

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

APRIL 2004



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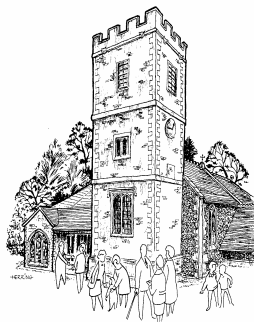
HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF
AND BECAME OBEDIENT TO DEATH—
EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS!

35P

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES



RECTOR

Rev. Roger B. Howell
The Rectory, 1 Westridge Avenue
Purley on Thames
Tel: 0118 941 7727
Email: rbh@bradean.fsnet.co.uk

CURATE

Rev. Jean Rothery
"Oaklea", Tidmarsh Road
Tidmarsh
Tel: 0118 984 3625

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER

Rev. Andrew Mackie
12 Church Mews
Purley on Thames
Tel: 0118 941 7170

CHURCHWARDENS

Sally Robertson	Lorna Herring
Tel: 0118 962 5978	Tel: 0118 942 1547

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Lorna Herring
Tel: 0118 942 1547

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

All enquiries should be made to the Rector

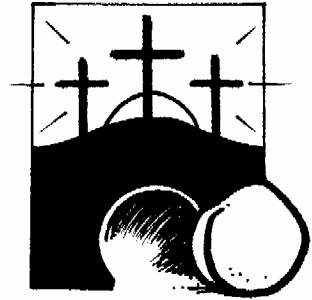
www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends

Horrific death!

At the time of writing, 200 people have just died an horrific death at the hands of terrorists in Madrid. Following their daily routine, their lives came to a sudden and violent end as bombs ripped open the railway carriages in which they were travelling. This tragic event has become a talking point throughout the world and is abhorred by all peace-loving people. In a short time it will fade from the headlines as other events take its place. Families caught up in this murderous incident will not be forgotten but they will cease to be a talking point.



It did not hit the headlines in the same way but the Mel Gibson film *The Passion of the Christ* has occasioned much comment in the media since its launch a few weeks ago. Some have accused it of being anti-Semitic, others have denied this. Some have criticised the violence depicted in the film, whilst others have been deeply moved by what they have seen. I have yet to see it myself but one thing is absolutely certain – the crucifixion of Jesus was bloody and extremely violent. Sure, He went to the cross like a lamb to the slaughter but that did not lessen the pain and agony of it all! Even before He was nailed to the timbers, His back was flayed by the scourging – a leather-thonged whip, made even more vicious by the jagged pieces of bone they contained. The crown of thorns thrust on His head was no mild prickle but sharp thorns pushed down hard on His scalp. The soldiers were rough and when the cross was hauled upright and dropped into its slot in the ground, every nerve in Jesus' body was jarred and the pain was excruciating. Death by crucifixion was brutal, cruel and often prolonged. All who see the film will have their own opinions on what they see but there is no getting away from it – that behind the words which describe what happened to Jesus is violence, pain, blood and the agony of hanging there in full view of all, with life ebbing away at every passing moment.

Mel Gibson has been accused of gratuitous violence in the film but the way the victim was treated was no problem for the soldiers. In all probability they had done it many times before. It was just a job and they were not concerned about how the victim felt! It is not surprising that the two thieves on either side of Jesus were cursing but in Jesus we see something quite different. He prays for those who are doing the deed! He does not lose His life – He gives it!

Every since that dark day, the crucifixion has been a talking point. It always will be, because on that day Jesus did something for everyone. This is what one New Testament writer says about it:

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 Peter 3 verse 18

Many people think they can gain access to God unaided - when they feel like it. But the combined witness of the Scriptures is that our approach to God has to be by His appointed route. That route is through Christ and it leads not only to forgiveness for all that is past but also to a new dimension of living - symbolised by the event which followed the crucifixion when, on the third day, the tomb where Jesus was buried was found to be empty and in a very short time the friends of Jesus knew He was alive for evermore.

The shops have been selling Easter Eggs for a long time now but each one will be eaten very quickly and then forgotten. What Good Friday and Easter offer, lasts for ever! My prayer for you during the Easter season is that you may discover it for yourself.

Roger

PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERAL

4 March	Ellen Maud Perring aged 86 years (burial at Beech Road Cemetery)
10 March	Gloria Joan Wicks aged 57 years (burial at Henley Road Cemetery)

BISHOP OF READING

The new Bishop of Reading - Canon Stephen Cotrell, will be consecrated at St. Paul's Cathedral, London on Tuesday 4 May at 11:00 a.m.

BRADFIELD DEANERY EVENT

On Thursday 29 April at 7:30 p.m. (for 8:00 p.m.) St James the Less, Pangbourne Canon David Winter, former Head of BBC Religious Broadcasting will be speaking on a "topical and relevant news event."

