

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

OCTOBER 2004

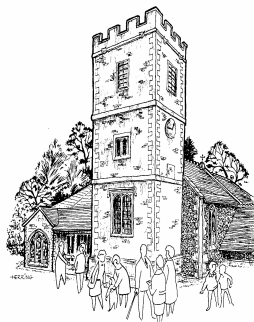


VILLAGE PLAN SPECIAL EDITION

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES



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www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

Dear friends,



This issue of the magazine is being distributed free of charge (with the compliments of the Village Plan project) to every home in the civil parish of Purley on Thames. If you would like to have it regularly each month (except August) you will find details of how to subscribe on page 13.

This publication has been going for many years and is intended for Church and Community as the title suggests. Usually there are articles from a variety of sources and although the available space is limited, we do try and publish the items received. It helps if articles are shorter rather than longer, otherwise the editorial pen has to come into action! There are 40 advertisements each month for local services, and many people have found these numbers useful from time to time. And of course the advertisers have benefited from the additional trade.

The results of the recent Village Plan Survey (to be launched on 2 November at The Barn, Beech Road) show that most people get their information about events in the local community from Purley Parish News. Any suggestions to enhance the value of this publication are welcome – contact the editor please.

Purley is a densely populated area, but many residents spend a good deal of their time elsewhere. This of course is a fact of modern life in many places, but it does not help to build a sense of community. The magazine goes some way I believe to address this situation, and can help to keep people aware of what goes on locally – and in our case that is quite a lot during the course of the year.

I hope you will have a look through this issue, and decide to subscribe to it each month. If you are new to Purley, I hope you are settling down in your new home and making new friends.

With best wishes,

Roger Howell (Rector)

CHURCH JARGON EXPLAINED

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at a church service, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

JONAH: The original "Jaws" story.

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

- 9 August Peggy Louise Slade (cremation) aged 82 years
16 August Ronald George Jenkins (cremation) aged 80 years
1 September Arthur Thomas Bint (cremation) aged 75 years
3 September Patricia Heslop (cremation) aged 74 years
10 September George Smith Hewit (cremation) aged 67 years
-

19 OCTOBER

29 NOVEMBER

Pray for Purley

Don't miss the opportunity to pray with Christians from many denominations about issues which affect everyone living in Purley. We meet at St. Mary's church at 8 p.m.

Contact Sally Robertson (962 5978) for more details.

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

Headlines in the press are pretty predictable aren't they! Bombs, terrorism, hatred, murder etc. But as hardly a week passes by, somewhere in the world Christians are threatened, persecuted and sometimes killed for their faith in Jesus Christ. Rarely, if ever, do such things get reported in the papers! St. Mary's Church has been concerned about this for a

number of years now and we have given financial support and practical action to these beleaguered communities through the ministry of the Barnabas Fund. On Sunday 7 November 2004 we have a visiting speaker – Caroline Kerlake, at both morning services – 9.30 and 11.15 a.m. If you want to find out what the situation is for Christians in many parts of the world, come – you will be most welcome.

You can find out about the persecution of Christians and what the Barnabas Fund is doing to support them by looking up www.barnabasfund.org.uk



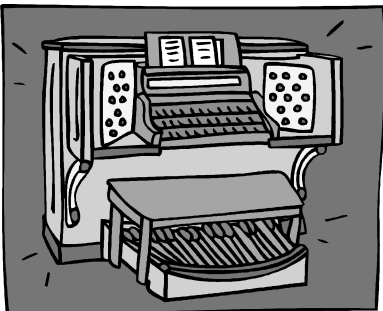
CHURCH SERVICES

10 Oct	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
	3.00 p.m.	Community Memorial Service
17 Oct	9.30 a.m.	Family Communion
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
24 Oct	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
31 Oct	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
7 Nov	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship with visiting speaker
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion with visiting speaker
	6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
14 Nov	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE

SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER AT 3.00 P.M.

This annual service of remembrance is for all who have lost loved ones – particularly during the last twelve months, but also for those whose bereavement is more distant, but nonetheless real. Personal invitations have been sent to those with whom we are in touch, but all are welcome. The speaker is Revd. Douglas Loveridge, assistant Chaplain at the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals.



DOES ANYBODY PLAY THE ORGAN OUT THERE?

St. Mary's Church could do with some help with accompaniment on Sundays. If anyone is a secret, proficient organ player and is willing to become involved, please contact the Rector - 941 7727.

ACCIDENTS WAITING TO HAPPEN!

I wonder if you are alert to a number of situations where accidents are just waiting to happen in Purley.

- Children cycling up St. Mary's Avenue on the path and then suddenly without warning darting between parked cars into the road. Motorists have little chance of avoiding a collision!
- Young people with motor scooters towing cyclists behind them - another dangerous situation.
- Mini-scooters with engine power being driven on roads by young people - no crash helmets, and what about insurance where someone else gets injured?

Life can be full of hazards, but these are unnecessary, and others can so easily get caught up in them. Come on parents - help to avoid a tragedy please.

