

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

JANUARY 2005



*“But as for me and
my household,
we will serve
the LORD.”*

Joshua 24:15b (NIV)

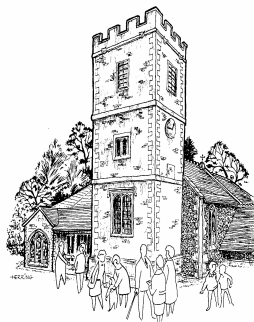
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For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES



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BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

All enquiries should be made to the Rector

www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

I wish you all a peaceful New Year! Time was, when January was the month in the year for Sales in the shops. In London people would camp out on the pavement hours, and sometimes days before the Sale began, in order to make sure of getting the bargain of a lifetime. When the doors finally opened, the stampede would begin and a few lucky folk would go home with some amazingly cheap purchases. Nowadays things are very different and many stores claim to be feeling the pinch and so begin their Sales before Christmas. And of course it won't be long before the same shops begin to advertise their "Mid-Season" Sales. I always wonder to which particular season they are referring! It seems that no matter what time of the year it is, there are reductions available. To see garages with Sale signs up was unheard of years ago, but now such sights are commonplace.



Of course everyone likes to get a bargain, and the prospect of something "free" is even better. There is no shortage of these kinds of offers around in our supermarkets. High Street competition is fierce and there is constant pressure to buy. It is often dressed up as an opportunity to "save," but what it really means is an invitation to "spend" – and probably to spend more than can really be afforded!

This is the month when plastic purchases have to be paid for, and many will be wishing that they had not signed on the dotted line so easily. Others will find themselves locked into a lengthy period of repayments with high interest charges, and some will perhaps be trapped for months or years to come.

Christmas is an expensive time of year but, in celebrating it, thousands of people will have missed the best bargain of all. They might have given it a single fleeting thought, but nothing by way of serious consideration. And yet, what is on offer to us through Christmas is mind-blowing. It is the gift of a lifetime. And unlike many other things we buy, it is totally reliable and will never break down or wear out!

The birth of Jesus is God's gift to us – not to create sentimental feelings at the sight of little children dressed as angels, but to provide the way to experience a new relationship with God. He gives the assurance that the things which spoil our lives and damage our relationships with others, can be forgiven. He enables us to discover a new depth of meaning to life – giving what no amount of cash could ever buy. And it is all in that event which took place in Bethlehem so long ago.

So what's the catch? There is none, but there is something you have to do and it is obvious when you think about it. Presents given and received at

Christmas have to be opened in order to find out what they are. This gift of God has to be opened too – i.e. looked at and thought about.

At the beginning of this New Year, I invite you to do just that, and to help I will give you a small booklet to get you started, if you contact me – Tel. 941 7727.

None of us knows what 2005 will bring, but if you discover what God has given you in Jesus, this year will certainly bring to your life what nothing else can.

Roger Howell

PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

28 Oct 2004	Marjorie Louise Summers, aged 85 (cremation)
7 Dec 2004	Melanie Anne White, aged 45 years (cremation)
9 Dec 2004	Elizabeth Beatrice Dudley, aged 86 years (cremation)



In the past 9 months, Christians from 8 different churches have met 7 times to pray for the needs and people of Purley on Thames. Each prayer meeting has had a different combination of people

and a different mix of prayer and conversation, but all have been focussed on discerning God's will for Purley and bringing our longings for our village to Him. Above all, the meetings have been an encouragement and a reminder that God cares about Purley and has plans for us. We will continue to meet during 2005 on the following dates, all at St. Mary's at 8 p.m. – please join us.

Mon 17 Jan

Mon 18 July

Tue 15 March

Tue 20 September

Mon 25 April

Mon 31 October

Tue 14 June

Tue 13 December

If you would like further details, please contact:

Sally Robertson

Tel: 962 5978

e-mail: sallyrobertson@waitrose.com

CHURCH SERVICES

9 Jan	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
16 Jan	9.30 a.m.	Family Communion (healing service)
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
23 Jan	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
30 Jan	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
6 Feb	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
	6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion

SERVICES WITH PRAYER FOR HEALING

The ministry of the laying on of hands continues to be available at St. Mary's Church on a monthly basis, but if anyone would like prayer for any aspect of healing, at another time please contact the Rector. (941 7727)

The next service will be on Sunday 16 January at 9.30 a.m.

ALL CHURCHES TOGETHER PANGBOURNE AND DISTRICT

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on Sunday 23 January with a united service at 3 p.m. at St. Bernadette's Church, Pangbourne. All are welcome.