For further information please contact: David Stone on 984 1510

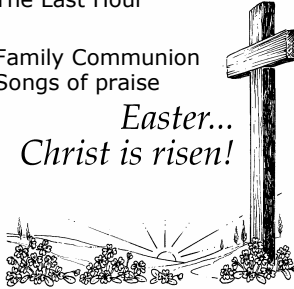
CHURCH SERVICES

4 Apr 9:30 a.m. Family Worship
Palm Sunday 11:15 a.m. Holy Communion
7:00 p.m. Confirmation service at Greyfriars, Reading

9 Apr 10:00 a.m. Procession of Witness in Pangbourne
Good Friday 2:00 p.m. The Last Hour

11 Apr 10:30 a.m. Family Communion
Easter Day 6:00 p.m. Songs of praise

*Easter...
Christ is risen!*



18 Apr 9:30 a.m. Family Communion
11:15 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

25 Apr 9:30 a.m. Family Worship
11:15 a.m. Holy Communion

2 May 9:30 a.m. Family Worship
11:15 a.m. Holy Communion
6:00 p.m. Holy Communion

ALL ARE WELCOME

**Visit your parish church to think about
the most important festival of the Christian Faith!**

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING

We continue to offer the ministry of healing for any in need at our Communion services once a month. The next dates are:

Sunday 2 May at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 16 May at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Several members of St Mary's are being confirmed at Greyfriars, Reading this month. Therefore, there will not be an evening service in Purley on 4 April. Please join us in praying for all those confirming their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ at this service.



On 16 March a group of Christians from 6 different churches met at St. Mary's for the first time to pray for Purley. We decided that it would be good to meet together regularly and to encourage Christians from every denomination, living in Purley, to join us. We will be meeting on the following dates this year. All at St. Mary's at 8pm:

Tuesday 20 April	Monday 6 September
Monday 7 June	Tuesday 19 October
Tuesday 20 July	Monday 29 November

Please join us then to pray for our area and the people who live in Purley on Thames.

We also felt it would be useful to form local prayer partnerships, so that people in the same street could meet together to pray just for their road. If you would like to have a local prayer partner, or if you would like to be part of a prayer chain who responded to emergency prayer needs, please let Sally Robertson know. There will also be a regular prayer newsletter to keep everyone informed, so again let Sally know if you'd like copies of that.

Sally Robertson
962 5978
sallyrobertson@waitrose.com

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. Witney based fostering agency, familyplacement.com is launching a new campaign this Spring to address this shortfall. According to agency director, Andy Clipson, "children are often separated from brother and sisters because there are simply not enough foster carers and those that are available nearly always have a full house."

If you think you can help, or would simply like more information, please telephone 01993 201514 or email info@familyplacement.com.

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPRING SHOW



The show will be held in Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road on Saturday, 3 April. It will be open to members of the public from 2:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. with presentations of trophies etc. at 3:45 p.m. Tea and biscuits will be available. Please come along and support the participants and hopefully you will be inspired enough to enter next year.

TRADING

The Trading Store is open Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Membership of Purley Horticultural Society, costing only £1.50 for a year is tremendous value; not only can you buy items at the Store (in Purley Memorial Hall car park) at lower prices than most other sources, but also you can make further savings on garden purchases at **Collins of Pangbourne**, **BSB Garden Machinery**, Sulham Lane for new mowers, **Englefield Garden Centre**, **Glenville Nursery**, Bradfield Southend and **Newington Gardens**, Newington on the A329 road, north of Shillingford Please remember to show your membership card at the start of the transaction as tills have to be set to deduct discount in some outlets. We stock peat free compost (New Horizon and John Innes) at the Store.

PLANT SALE

This will take place on Saturday 22 May in the Memorial Hall car park starting at 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. (approx.) If there are any special plants you would particularly like to buy, please let us know at the trading Store and we will try to meet you request.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

TRENTHAM BOWLS CLUB

Bowling Green Lane, Purley on Thames

OPEN DAY

Come along and try your hand at Bowls

All ages welcome

All you require is a pair of flat soled shoes

Saturday 8 May, 10 a.m. onwards



PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Over 30 local residents recently attended a meeting in the Barn at the invitation of the Parish Council to discuss the future of Pikeshaw Woodland. They agreed to form a steering group of residents & councillors to discuss the issues involved and they have just held their first meeting under the chairmanship of John Devine. A site meeting has now been arranged and details of new initiatives will be published following this. About the same number attended another meeting in the Barn called by local residents to consider vandalism & other problems on footpath no. 5 which runs from opposite New Hill and past Pikeshaw towards Knowsley Road.

Concern was expressed at both those meeting about the increasing level of anti-social behaviour locally. Indeed the cost of recent arson, vandalism & criminal damage of public property such as notice boards, telephone boxes, bus shelters, gates & fences is now having an effect on local council tax levels. Please assist the Police and ourselves by reporting anti-social behaviour when it occurs. Your assistance can help stamp out this blot on society. Serious criminal activity should of course be reported on the usual emergency number but other useful telephone numbers are:

Police non-emergency 08458 505 505

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

West Berkshire Streetcare 01635 519080

With increasing government pressure for housing development in mind the Parish Council are seeking suggestions for new road names so that they can be used instead of some of the more unsuitable names dreamt up by developers. If you have any ideas please let us know.

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

DON'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU READ ...

Not that I'd be deliberately misleading you but I was up really late getting this issue to you, so if in doubt about dates and times of events I suggest that you call for confirmation as the risk of bleary eyes typing the wrong thing is even higher than normal this month! --- *Matthew*

VILLAGE PLAN - TELL US YOUR VIEWS

All residents in Purley will be receiving the Village Plan questionnaire in the next few weeks. This is to find out the views of local people about what they want from living in the village and how they want to see it develop in the future. All the views will get included in a Village Plan which will be published later in the year.