Roger Howell

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

With harvest almost over I have joined most other farmers in doing the same exercise; 'what do we grow next year that might show a profit?' Sadly there is no easy answer, however we shall continue to make the best of what is fast becoming a more complex occupation. At least the cows are milking well, helped along by a good flush of autumn grass and almost a quarter of the herd calving in the last two months.

Now to cover a few queries: the brown cow in the milking herd (there may be two by the time you read this) is a Guernsey. We purchased two at a farm dispersal sale recently with a view to boosting our milk butterfat. Secondly, the Angus cows in the front field are also causing confusion. To set the records straight, the black calf goes with the orange cow whereas the orange calf goes with the black cow - honest! Breeding plays wonderful tricks!

Talking of tricks, the 'gypsies' are here to stay for at least the next 18 months. The vagaries of British law and the system of planning appeals mean that although we unanimously rejected their planning application they cannot be evicted. The site is already covered with debris, derelict caravans and dumped vehicles with the field above the site being used as an open loo. All the fears of the locals, unfortunately, are being confirmed as the 'Irish travellers' are certainly not trying to endear themselves to the inhabitants of the surrounding area.

I believe that the aerial that is to be built on the Beech Road playing field will also cause unrest. I have been obliged to keep quiet on this matter as I have a conflict of interest as the present mast has sat amongst my farm

buildings for some time. However it is to be re-sited next month, (Nov), to a place where it will not only be far more visible but also much closer to the public and playing children. Please don't get me wrong, I personally have no fears regarding the safety of these structures, or I would not have allowed it on my farm, but there is a perceived danger, which if blown up by some locals could cause a major embarrassment for the Parish Council. Even the hall at the Village School is not as straight forward as some think; its size and height will unfortunately block views from neighbouring properties. This has caused concern; but without this addition to the buildings I fear that the future of the school will certainly come into doubt.



One advantage of our wet summer, (or perhaps I should say disadvantage in my case), has been the abundant crop of blackberries. This has led to many blackberry and apple crumbles along with cream and custard which has led to an increase in my girth! The solution, according to my daughter, having noticed that Weight Watchers are now meeting at the Village School is to begin a new activity for the winter!

*Tim Metcalfe
Parish and District Councillor*



PURLEY TOTS AUTUMN FAYRE
Saturday 23 October 2004, 2 - 3.30pm
St Mary's Church Hall, Purley on Thames

Attractions include:
RAFFLE CAKE STALL
BOOKS & TOYS TOMBOLA

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Refreshments available

FREE ENTRY

TEENAGERS ARE FROM MARS PARENTS ARE FROM VENUS

This is the title of an event for all parents of children from 10-18 years at Wycliffe Baptist Church, Kings Road, Reading on Tuesday 26 October starting at 7.30 p.m.

“We’ll explore together how to better communicate with our teenagers, how to improve relationships within our families and how to live on the same planet.”

Rob Parsons and his son Lloyd look back on the teenage years and together with them we discover how to speak the same language as our teenagers. They will have everyone laughing, crying and yelling, 'it's not just us!' Most of all we will go home with a new understanding of how to communicate with our teenagers. Hosted by youth specialist Paul Francis and with live music from singer-songwriter Mal Pope, this will be a fun-packed and encouraging evening.

Further information from Roger Howell – Tel. 941 7727

To book tickets – 029 2033 7880 - www.goingpublic.org.uk

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

As authorised by West Berkshire Council the early September meeting of the Parish Council co-opted Mr Paul Coombes of 3 Marshall Close as a member to fill the casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr Miller. Subsequently another application was received and the name of the person concerned will be kept on file for future reference.

The audit for year ended 31 March 2004 has been completed and the Council received a complementary letter from the auditors, appointed by the Audit Commission, expressing their appreciation of the quality of the additional information provided for a sampled intermediate audit which is usually required from Councils larger than ours. The statutory notice has been displayed and interested parties may obtain copies of the accounts and the Annual return from the office for a nominal fee.

The Council have received a number of complaints regarding the illegal use of motorised scooters on the public highway by children and others. These have been passed to the Thames Valley Police at Pangbourne and if this problem continues we would urge residents to contact them direct.

Changes have been made to the children’s playground at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground, off Beech Road due to health and safety concerns. We regret that the sand pit has had to be filled in due to continuing vandalism as the Council felt they could no longer take the risk of young children harming themselves on broken bottles deliberately placed below the surface of the sand.

The roundabout has been replaced and a new safety surface constructed as the old roundabout which had provided many years valued service no longer met current standards and was again prone to vandalism. It is hoped to provide additional equipment when funding can be sourced.

Please assist the Parish Council by reporting any incidents of vandalism or anti-social behaviour on the Police non emergency number 0845 8 505505.

Finally a reminder that the Council hold surgery evenings every Monday evening in the office near the Tennis Courts between 6.00 and 8.00 p.m. Parish (and when available District) Councillors will be in attendance to assist with enquiries. As suggested on posters displayed on the notice boards we may be able to assist with the following topics:

Planning, Local Facilities, Sports & Recreation, Education, Highways & Footpaths, Electoral Register, Council Tax, Housing, Bus & Train Services, Social Services, Refuse Collection, Bus Tokens, Nuisances, Flooding, Disabled, Road Safety, Cycling, Recycling, Library, Local History, Burial Records, Grass Cutting & Food Inspection.