Lent groups – there will be a number of inter-church Lent study groups this year beginning in the week after Ash Wednesday (9 Feb). Further information about these is available from the Rector.

HOW CLEAN IS YOUR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW'S HOUSE?

A survey of more than 1,000 women has discovered that around 83 per cent of future mothers-in-law judge their potential daughters-in-law on the cleanliness of their home. And with nearly half of them saying that a mother-in-law should be able to drop by their son's house whenever they want, potential daughters-in-law need to be prepared at all times.

*"Maximising People Potential
in a Competitive World"*

New Year.....New career!

...whether you've taken a career break and want to get back into work; whether you fancy doing something totally new, or whether you are choosing options at school...try online personality profiling...it identifies career choices to match your personality. Introductory offer £59 (Normal £75)...this profiling method is used by many organisations when recruiting new employees.

Look at the other services on offer and events running:
www.brightstartuk.com

For more information contact
Nikki on 07963 973933 or **nikki@brightstartuk.com**



Dear Mr Slingsby

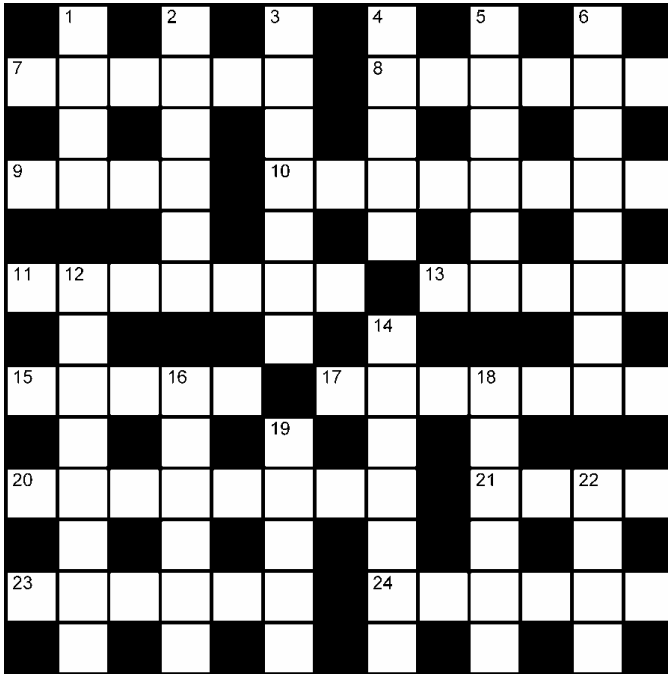
I was surprised and disappointed by the editorial licence that you allowed in the "Letter from Home Farm". While your contributors have every right to the views they hold, I don't agree that there should be room for overtly political articles which attack the local MP, among other things.

Anyone who doubts that the Church of England is the Tory party at prayer has only to read the Purley parish magazine to be convinced. If you would like to redress the balance by publishing an article on the reality of farmers and farming, I would be delighted to write one for you.

*Yours faithfully
Phil Davies*

I am aware (as I believe he is) that Councillor Metcalfe's writing often sails a bit close to the wind and I appreciate that readers may feel that they get enough political banter from the national press without getting it in the local parish magazine too! However, whilst it remains a generally light-hearted look at local political life, I am reluctant to apply too much in the way of censorship – with the consequence that I may let through things that others find less palatable. As for the Church of England [still] being the Tory party at prayer: could someone give me directions to the nearest Baptist church please?

Matthew Slingsby
Editor



Across

- 7 Any group of human beings (6)
- 8 The abode of God (6)
- 9 Aspect (4)
- 10 Circular flower arrangements (8)
- 11 Give to, in marriage (7)
- 13 Adversary (5)
- 15 Wide (5)
- 17 Dried grapes (7)
- 20 An agreement between God and His people (8)
- 21 Mixture of ground animal feeds (4)
- 23 Roman procurator at the time of Jesus' trial (6)
- 24 Unit of money in Israel (6)

Down

- 1 Where Samson slay a thousand Philistines with a jawbone (4)

- 2 Come into view (6)
- 3 Used to balance or assign relative value (7)
- 4 A combination of three or more notes that blend harmoniously (5)
- 5 The fourth son of Ham (6)
- 6 A keeper of cattle (8)
- 12 Formerly called Abyssinia (8)
- 14 An act, experience, or ordeal by which one is purified, sanctified, initiated, or named (7)
- 16 Roman Emperor (6)
- 18 Prophet and judge who anointed Saul (6)
- 19 One of the two over-twenties to survive the Wilderness (5)
- 22 Oracle (4)

WEST BERKS SCRABBLE® CLUB

It is now some months since we moved to The Barn for our Tuesday evening meetings, during which period we have welcomed 6 new members. Indeed, the last couple who joined us discovered that they lived but a couple of doors away from a long established member. If you enjoy Scrabble, then come along and find out what we are all about.