The questionnaire will be delivered to your door by one of the Village Plan representatives who are all local volunteers. They will be on hand to answer any questions and will arrange to pick up the completed questionnaire a few weeks later - or alternatively you can return it to us by freepost or by hand to the Parish Council Offices. The questionnaire can be answered by each member of your household above the age of 11 individually and clearly the more views we can obtain then the more weight the local authority will give to the plan. It will only take a short time to complete and will be time well invested! So please return your questionnaire - your views are important to the future of Purley. We will be reporting back on how the questionnaire has gone and also the next steps to produce the Village Plan.



April 2004 is the tenth anniversary of the first ordinations of woman priests in the diocese of Oxford. A number of events have been organised and every church is encouraged to invite a woman to preach at their main service on 25 April.

A discussion panel will be held at St Mary the Virgin Oxford on 25 April from noon until 1 p.m. and a celebration of the Eucharist will be at 2:30 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral Oxford. Tickets available from Mrs Diana Hasting, The Middle House, 11 High Street, Milton OX14 4ER.

The discussion panel members will be:

Dr Anna Thomas Betts, The Rt Revd Jane Dixon,
The Rt Revd Richard Harris, Baroness Pauline Perry and
Revd Janet Russell.



PURLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND INFANT SCHOOL

It has been a very exciting Spring Term at Purley Infant School. In February we helped to organise an Infant Sing-a-Long at St Mary's Church Hall for member schools of the Kennet and Theale Rural Schools Federation. This has become a very popular annual event. The infant pupils from the ten schools joined together for an afternoon of music. We sang together and also performed individual items to each other. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all. We would like to say thank you for the use of the hall. The floral displays around a musical theme were also very much appreciated. Thank you.

On 4 March we celebrated World Book Day. All the pupils and staff dressed up as one of their favourite book characters. The range of characters was amazing. There was a Fat Controller, Winnie the Witch, Aladdin and Paddington Bear and that was just the staff! At the end of the day parents came into school to read to groups of pupils. This was very popular and enjoyed by parents and pupils alike.

The World Book Day handwriting competition was taken very seriously and the standard of writing excellent. We were so pleased with the efforts of all our pupils. That's why we presented them all with a pencil - to carry on practising!

First prizes were awarded to: Thomas Holmes (Year 2) Jordan Bratton (Year 1) Lauren Mackay (Foundation stage)

Purley School gained the prestigious "Investors In People" standard three years ago. On Wednesday 3 March 2004 the School took part in a post recognition review. I am pleased to inform you that the review was successful and we continue to meet the standard. The assessor commented on the very strong team spirit within the school and the strength of the training and development programme for all staff.

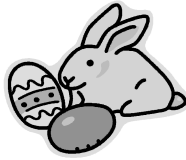
During half term Sally Walington came into school and built our Willow Story circle. We were able to pay for this from the £500 "Golden Oak" prize award from Masterfoods, given to Purley School for our environmental work. Already the children are having great fun playing inside the Willow. As it grows we aim to use it for stories and drama during school time as well as just at playtimes

At the Eastern Area planning sub committee on January 14 plans for a new school hall/office and toilets, were deferred for further negotiation. This was due to the potential listing of the main school building. English Heritage has now decided that the school building does not have enough architectural and historical interest and will not be listed. Hopefully (as

ever) new plans will soon be approved and we can start looking forward to our new accommodation.

On Friday 12 March three members of staff went to see the Purley Players pantomime. It was very enjoyable evening but I don't think we will be able to see our governor Bill Ayling in quite the same light ever again! It was great fun and thank you from all the children for your generous donation to the school. The money will be used towards providing a visit to the school from a professional performer who will provide an educational introduction to the Bible through a range of performing arts. This will also help us with our application for a Silver Arts Mark from the Arts Council. So thank you Purley Players both for the panto and for the donation.

Rumour has it that the Easter Bunny is planning to visit Purley School on Friday 2 April. We can only wait and see!



If you would like to visit the school and see the pupils at work please telephone the school office. 0118 984 2384

Jeannette Goddard
Headteacher

Wanted urgently 300 Recipes

The 'Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valleys' are in the process of compiling a recipe book, so please send in your favourite well-proven recipes for the following categories

- Starters
- Main Courses
- Desserts
- Snacks
- Miscellaneous (drinks, sweets, etc)

Please no cake recipes at this present time, as we believe they deserve a book on their own.

Each recipe will be acknowledged with your name – unless informed otherwise.