Residents of the Denefield Ward of Tilehurst will be welcome to contact their District Councillors.

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

USE THIS SPACE!

Each month this magazine includes articles from all kinds of groups and organisations in Purley. Is **your** group represented? Do you have news or events that would be of interest to local people that are not yet part of your group? Additional contributors are always welcome.

Contributions can be accepted in most forms, handwritten (please write names of people or places in block capitals), typed, or "electronically" via email or floppy/CD. Plain text email or Microsoft Word format is preferred for electronic copy. Photos, negatives and slides can also be handled.

Full contact details can be found on page 26.

purley.parishnews@ntlworld.com

Matthew Slingsby

CLOCKS BACK

OCTOBER 31st

PURLEY BEECHES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the PBRA will be held on Tuesday 9 November 2004

In the village at St. Mary's Church Hall

Starting at 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

Members can enjoy drinks and nibbles from 7.30.

With an 8 p.m. start for the meeting.

Please come along meet your committee members and air your views.

PURLEY PATHFINDERS

After our summer break, we were keen to get back into our walking boots for our first September walk – and to catch up on everyone's news along the way! We headed for a new village for the group, Waltham St Lawrence, which proved to be full of pretty cottages with interesting names such as 'Paradise Cottage'. Woodland paths took us out of the village and, on emerging from the trees, we were able to make out the buildings of Shottesbrooke Park, and soon we were walking past the entrance of the Landmark Trust. From Shurlock Row we climbed to the brow of a hill from where we enjoyed views all around over very pleasant countryside. Eventually we arrived back at Waltham St Lawrence, ready for lunch at The Sun.

Leaving the numerous swans to glide on the glistening Thames, or preen themselves on the sunny riverbank beside Caversham Bridge, we walked along the south side of the river on The Thames Path. Much activity was to be seen with boats manoeuvring through Caversham Lock, or mooring alongside Fry Island and View Island. Soon our walk took on a more calming atmosphere as we continued beside the river through the peaceful King's Meadow. On reaching the confluence of the Thames and Kennet, we crossed the mouth of the river via the listed Horseshoe Bridge. Now following the Kennet, we headed towards Reading, enjoying its quiet, sleepy backwaters, amazingly just moments away from the hubbub of Reading town centre. We passed Fisherman's Cottage Inn, more than 200 years old, and Blakes Lock Museum. At the lock, a notice board announced the Kennet & Avon Canal, as we continued beside it, passing the bronze statue of a local fisherman, poised at the ready on his little island. Canal boats created a colourful display as we walked along Chestnut Walk beside Reading Gaol. Oscar Wilde, a former inmate, is remembered along this stretch with seats bearing inscriptions of some of

his work. Railings declared within their ironwork, 'Oh beautiful world'. After crossing the noisy Reading Bridge, we marvelled at the peacefulness as we returned to the banks of the River Thames, this time on the northern side through Christchurch Meadows. The 'Three Men in a Boat' was opened especially for us to enjoy lunch, overlooking the famous Caversham Prom swans.

Our walks are often referred to as 'Coffee Mornings on foot'! With this in mind, the idea was born to make this year's charity walk a Macmillan Coffee Morning Walk. The route was chosen along the Kennet & Avon Canal from Theale. With its convenient proximity to the railway, this enabled the group to walk a variety of lengths with the option to return to Theale on foot or by train. The canal-side was a peaceful place to walk, with just the occasional fisherman's float, heron, or duck rippling the smooth surface of the water. Canal boats, either moored along the banks, or making effortlessly progress on the water, competed for colourfulness with the 'jewels', in the form of berries and hips, on the hedgerow plants

beside us. At Aldermaston Visitor's Centre (*see photo*) we sat in the garden to drink coffee, and to eat homemade biscuits or cake sold in aid of the charity. Our route took us along wilder stretches as we continued along the canal to reach Woolhampton. We stopped here for lunch, before returning to Theale. At the time of writing, not all the donations have been collected, but the total raised to date is nearly £250 for the Macmillan Nurses.



We will be back by the Thames for our next walk as we follow the Thames Path to Shiplake. Then, in October we will head for woodlands where we will be able to appreciate the amazing palette of colours as summer turns to autumn. Our 'Autumn Special' takes place in October when we will be off to Hampton Court. Keeping to this year's theme of 'The River Thames', we will walk along the river as it loops around Home Park, returning to the Palace alongside the famous Long Water. The afternoon will be spent exploring the various 'gardens within the gardens' of Hampton Court Palace.

If any ladies would like to join us at this colourful time of year, then please ring for a programme. Walks are held on various weekday mornings and generally range from 4 to 6 miles. You will be made very welcome!