Tuesday 14 December is the date of our "party" night at which we hold a fun competition where all players stand an equal chance of winning. This is achieved by penalising the better players by an amount of points - in much the same way as is done in horse racing and golf. If the organiser gets it right then it ends up a very close contest, a good bit of fun, designed to send us off in merry spirits to start our Christmas holiday. The copy date for this edition (12 December) means that readers will have to wait 'til next month to find out who scooped the trophies.

In January the Club will hold a Charity Tournament which attracts players from as far afield as Exeter, Southend, Rutland and the South Coast. The popularity of this tournament (2005 will be the fifth event) and particularly our venue of The Barn, means that the tournament has been full (96 entrants) since the end of November. This year we are supporting the Sue Ryder Hospice as the beneficial charity. A full account of this event will be in the next edition.

For further details contact Ian or Elizabeth on 984 5045.

JANET FOSKETT SCHOOL OF DANCING

Children aged from 5 to 17 were entered for their ISTD Imperial Ballet exams in November, for which they worked very hard.

Classes are held on a Saturday morning at St Mary's Purley and on a Monday and Friday evening at Whitchurch on Thames. There are a few vacancies in the new Tiny Tots class (2 1/2 to 4) that is held on Monday afternoon at Whitchurch. Please phone for details.

PILATES

Two classes have been running on a Thursday afternoon at St Mary's Purley, one an improver's and one a beginner's. There are one or two vacancies in both classes, but you would now need some experience in order to join either class. However, about 3 sessions on a 'one to one' basis would enable you to join the beginner's class. Should you require further information then please do contact me.

*Janet Foskett
Dance and Pilates Teacher
01635 863891*



**Denefield
Business
Academy**
@ Denefield
School

Helping Purley on Thames to meet its
Adult Education needs

Course	Day and Time	Room	Start Date	End Date	Cost
Information Technology					
These courses can be arranged mid to late afternoon at the school, on dates other than below, if demand is sufficient.					
Build The Purley Website (MS FrontPage)	Tuesdays 19.00 – 21.00	Room IT9	11.01.05 22.02.05	08.02.05 and 22.03.05	£35
MS Word Basic	Wednesdays 19.00 – 20.00	Room IT9	12.01.05 23.02.05	09.02.05 and 23.03.05	£20
Charts and Graphs in MS Word and Excel	Wednesdays 20.00 – 21.00	Room IT9	12.01.05 23.02.05	09.02.05 and 23.02.05	£30
MS Excel Basic	Thursdays 17.00 – 18.00	Room IT9	13.01.05 17.02.05	10.02.05 and 17.03.05	£20
MS Powerpoint	Please contact us				
Health, Safety and Well-being					
These courses can also be arranged in Purley village (in addition to the schedule below), if venues are available, and demand is sufficient from local residents.					
Essentials of Health and Safety for Small Businesses	Fridays 15.30 – 17.30	TR1	28.01.05 25.02.05	28.01.05 and 25.02.05	£20
First Aid Essentials	Fridays 08.15 – 12.15	TBA	14.01.05 11.02.05 11.03.05	14.01.05 and 11.02.05 and 11.03.05	£40
Managing Stress	Fridays 15.30 – 17.30	TR1	14.01.05 11.02.05 11.03.05	14.01.05 and 11.02.05 and 11.03.05	£20
Business					
These courses can be run at a Denefield venue or at clients' business premises, assuming certain criteria can be met. Please contact us to find out about the options/costs					
Appraisal Skills	One day	Data Protection	Two Hours	Family-Friendly Policies	Two Hours
Appraisal Skills (refresher)	Half day	Disciplinary and Grievance	Two Hours	Home Alone Safe and Compliant	Two Hours
Intro to Management	One day	Employment Law Update	Two Hours	Is Your Company Disability Friendly?	Two Hours
Time Management	Half day	Equal Opportunities	Two Hours	Recruiting People + Retaining People	½ or 1 Day
To find out more and/or to book a place, please contact nikki@inschool.com or telephone 07963 973933. There will be more courses coming soon...					