We need 300 recipes so please send in your favourites. Please can we kindly request that all recipes are checked for accuracy as we would hate to do your recipe an injustice. All Recipes to reach the address below before the end of June 2004

Pang and Kennet Valleys Countryside Office FWAG
The Old Estate Office, Englefield Road Theale RG7 5DZ
Or email pang.kennet@fwag.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

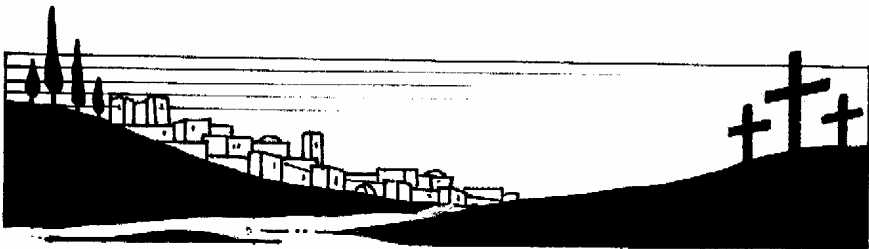
Not guilty! The smell that has enveloped the village over the last few weeks did not originate from Home Farm – honest. Not that we never create a pong – have cattle, have smells. In fact it originated on the far side of the river with the Mapledurham Estate emptying their slurry store onto land in preparation for a maize crop. They now have a 500 cow herd being milked in a huge rotary parlour three times a day. It puts our 80 cows in the shade and they have aspirations of milking 1000 cows within the next five years.

Mind you, there has been a fair stink created at West Berks during the last few weeks over the budget. I received several letters and comments from a wide variety of folk, all concerned about the huge proposed increase in Council Tax. Some were adamantly suggesting they would withhold payment like the “old dear” down in Devon, others just moaning about the lack of services and wanting to know where all the money goes. Although I cannot condone any illegal action they do have my sympathy.

One of the major costs at West Berks is the huge non-schools staff level. I know I have referred to this before but new figures from the Council not only confirm the 26% increase in staff numbers in the two years from March 2001 to March 2003, but also reveal a further increase of 76 staff employed directly by W.B. in the last 9 months of 2003 alone. The recent tax and spend budget from the Lib. Dems is bound to push these figures even higher.

I was a little disappointed by the actual Council budget meeting. Plenty of yah-booing, jeering and heckling was all good fun but not very constructive. One of the quotations used throughout the meeting, (more often misquoted) was “Cut your coat according to your cloth”, a concept which the council does not want to accept. However looking at what young ladies wear these days, you don’t need very much cloth to cover the vital parts and still manage to produce a very acceptable package...!!

*Tim Metcalfe
Parish and District Councillor*



PURLEY PLAYERS

A successful Caper was held at the OK Corral (St Mary's Church Hall) on 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th of March. On what were a few days of dreary weather, our audiences went home with smiling faces, and the 'first nighters' in the snow. The Caper was a spoof on every western film that has been made, and together with well-loved songs our audiences joined in the spirit of the show.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who gave so generously of their time and talents to make the show a success. The Players for their forbearance during rehearsals. Our Producer, Musical Arranger, and Pianist. On stage and back stage management, costumes and makeup, the lighting and sound team, scenery artists, property organisers, ticketing and advertising, front of house, raffle organisers, refreshments, video cameraman and kind residents and organisations who loaned items for use on stage and the stage itself.

Last but not least all our audiences who made the whole thing worthwhile.

Rita Denman
Director

"STEP FORWARD"

Short, non-examinable courses for adults in Purley
Starting 22 April 7:30, 9.30 p.m. at the Barn, Purley

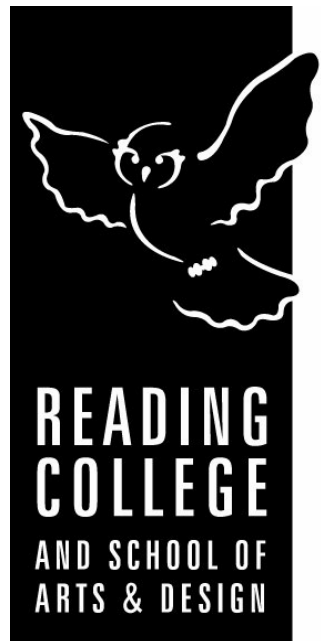
- Get that job - 5 weeks £35
- Introduction to counselling - 11 weeks £77
- Introduction to critical thinking - 11 weeks £77
- Steps to change your life - 6 weeks £42

Study free if you receive benefits. 50% reduction if you are over 60 or studying full time. More courses in May and June and a full programme for September

To book a place or find out more phone
Customer Services FREEPHONE 0800 371 434

Interested in adult education or family learning?
Interested in other subjects e.g. languages, IT etc?
Please contact Diane Sanderson who would be
interested to develop more courses in Purley;

0118 967 5508 or sandersond@reading-college.ac.uk



JANET FOSKETT SCHOOL OF DANCING

The children have worked very hard for their modern exams last term - and just as hard for the show we are putting on this term! Classes held at St Mary's Purley and Whitchurch Village Hall, from children aged from 2½ to 18.

PILATES

Do you suffer from back problems? Do you need an exercise class that is safe but effective?

Then Pilates is for you!

Pilates will improve your core stability whilst lengthening and strengthening muscles.

Having held a successful class at St Mary's Church, Purley from 1:30 until 2:30 on a Thursday I am now hoping to commence a total beginner's class from 12:20 until 1:20, to precede the existing class.

Should you require any further details, or wish to book a place then please contact the number below.

Also, you may prefer a 'one to one' session which can be arranged.

Janet Foskett
01635 863891

KINGDOM COME THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Saturday 15 May at 7:30 p.m.
St. Mary's Church. Don't miss it!