Nicki Woodward

Please note my new 'phone number! 984 2112

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

21ST LATE SUMMER SHOW

This was held in The Barn, Beech Road on 11 September and was probably the most successful show the society has held. The number of entries (229) was the highest since 1992. The judges in all sections commented on the good quality exhibits and in particular the very high standard of some exhibits. Despite the very wet weather of the last few weeks, the exhibitors put on a good display of vegetables, flowers and fruit and it was very pleasing to see the Floral Art Section so well supported. We wish to thank exhibitors, judges and all who helped as stewards and to set up and dismantle tables at the show and make it a success. It was also very pleasing to see many people viewing the exhibits. The trophies were presented by Mr. D. Betts, Chairman of Purley Parish Council and the winners were as follows:-

Reg Ayers Memorial Trophy for most points gained in the Spring and Summer Shows	Sybil Pryor
P.H.S. Perpetual Challenge Cup for most points in Vegetables, Fruit & Flower Sections	R. Stuart
Purley Women's Institute Cup for most points in the Cookery and Handicraft Sections	Mrs. Howell
Neil Buckle Trophy for Floral Art Section	Mrs. Howell
Purley Homecraft Salver for best exhibit in Cookery & Handicraft Section	Mrs. Venners& Mrs. Conquest
Purley Home & Garden Bowl for best exhibit in Flowers & Pot Plant Section	R. Stuart
Frankston Vase for best exhibit in Class 63 (article of knitting, needlework, or Crochet with a floral theme)	Mrs. Blanchard
Golden Jubilee Cup for most points in the Children's Section	Lucy Robertson & Nicole Cook
Fairfoull Cup for most points in the pot plant Section	R. Stuart
Berkshire Horticultural Federation Certificate of Merit for best flowers, Vegetables & pot plant	R. Stuart
Berkshire Horticultural Federation Certificate of Merit for best Fruit	J. Armstrong

WINTER TALKS

Our first talk will be on Wednesday, 20 October in Purley Memorial Hall commencing at 8 p.m. Dr. M. Keith Lucas will give a slide show and talk on the "Natural History of the Shetland Islands". Please try and come along so that we have a good attendance for our speaker.

TRADING

The Shed in the Memorial Hall car park will be closing on Sunday, 31 October for the winter and re-opening the first week-end in February 2005. We hope you have all purchased your bulbs and any other gardening requirements you may need whilst we are closed. The Shed now stocks bird food, so please make sure you have ample food for the birds during the winter months.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

PURLEY PLAYERS

present a

Murder Mystery Evening

"A Show to Die For"

on Saturday, 20 November 2004

at 7.30 pm St Mary's Church Hall, Purley on Thames

Tickets: £12.50 to include a three course meal



Menu: Fancy leaf salad with salmon, capers and cherry tomatoes

Turkey with Marsala Cream Sauce, Duchess Potatoes, and a

Melange of green vegetables and carrots

Meringue with berry coulis

Coffee and mints

Vegetarian menu available

Please bring your own drink

Box Office opens: Monday, 11 October 2004

Tel: 0118 962 5760

Tickets on a first come first served basis

www.purleyplayers.fsnet.co.uk

Your **local** magazine Delivered to your door



An annual subscription to Purley Parish News costs £3.50 and is payable each April. As an introductory offer to new subscribers, you can take out a subscription now for £1 and we will deliver you a magazine each month up to March at which point you can then decide whether to continue with another year at £3.50 from April 2005.

To subscribe to Purley Parish News, please complete the coupon below and send it to the Editor. Please send no money now; your delivery agent will collect this with your first issue.

This offer is open to new subscribers and is valid until 31/12/2004. The free delivery option is only available to subscribers within the ecclesiastical parish of Purley on Thames (delivery to other areas by special arrangement). The annual subscription charge of £3.50 is subject to change.



I would like to subscribe to Purley Parish News for £1 (up to March issue):

Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	

SEND NO MONEY NOW!

Please return to:
Matthew Slingsby, 24 Skerritt Way, Purley on Thames, READING, RG8 8DD

THE GENDER OF BABIES

*In the first of two extracts from his book, **The Testament of a Doctor – A Life of Contrasts**, Dr Hofmeyr recalls his reputation amongst the expectant mothers-of Zululand.*

NKANDHLA, ZULULAND, IN THE LATE 1950'S

The native women would first see me and then go to the mission midwives for antenatals and delivery, occasionally coming back to me for a check-up near term. They usually implored me that I should use my mtagati (magic spirits) to influence the gender they wanted, almost always a wish for a boy. My reply was that I was a Christian and did not believe in mtagati but I would pray that they would have their wishes fulfilled – yes, I would pray. (It was no use trying to explain that by the time they knew that they were pregnant the gender was already determined!) It came to pass that a whole series of a dozen or more were delighted that they had the babies of their desire. My reputation amongst the tribesmen and mothers-to-be was such that some merely wanted a laying on of my hands on their tummies.

Several sophisticated white women also believed they produced the sons that they had wanted thanks to my involvement. One, Mrs. Larkan, the wife of the hotel and bar proprietor, I remember well, but particularly the police sergeant's wife. As they already had two daughters, the sergeant especially was anxious for a son to continue his family name (which now escapes me). He was transferred to another district on promotion about 100 miles away to Kranskop, and the wife at about 32 weeks came back to stay in the little Larkan's hotel until her delivery. This was a planned pregnancy and I was asked to ensure a boy. I vehemently disclaimed any ability or influence in this choice of gender but was disbelieved. In due course I was delighted to deliver a nice robust son to each after easy, comfortable labours. Fortunately for me I had left before the spell was broken.

