** respectively. So '**3 Conductors for 3 Decades**'! Hopefully there will be rather more than 3 tenors! Other events this season will include '**The League of Friends of Reading Hospitals Christmas Concert**' on December 14th and **Rosinni's Petite Messe Solonnelle** in May 2004. A varied programme that should appeal to most people.

The 110+ strong choir's rehearsals and concerts are held in the very moving Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College with rehearsals on Tuesday evenings in term time from September to May at 7:45pm. Auditions are not required but enthusiasm and commitment are expected. Their first rehearsal is on Tuesday September 9th and singers of all ages and voices will be made most welcome. There should be more than one face you recognise!

More information from:

*pcs@musician.org or www.pangbournechoralsociety.fsnet.co.uk
or call 01491 873152.*

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

My previous articles have outlined how we operate and my strategy for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in the Pangbourne Sector. I also emphasised the need to report crime and anti-social behaviour. The telephone number to ring is (0118) 953 6000 or in an emergency 999. You can make it more difficult for criminals to operate by ensuring that your houses are secured and that includes garages and sheds.



Since the beginning of June and at the time of writing this article there have been approximately 18 burglaries in the Tilehurst, Calcot and Purley areas where criminals have gained entry to houses via a uPVC front door. A gadget is fed through the letter box and used to pull down the door handle. It is very important that house holders double lock the door to ensure that the handle can't be pushed down with this gadget. The burglaries occur overnight and whilst the occupants are sleeping. House holders should also consider fitting a letter box guard as an additional measure.

A number of people have been arrested and charged with burglary offences and, although at the time of writing this article there has been a significant reduction in burglaries, it is likely to be a tactic that will be tried again.

Thank you to those parish councils who are assisting our effectiveness in tackling anti-social behaviour by communicating with me via email in relation to community issues. Anti-social behaviour is one of my priorities and I will not tolerate youths gathering in large groups making people's lives a misery. I have had some positive feed back from some areas; Purley, for example, is an area we have been targeting and there have been a number of arrests for public order offences. My colleague Sergeant Darren Brown has worked closely with residents, collecting evidence and three Acceptable Behaviour Contracts have been served which are the preliminary steps to Anti Social Behaviour Orders.

In order to increase focus on local policing issues my colleague, PC Dave Ebsworth, has been working closely with petrol stations across the sector to reduce the number of bilkings i.e. drive-offs from petrol stations. We have worked in partnership with 2-TEN FM to launch a poster campaign which leaves drivers in no doubt that driving off without paying for fuel is an offence for which they may be prosecuted. Many of the petrol stations have now installed CCTV or updated existing CCTV systems in order to secure the evidence we need to prosecute. By reducing this type of crime I'll be in a better position to concentrate on local policing issues. I would like to take this opportunity to thank 2-TEN FM for working with us on this.

During the period 1st April 2002 to 30th June 2002 there were 1,292 reported crimes on the Pangbourne Sector. (That's from Streatley to Brimpton and Compton to Mortimer including Purley & Tilehurst.) During the same period this year there have been 1,217 reported crimes. From 1st January 2003 to 30th June 2003 there have been 2,114 arrests in the West Berkshire Police Area i.e. Pangbourne, Newbury and Hungerford Sectors. Please continue to support us and we will drive down crime more.

Insp. Andy Talbot

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CLEMATIS GARDEN

20-25 members of the Society had an enjoyable guided tour around this garden at the end of June. The weather was perfect and we were able to make purchases of various types of clematis.

LATE SUMMER SHOW

This will be held in The Barn at the Recreation Ground, Beech Road, Purley-on-Thames on Saturday, 13th September. Entry forms must be handed into the Trading Shed or to Mr. J. Armstrong, 169 Long Lane, and 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.

CAROL KLIEN

The Berkshire Horticultural Federation has organized a talk to be given by this famous TV gardener on September 18th at 7.30 p.m. at the Berkshire College of Agriculture, Burchetts Green. Tickets are £3 and can be obtained from Les Cooper, 41 All Hallows Rd, Caversham, Reading, RG4 5LP. Please send SAE and cheques payable to the Berkshire Horticultural Federation.