Performed by Eric Petrossian, combining all four Gospel accounts, Eric (a Christian actor) brings the Gospel to life by playing over 30 different characters. Eric brings together his success of performing one-man plays, his experience on the stand-up comedy circuit and his faith to produce a dramatisation of the Gospel that is accessible, enjoyable and moving for the Christian and non-Christian alike.

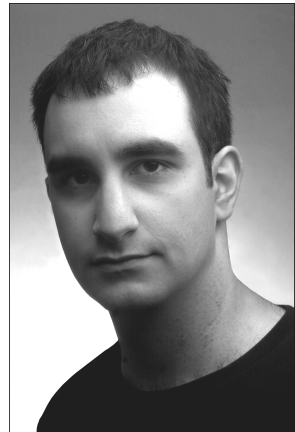


Photo: Russell Sach

Tickets (to include refreshments) £2.50
Available from Roger Howell – Tel. 941 7727

After welcome refreshments we all enjoyed the Beetle Drive - and the exercise!!

Flower Table

1st Sybil Pryor

2nd Shirley Lewis & Margaret Martin

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th April, 7:30 Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road. The Speaker will talk on the history of Battle Hospital during its Workhouse Days.

Competition: Decorate a Boiled Egg

Stall: Hair Care

Visitors Welcome.

A Happy Easter to you all.

Joy Pack



The Thames Vale Singers
present

the Songs from

“Patience”

or

Bunthorne’s Bride

By W.S Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan

at the Purley Memorial Hall, Purley on Thames on:

Friday 21st May and Saturday 22nd May 2004.

Performances will commence at 8pm

Tickets will cost £5 for Adults and £4 for Senior Citizens and Children

To obtain your tickets or for more details please contact Peter Farrow,
TVS Chairman on (0118) 941 3887

PROJECT PURLEY

The next meeting of Project Purley will be held on April 16th at 8pm in The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Beech Road. John Chapman will give a talk called 'Penguins and Volcanoes - A contrast in Landscapes'

The subject of the February meeting was the St John Family and Jean Debney gave a brief explanation of the terms 'parish', 'estate' and 'manor' as they once applied to land ownership and also some outline details of the hierarchy of the St John Family, before Rita Denman began her well illustrated talk about the family who were Lords of Purley Magna in the three hundred year period before the Storer family bought the Manor of Purley Magna in 1793.

The association of the St John Family with Purley began when John St John, son and heir of Oliver St John, who died in 1497, married Jane Iwardby, who brought into the marriage the Manors of Fitznells, Carshalton, Farley Chamberlain and Purley. Their son and heir Nicholas St John, married Elizabeth Blount of Mapledurham in about 1548. The old Manor Houses at Mapledurham and Purley were still in use at that time.

Nicholas died in 1589, having served in 5 parliaments and in the royal retinues of Edward V1, Mary and Elizabeth, but showed the proverbial common touch by leaving in his will 40 shillings to the poor people of Purley. Sir John St John eldest son of Nicholas died two years later leaving

a widow and young family the eldest of whom was Walter and next heir. He sadly drowned whilst still a teenager, whilst bathing off the Island of Herm. The next in line was another John St John born in 1585 later knighted. All the estates including Purley Magna now descended to him and he also inherited land and a beautiful Surrey house which comprised the Manor of Battersea.

Sir John St John died at Battersea aged 62. Three of his sons died fighting in the Civil War, including Edward his favourite son who died of wounds received fighting for the King at the second battle of Newbury. Two other sons, Walter and Henry, were found guilty by the Court of Chivalry of

Berkshire Young Farmers' Clubs



Country Fayre

Sunday 23rd May 2004
10am - 6pm
Newbury Showground
Chieveley, Newbury, Berkshire

Crafts	Refreshments
Dog Show	Trade Stands
Vintage Machinery	Countryside Competitions
Hounds	Birds of Prey
Fun Fair	Quad Bike Racing

Adults: £5.00 16 and under/OAPs: £2.00
BYFC members free (with card)



arranging too lavish a funeral for their father - after all he was only a Baronet!

The succession of the title continued through the generations via Sir John's grandson who died aged 20, his Uncle Walter and then Henry a very sickly child who nevertheless became Secretary at War to Queen Anne. A dubious reputation was afforded to Frederick 3rd Viscount St John who became the 2nd Viscount Bolinbroke, nicknamed Bully and succeeded to the title when Uncle Henry died in 1751. Bully was known as a rake, drinker and gambler by the age of 24, and then took another career as a racehorse owner and breeder. He enjoyed several liaisons with wives and friends but when he did marry, it was as the result of a spontaneous half-joking appeal to a guest at a party. She was Lady Diana Spencer.

Lady Diana was the daughter of Charles, Duke of Marlborough. She inherited much of her father's love of the arts and became a skilled painter. At one time her name was linked to that of the Prince of Wales (a prophetic foretaste of events of the 20th century) but her acceptance of Frederick's proposal at least satisfied the social mores of the time, as she was in danger of being left on the shelf.

Although Diana was devoted to Bully, the marriage was not a happy one. An heir named Charles Richard was born in 1761, but a daughter Charlotte, born in March 1762 died five months later. Diana attracted married men and antagonised women, whilst Bully continued with a succession of mistresses and overspent heavily, so much so that he had to sell off some of his land including Battersea Manor House.