*Reprinted with permission
©2003 John Adriaan Hofmeyr*

ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION

We are holding our Annual Thames Valley Artists Art & Craft Exhibition at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, on Saturday 30 October, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday 31 October, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Most of the artists are from the Purley on Thames and Tilehurst areas and their work is of a high standard. Admission is free and refreshments will be available during the weekend. There will be a wide variety of paintings and craft items for sale.

Maggy Pickard



PURLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND INFANT SCHOOL

At Purley School we are all walking around with big smiles on our faces. In August we received the wonderful news that planning permission has been granted for our new building. This consists of a new hall, toilet facilities for pupils, Headteacher's office, secretary's office and staffroom. The start of a new academic year is always exciting but this news is really the icing on the cake. On behalf of the school, parents, pupils and governors I would like to say a huge thank-you to the many people in the village who helped support this project. Hopefully by the time you read this, the building will have started.

As part of our whole school curriculum each term we have a theme or school topic. This autumn the theme is "Food and Farming." As part of their studies pupils will be visiting "Home Farm". Tim and Vicki Metcalfe always make us very welcome. The pupils are given a guided tour where they learn about milk production, the purpose and use of farm buildings and of course spend time watching the farm animals. This is always a very enjoyable and informative visit.

National Poetry Day this year is on 7 October, the theme for the day is food. One of the suggestions for use with young children is to make a poem about a giant's dinner based on a poem called "What the giant had for dinner." by Ian McMillan and Martyn Wiley.

***First
He ate
A hive of bees.***

***Then
He ate
Some chestnut trees***

***Then
He ate
A house near me***

***Last
Of all
He drank the sea.***

If any Purley Poets would like to write a poem around this theme our children would certainly enjoy reading them. How about a wet dinner for a sea monster, or a cold feast for a snowman? We would love to hear from

past pupils and parents! Please have a go and send your poems to the school.

On Poetry Day an actor from the Watermill Theatre in Newbury will be working with our year 2 class for their literacy hour. They will be joining the class for their literacy lesson and helping the children read and understand a poem of their choice. Parents have been invited into school to listen to pupils read their favourite poems and to read their own favourites to small groups of children. One of the aims of National Poetry Day is to show how in schools we can help poetry to be a vibrant and an important part of education. I am sure at Purley School this will be the case.

Harvest Festival this term will take place on 21 October; the children will share Harvest songs, poems, writing and prayers with their families. We will give thanks for the Harvest and consider the needs of others around the world who may not have enough to eat. Parents send Harvest produce into school which is then taken to Purley Park Trust where it is much appreciated.

If you wish to visit the school please contact the Headteacher. We will then arrange a date for you to come and see the school at work.

Jeannette Goddard
Headteacher
0118 984 2384

HARVEST FAIR

at

St. Mary the Virgin

SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER

11.30 - 2.00pm



**Light Lunches &
Refreshments**

Toys

Cakes

Plants

Tombola

Fancy Goods

Pie Stall

Books

White Elephant



PURLEY ON THAMES CRICKET CLUB

A VERY SUCCESSFUL SEASON

At their recent Presentation Evening Purley on Thames CC celebrated a very successful 2004 season.

- Clubmark Award (2nd club in Berkshire, 80th in the whole country)
- U11 - demonstration at Lords
- U17 - County finalists
- Saturday 1st XI - Champions of the Berkshire League Division 1
- Sunday 1st XI - Champions of the Border Sunday League

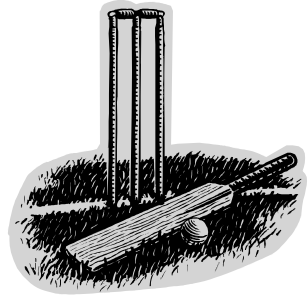
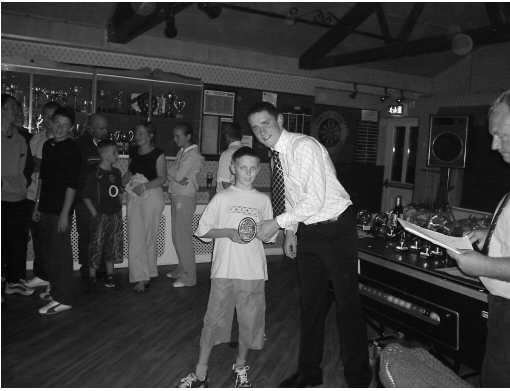
Club Presentation Night – Special Awards

Neil Haigh, Most Improved Player:	SAM TUCKER
Eddie Morris Young Player:	PATRICK ALLEN
Berti Jayasuria Sportsman:	CYRIL COX
CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR:	ANDREW LEWENDON

Special Awards were also presented to KWESI ROY, KEVIN DENTON & NICK HOLMAN for Hat Tricks in competitive games.

CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT - INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Saturday 1st XI	Batsman Bowler Player	Rob Makepeace Kwesi Roy Kwesi Roy
Saturday 2nd XI	Batsman Bowler Player	Kevin Denton Nick Holman Paul Mattingley
Sunday 1st XI	Batsman Bowler Player (joint)	Mark Nash Paul Mattingley Daniel Lewis & Paul Mattingley
Sunday 2nd XI	Batsman Bowler Player	Upal Jayasuria Cyril Cox Sam Tucker



Alistair Fraser, U11 Player of the Year with Nick Holman, U11 Team Manager

Juniors U9	Batsman	James McGiveron
	Bowler	Jordan Seward
	Player	Robbie Jeffery
	Most Improved Player	James Denton
Juniors U11	Batsman	Tristan Campbell
	Bowler	Tom Purser
	Player	Alistair Fraser
Juniors U13	Batsman	Charlie Guest
	Bowler	Tom Wheeler
	Player	Tom Wheeler
	Most Improved Player	Callum McCulloch & Tom Brampton
	(joint)	
Juniors U15	Batsman	Sam Tucker
	Bowler	James Measham
	Player	Scott Dummett
Juniors U17	Player	Patrick Allen

Club Chairman, Martin Bishop said "the presentations were a great evening of celebration for the club. We have moved forward in major steps this past year, through the hard work and commitment of all our players, helpers and supporters.

We now must look forward to greater challenges next season, as we push towards our aim of becoming one of the major forces in Berkshire Cricket."

For further information about Purley on Thames CC, or if you are interested in playing cricket at any level, please contact Martin Bishop, Club Chairman on 0118 945 3117.

Or look at the club website: <http://purleyonthames.play-cricket.com>

PROJECT PURLEY

The next meeting of Project Purley will be held on 15 October at 8 p.m. at The Barn, Goosecroft Lane off Beech Road. Lock-keeper, George Fielder will talk about 'Managing the River'

The time and venue for Project Purley's summer social gathering was 16 July in the beautiful tiered garden at Highveldt.

A total of forty-seven people attended, almost equivalent to the current membership. All the guests had brought a contribution towards the dinner, whilst John Chapman and Ben were on cookhouse duty underneath a metal structure which, if it had been on display in the Tate Gallery, could have been valued at several thousand pounds.

Guests were grouped under five mini-marquees around the garden and began to line up for their burgers, sausages and chicken, plus vegetables and salad at about 8.00 p.m. Conversation during the main course and dessert covered many topics, including recent Project Purley meetings and outings, the most profitable way of spending one's retirement, the value or otherwise of bringing back National Service, the village plan for Purley and Reading Football Club's chances of gaining promotion to the Premiership.

At a convenient lull in the evening, when the shadows were beginning to lengthen and people were refilling their glasses (and in several cases, their plates) Jean Debney proposed a vote of thanks to Ben and Dorothy for their hospitality, and this was heartily endorsed by all of us who had enjoyed such a pleasant occasion.

By 10.00 p.m. there was a distinct chill in the air, though the conversation and bonhomie was as warm and enthusiastic as ever. Guests gradually began to fold up their chairs, pack away their crockery and cutlery, and drift away into the night.

Our thanks to our hosts and caterers, and the icing on the cake was to learn that next summer's barbecue may take place to a musical accompaniment, with a cellist playing during the evening. Project Purley is going classical!

David Downs

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

It has not been a very successful season for Pangbourne Bowls Club I regret to say, apart from two noticeable successes. Pangbourne Ladies Triple won the Oddfellows Ladies Championship. This triple consisted of Eileen, Mary Joyce and Linda Tucker. Very well done ladies. What makes it even more poignant is that after this year the Oddfellows Bowling Club in Reading is closing down. This was the very last year of the competition, not only won by Pangbourne, but each time I look at the television set the gold trophy stands in pride of palace on top of it – rather interesting it

looked when the Union flag was raised so often at the recent Olympic Games! And I of course raised my glass on each occasion.

The other item of which we at Pangbourne can be justifiably proud is that Alan Blacklock's (Blackers to his drinking chums!) team were runners up in the Kennett League. Considering that Pangbourne was relegated last year it was great to see the club fight back. It is interesting that some of our ex-"stars" are now looking on and wondering whether they were right in leaving Pangbourne after all...

This is the time of the year when I'm juggling around trying to fix in the games on Finals Day. It is remarkable how many Purley people again feature in these Finals. Doreen Miller is playing in the Final of the Ladies Singles – and, patriotism apart, I hope you do well Doreen, you deserve it the way you have played your games this year. Her husband, Ralph, is playing in the Open Pairs against myself (I shan't say a word!) Alan Clarke is again in the Two Woods Final and Frank Lewendon is playing in the Novices Singles Trophy Final.

Pangbourne continues to be a very happy mixed club, I've had fourteen happy years as Secretary, but I wouldn't be sorry if somebody came along and said "Bill, old man, let me take the pressure off your shoulders and just enjoy your bowl!"

But, the leaves are still Green, the grass is still fresh and even though I'm not bowling anything like my best – due to my knee I've had to adopt a new stance and I'm just using the strength of my shoulders. This wasn't helped at the recent village fun day in Purley when my nephew and I entered the "throw the industrial welly" competition. He threw further than me and in retaliation I exerted all my strength, threw the blooming thing two metres according to the Simon's measure, and I crocked my shoulder and upper arm. I would like to blame Simon Robertson for letting elderly idiots take part, or, I think maybe Pam was to blame; it was Pam, who pointed out that there was no similarity in throwing a Welly and the "graceful action of bowling!" At least I have my excuse all ready if beaten in the Open Pairs in the forthcoming Finals.