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. A considerable number of members have not renewed their membership so far. If you have overlooked this matter we would be grateful if you could do so in the near future. We are always pleased to receive new members as well.

I hope you have all enjoyed the lovely summer and not found all the extra watering needed to keep the plants alive too laborious.

*Marion Dabbs
9422349*

PURLEY PLAYERS

"Tread the Boards with Purley Player"

Purley Players are to begin rehearsals on 10 September 2003
for a new show called

ANIMALS R CRACKERS

which will be staged on 11, 12, 13 March 2004.

The show will involve singing, dancing and sketches – in fact, something for everyone. If you fancy yourself as an actor, comedian, singer or dancer then why not come and join us. People to help backstage are also very welcome.

Please ring Jean Chudleigh on 0118 984 2563; Gerry Hiscock on 0118 941 8715 or Rita Denman on 0118 984 4682 for more information.

Why not visit our website:

www.purleyplayers.co.uk for details.

Yoga for All
Purley Memorial Hall

Six week course beginning
8 September 2003
Monday 1.30 - 3.30pm

For further information
0118 950 4272
Janet Dacre
British Wheel of Yoga
Diploma Holder

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

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

It has been a short and early harvest. The extended hot dry spell has meant most crops have ripened 2 - 3 weeks earlier than usual. Indeed some local farmers are experiencing their crops of maize dying off at least a month before they would normally be harvested.

This in turn has meant an intense period of work. I am only glad my three boys are on holiday from their relevant universities and school as their muscle power and tractor driving has been well tested. Mind you, since an early age, my summer holidays have always been taken up by hay making and harvest work which occupied me night on 7 days a week. It is a great shame that some of the local youths could not find gainful employment / work experience during the long summer holidays as so much 'free' time has led to a huge increase in hooliganism.

The growing vandalism and disturbances caused this year have many folk in the village worried and others frightened. The setting alight of trees in our river meadows might have caused a major disaster in the tinder dry conditions although the burning of a boat moored on Blounts Meadow was sheer malevolence. We know who were involved but proving it is a problem. It is the same for the upturned flower pots, broken benches, vandalised gardens... I don't need to go on as I am sure you all have a tale to tell.

These are problems both the Parish and District councils are trying to counter. With the support of the police, the housing association and other interested organisations hopefully this social unrest will be stifled and calm return.

Sorry this month's notes are so serious. However I have been co-opt onto the West Berkshire Council Waste Management Task Group. But that's a load of rubbish!!

Tim Metcalfe
Parish and District Councillor



The Church Shop

Christian Books



Traidcraft

Fair Trade Products

St Mary's Church
1st & 3rd Sunday
After all services

GRACE NEEDED

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mummy say," the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

WEST BERKS SCRABBLE® CLUB

The club has been in summer recess, with members enjoying their summer holidays.

September now brings normality, with the club opening for sessions every Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon.

Would you like to take up a new leisure pursuit? Or perhaps you already play Scrabble and would like to join a club? Come along and see first hand what we are all about. We have members of all ages and both sexes. Friendships have been forged and a pleasant and enjoyable time can be had by all.

For further details contact Ian or Elizabeth on 984 5045.

WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY - SEPTEMBER 21

World Alzheimer's Day is a day on which Alzheimer associations concentrate their efforts on raising awareness about dementia.

It might surprise you, but there are an estimated 18 million people around the world who currently have dementia.

Each year a special theme is selected about which ADI prepares and distributes promotional materials to our member Alzheimer associations, other organisations and individuals around the world. Getting people to campaign collectively on a unifying theme in their country is the most effective way of bringing dementia to the global attention of governments, opinion leaders, medical professionals, people with dementia and their carers.

This year's campaign focuses on the importance of forming a good partnership between the doctor, people with dementia and carers in order to get the best care possible for a person with dementia. Research has shown that people who prepare for their visit to the doctor receive a higher quality of health care than those who do not come prepared.

For details visit www.alz.co.uk

Having a Party ?

Holding a Meeting ?

Need some extra space ?

Why not hire St. Mary's Church Hall?