The deteriorating relationship between husband and wife eventually resulted in divorce Bully taking charge of his two sons, George and Frederick, born in 1763. Diana sought the protection of her brother The Duke of Marlborough but a subsequent marriage with the great grandson of Charles 11 and Nell Gwynne proved equally disastrous.

By 1786 the Manor of Purley Magna was in the hands of Robert MacKreth, the owner of White's Club in London and of which Frederick was a heavily drinking and gambling member. It was in that year that MacKreth presided over the last Court Baron to be held in Purley an event re-enacted by members of Project Purley during the Millennium celebrations of 2,000.

Bully died on May 5th 1787, and Diana in 1808, aged 73. The St John title still exists and is now held by descendants in New Zealand. Although they are living on the other side of the world the contribution of their ancestors to the rich history of Purley on Thames had been vividly brought to our attention by Rita's fascinating discourse.

David Downs

PURLEY KIDZ CLUB

West Berkshire Council in conjunction with Purley Parish Council is running a club for 5 to 11 year olds on 22 & 29 April and 6 & 11 May from 3 to 5 p.m. Unfortunately the deadline for booking a place will have officially passed by the time this magazine has reached you but if you would like further information or to enquire about late places, please call Tina O'Connor on 0118 984 3320.



Activities are also planned for the Easter break as follows:

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE	TIME
Monday 5.04.04	Easter Egg treasure hunt	Burghfield Purley	2 to 4pm 5 to 7pm
Tuesday 6.04.04	Easter Egg treasure Hunt	Beansheaf Highview	2 to 4pm 5 to 7pm
Wednesday 7.04.04	Monkey World Visit	Contact Ian on 0118 9302998	8.30am to 8.00pm
Thursday 8.04.04	Street Sounds Drumming	Greenham Common	afternoon
Wednesday 14.04.04	Football games	Theale Green School	10am to 4 pm (tbc)
Friday 16.04.04	Craft Day Screen printing	Theale Green Community Centre	11am 1pm 2pm to 4pm
Friday 16.04.04	Skate park visit in Bristol	Contact Lenny on 01189302998	Day trip

Please contact Lenny, Ian, Di-Anne, Kim or Maryanne on 0118 930 2980 or 0118 930 2998 for details.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Thank you to everyone who visited St Mary's recently to join in with our celebration of 10 years of the Fairtrade movement. All the events were well attended and a wide selection of fairly traded products were sampled or purchased.



Proceeds from ticket sales and other donations have gone to Action Aid to help in their work promoting a better standard of living for the world's poorest workers.

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Well, it isn't many days now to go to the start of the Outdoor Season - our Open Day the 17th April and for me it can't come soon enough. Due to a heart scare early in December I had to curtail my winter programme for bowls, and, on the advice of Battle's cardiologist I have been concentrating on fast walking and the exercise bicycle, it really has been hard work, as those of you who have seen me panting along the river bank will verify!

Hopefully now the outdoor season is with us I can gradually ease myself into the saddle (pardon the pun!) and get back to bowls again. I really have missed it, not just the fun and exercise but the friendship and competitiveness of the game.

Mind you, I'm not the only member of the bowls club who has had problems this winter - three members of the Green team, Jack Messenger, Ralph Robson and Ralph Miller have all been into hospital for one reason or another, Ralph Miller is still incapacitated and we all wish him well. At the end of the season we heard of the death of Doreen Hamblin whose death followed a very short and sudden illness. Doreen is the first lady to die since I have been Secretary - now in my thirteenth year -and she always proved to be a strong, friendly and helpful person. Our sympathy goes to Ron Hamblin.

Hopefully this year will see a improvement in the bowling at the club, but we are still not a strong club; too many experienced bowlers have left us and joined other local clubs where they feel they play more competitive bowls. Two Purley residents we shall definitely miss, as they won the Men's Championship and the Club Championship, are Alan dark and Kevin Gulliver - they both, unfortunately, have left the area but we do hope that Alan will continue to be available for the occasional game; Basingstoke isn't that far away! Having said that we still have nearly ninety members in Pangbourne and a lot of those have the ability to become really good bowlers - just give them a year or two and you'll see what I mean!

I hope that any readers of the magazine who would like to try their hand at bowling will give me a ring on 941 9437 or come across on a Thursday evening when the club starts coaching on the 8th May at 6:30. It won't cost you a penny, and you'll have the services of a County Coach and two Club coaches - all of whom have a genuine love of the game.

I look forward to telling you about the season as it unfolds - I'm sure it will be at least a friendly one! As that is our strongest card and no team who visits the Bowls Club at Pangbourne ever leave in an unhappy frame of mind - usually they're celebrating a win!

Bill Ayling

PURLEY TENNIS CLUB

Court availability – club sessions

- Wednesday afternoons Club session 1.30 pm (all through the year)
- Saturday mornings 10.30 am - Club session for adults and older juniors are continuing throughout the winter. With better weather on its way it's a good time to get some practice in.
- Informal free winter coaching for juniors continues on the first Saturday of the month from 9.30 to 10.30 am. For further information, ring Colin Moses on 0118 984 5429. If in doubt regarding the weather, ring first to confirm.