I have enjoyed writing these little pieces for the Purley Parish Magazine, I hope they've given some little enjoyment to the readers and done perhaps a little "something" to get more people interested in what happens in Bowling the Wood!

Bill Ayling

SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER - 10 A.M. UNTIL NOON

99 Devonshire Gardens (off Knowsley Road)

The **Tilehurst, Purley and West Reading Branch** of the RNLi is holding a Coffee Morning where RNLi Christmas cards, calendars and souvenirs will also be on sale

PURLEY W.I.

Welcome back, I trust you all enjoyed your holidays!

The speaker this month, Sandy Peacham, gave an emotional talk on her very human tale of trying to trace her G.I. father. With much support from her mum, dad and two daughters, she strove endlessly with telephone calls and letters. Remember in the 1960's there were no press button computers to contact an individual. At the age of sixteen Sandy felt the need to track down her natural father and armed with little knowledge, like his name and believing he lived in Birmingham, Alabama the long search began. Many rays of hope shone through only to be dashed or ignored. During the last twenty years Sandy joined a couple of organisations and took the US government to court. The case won under the Freedom of Privilege Act and this has enabled a number of G.I. babies to contact their fathers. In 1996 she finally acquired her adoption records, at last a breakthrough, along with her father's signature. Yes, he did live in Alabama! Like all good fairy stories we have a happy ending. Sandy finally found her father, the jigsaw is now complete.

Flower of the month 1st Pam Gilham and Phil Hasemore
 2nd Lesley Honnor

Competition Photo: 1st Shirley Cooper and Angela Perry
Know your committee 2nd Edna Bint

October's meeting will be on Wednesday 13 October, 7.30 Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road. The speaker is Sally Botwright on London Docks. Competition: Photo of London. **Visitors Welcome.**

Sylvia Conquest
941 1936

WEST BERKS SCRABBLE® CLUB

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

September brings normality, with the club opening for sessions every Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon. We are delighted to announce that the Tuesday evening sessions are now held in The Barn, (Goosecroft Lane). The playing room is large and airy and there is ample car parking.

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.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Well, it is October once again and I expect many of you, just like me, have spent the last few weeks settling back into work and school after a summer holiday. I am pleased to say that my team at Pangbourne have certainly not been resting during the past few months as the 19 per cent reduction in crime between April and August 2004, compared with the same period last year, surely demonstrates.

This autumn will see a lot more hard work both on crime reduction and detection and working even more closely with our local community. On September 29 representatives from the communities of Purley, Pangbourne, Basildon, Tilehurst and Calcot will have meet in their first session as the local Neighbourhood Action Group. This is the next step of a process I was talking about in my last article – making sure we involve local people in working together to solve issues that are affecting them.

At this first meeting we looked in more detail at what the group hopes to achieve, and how we will go about it. This Neighbourhood Action Group is the first in the Force to be set up independently of the National Reassurance Policing Programme. Our challenge will be to develop ideas and concepts from Burghfield and adapt them to this larger-scale project.

We will also remain focused on reducing crime in our area – and we need your help in achieving this. Over the summer, during the warm weather, there were burglaries at houses where windows and doors had been left open. Don't give criminals this kind of opportunity! I would urge all of you take simple steps to prevent your home being targeted – don't leave windows open while you are out or asleep at night, especially those on the ground floor.

You may have seen in the media that we recently seized a shotgun from a travellers' site on the outskirts of Pangbourne after reports of a firearm being discharged. We will continue to maintain regular contact with residents of the site to ensure effective engagement with the community.

Our community policing team prides itself on policing this area fairly and without any discrimination but crime will not tolerated and we will work hard to keep the sector safe for everyone who lives, works and visits here.

Insp. Andy Talbot

ADVANCE WARNING!

On Sunday 7 November from 2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. the bells at St Mary's church will be ringing continuously as some bell ringers from Reading are visiting in order to ring a full peal. If you live near the church and sometimes find the bells intrusive, you may wish to go out for the afternoon or keep your windows shut!

Simon Robertson



PANG & KENNET VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS

The Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valley Countryside Project has been set up to represent all of the people who care about the countryside in the

two valleys. The events below are co-ordinated by The Friends and give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10 a.m. and finish by 4 p.m. but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools.



FRIENDS DIARY

Tues 5 Oct

Marsh Meadows

Meadow Raking

The three hundred wildflower plugs that were planted by the Cubs will have finished flowering and seeding by the end of the summer. The meadow will then be cut and we will need some keen volunteers to join us in raking up the cuttings. Meet outside Alldays at 10am. Grid ref: SU525680.

Sat 9 October

Bucklebury Common Heathland Management & Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group AGM

For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (Grid ref. SU 550688) at 10.00 am Contact Tim Culley for more details on 0118 971 4830.

Sun 10 Oct

Ashampstead Common

Boundaries and Bridleways. 1.00pm

Join Dick Greenaway for about a 3½ mile walk to look at new paths and ancient boundaries in Ashampstead Common and Basildon parish. Meet at Childs Court Farm (SU 575 752) at 1.00pm. Well behaved dogs accepted. Please book your place.