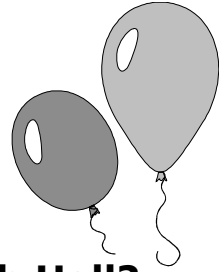
Ample Parking

Disabled Access

Basic kitchen facilities

Rates between £11 and £13 per hour
(Preferential rates for regular bookings)

Contact Lorna Herring on 0118 942 1547
Or e-mail lorna.herring@bun.com



NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

Commenting on a complaint from a Mr Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said: "We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house."

(Daily Telegraph)

Irish police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van, because they cannot issue a description. It's a Special Branch vehicle and they don't want the public to know what it looks like.

(The Guardian)

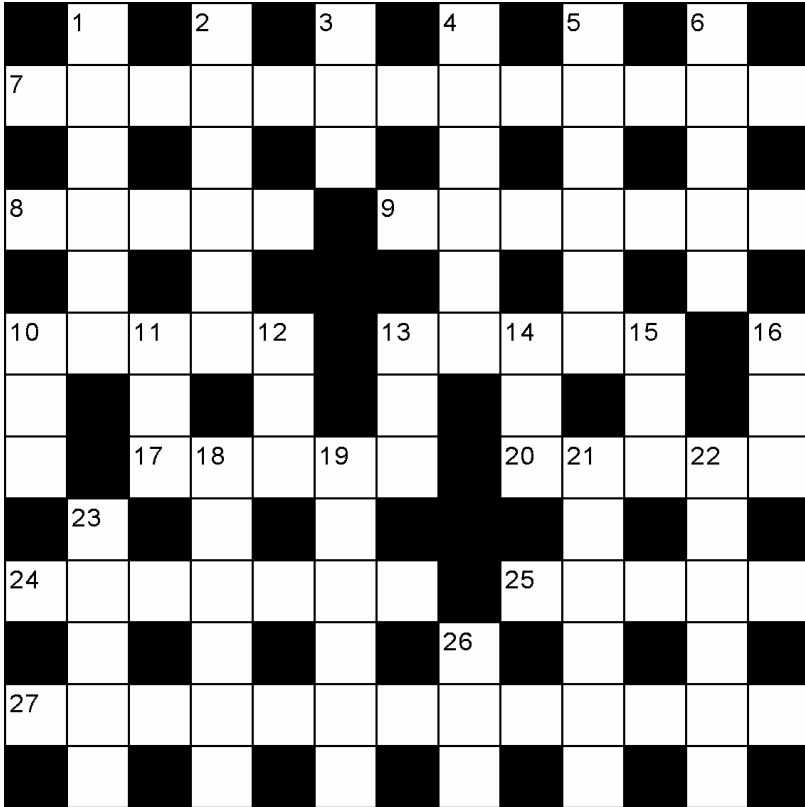
A young girl who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coastguard spokesman commented: "This sort of thing is all too common."

(The Times)

At the height of the gale, the harbour master radioed a coastguard on the spot and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff.

(Aberdeen Evening Express)

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 7 Something transcribed (13)
 8 Radioactive gaseous element (5)
 9 Animate (7)
 10 Domestic cat (5)
 13 Enthusiastic (5)
 17 Manila hemp plant (5)
 20 Confused mixture of sounds (5)
 24 Of humble birth (7)
 25 Tartan (5)
 27 Accomplishment (13)

DOWN

- 1 List of errors (6)
 2 Bury (6)
 3 Very skilled person (3)

- 4 Capital of Austria (6)
 5 Array (6)
 6 Wretched hut (5)
 10 Label (3)
 11 Bleat of a sheep (3)
 12 Affirmative reply (3)
 13 Period of history (3)
 14 Chatter (3)
 15 Curved bone (3)
 16 Totality (3)
 18 Prate (6)
 19 Wide-mouthed bottle (6)
 21 Remove by melting (6)
 22 U.S. inventor (6)
 23 Scoundrel (5)
 26 Frozen water (3)

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 and to maintain consistency of style (font etc). Local event adverts can be accommodated but space is limited; landscape format copy is preferred in this case as it allows a ½ page entry to be published.

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 – nor is any endorsement of the products and services of our advertisers implied by their inclusion.

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If you are new to the area and would like to subscribe to Purley Parish News, please contact the Circulation Manager, Les Jamieson.

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