The summer season begins very soon. The officially LTA play tennis day will take place on Sunday 9 May - a date for the diary. Weekly summer coaching will begin on 24 April, Saturday mornings from 9.30-10.30 for juniors and 10.30 onwards for seniors. Also as the clocks have changed why not pop along on a Monday or Thursday evening to meet the current members

For membership enquiries please contact: Colin Moses (Chairman) 0118 984 5429; or Judy or Martin Dickins (Membership Secretaries) 0118 941 2399 - new members are very welcome with now being a perfect time to take up a new sport.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Many of you will have read the articles explaining that Burghfield, along with Greenham near Newbury, and 14 other sites across the country, are part of the National Reassurance Policing Programme. This Home Office-backed trial aims to address the fact that although crime levels overall have been falling in recent years, people generally seem to feel more afraid about becoming a victim of crime. Research has shown that this 'reassurance gap' is largely triggered by what people see and experience in their own neighbourhood.

As the only parish in the Pangbourne sector to be a part of this scheme, I wanted to reassure those of you who live in other villages that this will not mean policing in your area will be affected in any way. This project is helping us find different ways of working - it is important to find out what works and what doesn't - and the lessons we learn as we go along may be applied to other areas of West Berkshire to improve the service we offer to you.

The high standard of work put in by my officers was officially noted last month when several of them received commendations from the Area Commander of West Berkshire police area, Supt Frank Sullivan. The hard

work, dedication and professionalism of the whole team here at Pangbourne is first class, but the officers listed below gained special recognition:

PCs Richard Parker, Andrew Philpott, Rachael Mylum and Jayne Richards were commended for their action at a serious disturbance involving a stag party at Utopia nightclub, Calcot, on 6 April 2003.

Sgt Brian Millar, PCs Paul Ewins, Anthony Russell, Naomi Joliffe, Claire Storry and Justin Moss received awards for their work at the scene of a large-scale incident of anti-social behaviour in Purley-on-Thames on 18 April 2003. Over 60 youths were involved in the incident but the officers contained the situation and dispersed the group without any disruption to residents.

DCs Vince Newton and Alan Gibson, of Pangbourne CID, were commended for their hard work and professionalism when investigating a number of burglaries in the eastern part of the police area in October 2003. The burglaries had been committed by an offender using an instrument pushed through the letterbox. Their persistence and quick action led to the early identification and arrest of 25-year-old Reading man, who is currently on remand.

PC Dave Ebsworth, received two awards at the ceremony. His work combating "drive-offs" from petrol stations across the area was recognised, with particular praise given to his ability to engage with and encourage partner agencies, as was the part he played in assisting me in dealing with the potential suicide bomber at Sulhamstead in August 2003.

Lastly, but by no means least, Mr Mel Freeman, civilian duty officer at Pangbourne police station, was commended in recognition of his hard work providing high quality and professional service to the public and police staff at Pangbourne.

Hopefully you should have seen more of your local police over recent weeks as more of them go out on foot patrol. However, as the evenings begin to stay lighter for longer, I am aware that incidents of anti-social behaviour may increase. For this reason, I urge you to continue reporting crime but please remember that the officers have a large geographical area to cover so our response to more low-level crime is unlikely to be immediate. All reports are very helpful to us as they build up a bigger picture of where the problem areas are and help us to focus resources effectively.

On a positive note to finish, crime across the area from 1 April 2003 to 11 March this year has dropped by 8.3% compared with the same period last year. With your continued support, I am confident we can see this decrease continue.

Insp. Talbot

PANG & KENNET VALLEYS COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS

The Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valleys 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.

Tue 13 April Bring a Plant for the Butterfly Bank! Upper Basildon
Help plant up the butterfly bank with lots of butterfly friendly plants to be enjoyed by Basildon Primary School pupils. Bring along any homeless lavender, sedums, wallflowers, aubrietia, primrose and hebe you may have in the garden and donate it to the schools butterfly garden! Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm Bradfield at 10.00am.

***Sun 18 April 11 a.m. 'Downs, Temple and Bell' Compton**
A seven mile walk around Compton and Aldworth with a lunch break at the Bell in Aldworth. Meet at Compton Downs School at 11.00 (SU 519 795). There are several long hills on this walk. Booking essential so that 'The Bell' can be warned.

Wed 21 April 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Friends AGM Bradfield
The AGM of the 'Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valleys' will be held, any items for the agenda please contact the Project Office, followed by a talk from the Director of South East Area Country Landowners Association (CLA) Mr Andrew Davis "What future for the countryside in these changing times?" Meet at the Stables Rushall Manor Farm Bradfield

Sat 24/Sun 25 April 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Bluebell Weekend Bradfield
Come and enjoy the glorious woods full of bluebells, wood anemones, primroses and violets. The woodland at Rushall Farm*, Bradfield will be open to the public for the annual bluebell weekend from 11.00am – 6.00pm. Self-guided walks will be signposted and refreshments will be available. A donation of £3.00 per adult and £1.00 per child is invited in aid of Multiple Sclerosis.

Tue 27 April Footpath Work Bucklebury
Improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm Bradfield at 10.00 am.

***Sun 2 May 4:15 a.m. Dawn Chorus Bradfield**
An opportunity to rise with the larks and join John Lerpiniere at Rushall Manor Farm, to listen to the morning bird song on International Dawn Chorus Day. Please let us know if you are coming! Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm Bradfield at 4.15am!!