Sun 24 Oct

Compton

Bring Your Bike. 1.00pm

A new venture for the Friends. An 8 mile, mainly off road, cycle ride to look at the Downland north of Compton. Mountain bikes advisable, helmets must be worn. Reading Cycle Touring Club has been invited to join us on this ride. Meet at Compton Downs Sports Centre (SU519 795) at 1.00pm. Ride leaders Tom Munro/Karen Davies. Please book your place.

For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (Grid ref. SU 550688) at 10.00 am Contact Tim Culley for more details on 0118 971 4830.

Tues16 Nov

Paices Wood

Coppicing

The woods in this country parkland are in need of some sympathetic management. Come and help start a coppicing programme in these beautiful woodlands. Meet at 10.00am at Paices Hill (through Youngs Industrial Est.) Grid ref: SU586638

Sun 21 Nov **Paices Wood** **Autumn Amble**
Come and discover the history of Paices Wood, whilst on a leisurely walk. In particular, we will learn about the gravel extraction that occurred at the site and how the area has since been transformed into a country park with valuable wildlife habitats. Meet at 10.00 at Paices Hill (through Youngs Industrial Est.) Grid ref: SU586638

Tues 23 Nov **Marlston** **Hedge Planting**
Help Dennis Gower plant a hedge in this attractive part of the Pang Valley. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00am or phone the Project office for details of meeting on site.

Fri 26 Nov **Brockhurst School** **Hermitage**
Christmas Wine Tasting Evening 7.30pm
The theme this year is Practical Tips for Christmas and Alan Montague Dennis will lead us through a number of value for money white and red wines followed up with a selection of ports from the House of Fonseca. Tickets are available from the office at £12.50 per person. Book early, as places are limited.

Sun 28 Nov **Stanford Dingley**
Lost Roads and Green Lanes. 1.00pm
Explore the medieval road system buried in the woods north of Stanford Dingley. Meet Dick Greenaway at Stanford Dingley church (SU576 717) at 1.00pm. About 5 miles. Well-behaved dogs accepted. Please book your place.

Tues 30 Nov **The Barn, West Woodhay** **Hedge Planting**
Join Karen Davies in a beautiful part of the world planting a new hedge. Sausage rolls and soup will be provided! Meet at The Barn, West Woodhay at 10am, Grid ref: SU 399634

Sat 11 Dec **Hosehill Lake LNR 9-12** **Scrub Clearance**
Join Theale Area Bird Conservation Group and the Ranger to clear encroaching scrub from the reserve. Meet at the entrance opposite the Fox & Hounds Pub at 10.00. Grid ref: SU650697

Sat 11 Dec **Bucklebury Common** **Heathland Management**
For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (Grid ref. SU 550688) at 10.00 am Contact Tim Culley for more details on 0118 971 4830.

Tues 14 Dec **Bucklebury** **Footpath Work**
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 Dennis Gower at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm * at 10.00 am.

*The Black Barn at Rushall Manor Farm is situated off Back Lane, between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield. Take the gravel track north off Back Lane to the west of Scratchface Lane. Grid ref. SU 583 723.

For more information, directions, etc.

See our Web site www.pangandkennetvalleys.org.uk

Or contact the Projects Office on 0118 930 5336.

THE PURLEY DIARY

A couple of people have suggested to me the idea of having a diary page, combining all the dates of events listed in the magazine. Here is a first attempt! Please let me know whether you think this would be a useful regular feature and whether the level of information below is appropriate.

Editor

October			
10	3 p.m.	Community Memorial Service	Church
13	7.30 p.m.	W.I.	Memorial Hall
15	8 p.m.	Project Purley	The Barn
16	10 a.m. - noon	RNLI coffee morning	99 Devonshire Gardens
16	11.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Church Autumn Fair	Church
19	8 p.m.	Pray for Purley	Church
20	8 p.m.	Horticultural Society Talk	Memorial Hall
23	2 - 3.30 p.m.	Purley Tots Autumn Fair	Church
30/31	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Art Exhibition	Memorial Hall

November			
2	7.30 p.m.	Village Plan Launch	The Barn
7	9.30 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.	Visiting speaker at services	Church
9	7.30 p.m.	Purley Beeches Resident's Assoc AGM	Church
20	7.30 p.m.	Murder Mystery Evening	Church
29	8 p.m.	Pray for Purley	Church

PURLEY TOTS

As soon as September begins we at Purley Tots start the somewhat frantic task of organising our annual Autumn Fayre. The last few years have been hugely successful and we all hope that this year will be the same. We are always amazed by the generosity of those who donate to us and this year we have some great raffle prizes.

Another regular for us this season is our trip to Home Farm. This is an outing that the children really enjoy and everyone looks forward to the wonderful home-made biscuits provided!

Next year Purley Tots will be 20 years old. We feel very strongly that this is something to celebrate and hope next year to have some kind of party in honour of the last 20 years and all the parents and children who have kept it going. If you have been involved with Purley Tots at any point in the last 20 years and would be interested in helping to organise a celebration then please call Nicky Danbury on 0118 943 1317.

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

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