- *Sun 2 May** **11 a.m. 'Walk in an Ancient Landscape' Ashampstead**
 A five and a half mile walk to look at the ancient landscape buried in the bluebell woods of Ashampstead Parish. Meet 11.00 at Childs Court farm (SU 575 751). There are no pubs on this walk so bring a packed lunch. There are several hills on this walk.
- Tue 4 May** **Footpath work** **Bucklebury**
 Improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm Bradfield at 10.00 am.
- Sun 9 May** **2 – 4 p.m. River Dipping** **Riverside Meadow**
 Come and try out the brand new dipping platform on the River Lambourn at Turnpike in Newbury. Discover what is living in the river and at the same time wander along the path and admire the newly laid hedge beside the meadow. Meet outside Riverside Community Centre at 2pm. Grid ref: SU485678
- Tue 11 May** **Footpath work** **Paices Hill, Aldermaston**
 Come and clear some woodland footpaths through the extensive coppice in Paices Wood. Meet at 10.00 at Paices Hill (through Youngs Industrial Est.) Grid ref: SU586638
- *Sat 22 May** **Water vole survey training** **Project Office, Theale**
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 BBOWT's Water Vole Recovery Project 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 Berkshire Water Vole survey. The day will start with a talk at the Project Office and then the group will go out and look for signs along the river. Please bring packed lunch and suitable footwear. Limited to 16 places.
- *Sun 23 May** **Local food tasting & Lamb Roast** **Englefield**
12 noon – 3 p.m.
 We are holding a joint event with Wickcroft Farm shop (on the A340 where the donkeys are) to encourage people to buy locally produced food. Come and meet the producers and taste their wares. Tickets £ 10 to include food. Tickets available from the Project Office or from Wickcroft Farm Shop.
- Tue 25 May** **Birds and Bats** **Paices Hill, Aldermaston**
 The birds and bats need new homes! Come and help install bird and bat boxes in Paices Wood. Meet at 10.00 at Paices Hill (through Youngs Industrial Est.) Grid ref: SU586638
- Sat 5 June** **10 a.m. – 12 noon Pond dipping** **Mortimer**
 Come and join us on World Environment Day for a bit of fun pond dipping at the Fairground pond at Mortimer. We will be on hand to help you identify some of the aquatic life you may find in the pond. Come to the Fairground car park opposite the Horse and Groom Pub NGR SU655 645 in Mortimer from 10am.

*Events marked with * require booking (see end of diary for details)*

- Sun 6 June** **11 a.m. Bird and Butterfly Walk** **Hosehill Lake LNR**
 Come and take part in a early summer stroll round Hosehill LNR with the opportunity to discover the variety of birds and butterflies that populate this quiet local nature reserve. Meet at the entrance opposite the Fox & Hounds Pub Theale at 11am. Grid ref: SU650697
- Tue 8 June** **Footpath work** **Streatley**
 We will be helping Simon Barnett, Countryside Officer, West Berkshire Council to erect a kissing gate. Meet at Streatley recreation ground car park in Streatley, NGR SU592812 at 10am.
- *Thur 10 June** **6 p.m. Farm Walk** **Holt Lodge Farm, Kintbury**
 To celebrate National Farm Week we have organised a walk around Holt Lodge Farm near Kintbury. Join Dick Greenaway and farmer Ian Freeland for a short stroll looking at the wildlife, historic landscape and farming of this gem of a farm in the picturesque North Wessex Downs AONB. Meet at the farm (SU 389647) at 6.00pm. No dogs.
- Tue 22 June** **Meadow management** **St Mary's Thatcham**
 Help manage the ancient grassland at St Mary's Churchyard for meadow saxifrage. The task will be to rake and remove the hay from the nature reserve area. Meet at St Mary's off Church gate at 10am NGR SU516 673
- Thur 24 June** **8 p.m. Bat and Moth Walk** **Hosehill Lake LNR**
 Come and enjoy a summers evening walk, discovering the nightlife at Hosehill lake LNR. Meet at the entrance opposite the Fox & Hounds Pub Theale at 8pm. Grid ref: SU650697
- Sat 26 June** **7:30 – 11 p.m. Barn Dance** **Bradfield**
 You are warmly invited to the 'Friends' Barn dance and supper featuring the live band 'Poachers Pocket'
 Tickets £15.00 including a 2 course hot supper.
 Tickets available from the Project Office, limited numbers so book early to avoid disappointment. To be held at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm, Bradfield
- Tue 29 June** **Meadow Management** **Leyfield Meadow**
 Spend the day cutting back invasive bracken to maintain a wildflower meadow. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm Bradfield at 10.00am or phone the Project office for details of meeting on site.
- Wed 7 July** **7:30 p.m. Pang Valley CV AGM** **Rushall Manor Farm**
 Join the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers for their AGM. Meet at Black Farm, Rushall Manor Farm Bradfield at 7.30pm
- *Sun 11 July** **Pond Training day** **Rushall Manor Farm**
 A Biodiversity course aimed at local people who manage or would like to know more about ponds. The course covers pond ecology, species identification and management. Meet at Black Farm, Rushall Manor Farm Bradfield at 10am, please bring a packed lunch.

For bookings or other enquires contact the project office 0118 930 5336.

See our new Website on www.pangandkennetvalleys.org.uk

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.

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