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

The hedge cutter comes off the tractor this week and on goes the plough. We are aiming to grow spring barley over most of the arable land this year. Straw at present is worth more per tonne than the grain, which really shows how cheap grain is at present, only half the value of five years ago. However as I am ever optimistic that farming will come right again soon, maybe 2005 will be the year.

Three or four months ago Councillors received a form from West Berks on which to list all the mail received by way of the Royal Mail rather than in our bags brought out by courier twice a week. The bags, which arrive on a Wednesday and Friday evening, contain reams of paper, minutes of meetings, copies of letters, etc; each department at the council competing to fill the bag to remind Councillors that they not only exist, but how important they are. However, certain officers find it easier to slide the relevant envelopes through the franking machine and send it out via the Post Office rather than use the internal system. As there are fifty-two Councillors, this was proving very costly and after several complaints the survey was introduced.

Needless to say – for a whole month my ‘courier bag’ was full to bursting point and not one letter came by post, but I note that old habits die hard as over the past week I have received at least one item in the post each day! Perhaps the next survey should be more clandestine as informing the various departments in advance was a trite naïve!

However, D.E.F.R.A. our wonderful agricultural ministry must take the plaudits for producing and sending out the largest, glossiest bumf. Only this week I received not one, but three large envelopes containing Issue No 1 of Farming Link, their new information magazine, not one but three copies of a booklet titled ‘Agricultural Waste Regulation’ (a consultation paper) and not one but three huge envelopes containing important information on the Single Payment Scheme. Receiving one copy of each of these is bad enough, but three to exactly the same name and address seems a complete waste of money. It seems that I am not alone as neighbouring farms have received anything up to four or five copies of each! I thought with modern computer systems this could easily be resolved or am I being naïve

Having said all that, some letters are gratefully received. If you are one of those who has taken umbrage at something I have written in one (or more!) of my articles over the year, concerns about village life, Parish or District Council, please write to the editor and at least it will give me a subject upon which to base my future articles!

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Tim Metcalfe

To err is human; to really mess up takes a computer – *Editor*.



Have you got a good idea that would really make a difference to your community, school or youth group? Then the BIG BUZZ CHALLENGE would like to hear from you.

We have £5,000 in total to give away to young people for projects that they would play an active part in developing.

You would need to find out what other young people thought about your idea, they might have some ideas themselves and then, next year, you would have to come back and tell us about it using art – maybe you could make a video or write a song or act out some sketches to get your ideas across.

So if you want your community, your school or your youth group to BUZZ get someone to give Community Action West Berkshire a ring for an application pack on 01635 523857 or email sarah.ward@cckberks.org.uk



FOSTERING NOW

The world of fostering is continuing to undergo significant change. It has moved on from a time when foster carers were unpaid, untrained, volunteers who cared for orphaned children. Foster carers are gradually coming to be seen as professional childcare specialists who care for children with a wide range of needs. There are a number of reasons for these changes.

On the childcare front, efforts to enable more children to live in a family setting rather than in children's homes have proved so successful that a greater proportion of "looked after children" now live with foster carers than ever before.

Increasing awareness that some foster children require carers with high level parenting skills means that foster carers now receive a higher level of support, training and financial reward. Although foster carers are still primarily motivated by a desire to help children in need, these extra inputs now help to ensure that their efforts are more properly valued, recognised and supported.

The range of children needing help is now much more diverse and some foster carers now develop specialist interests: for example, caring for a sick baby, helping a young person who has sought asylum, supporting young mums and babies or caring for a disabled child. If you are interested in fostering and would like more information, please telephone Andy Clipson on 01993 201514 or email info@familyplacement.com

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A.G.M

This will take place on Wednesday, 16 February, 2005 commencing at **7.45 p.m. in Purley Memorial Hall**. After the official business has been completed, Mr. David Penny will give a talk on "Changes in gardening in the last 50 years".

SNOWDROP WALK

Welford Park (between Boxford and Great Shefford) will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays (11 a.m. - 5 p.m.) and Sundays (2 p.m. - 5 p.m.) from 1 - 28 February: Call 01488 608478 for more information.

TRADING

The Shed is now closed and will re-open on Saturday, 5 February 2005, when your annual membership for the Society can be renewed. Seed potato forms should be returned to Bob Hawkins as soon as possible. If anyone else would like seed potatoes, please contact Bob for an order form or the Trading Shed when it re-opens. Bird seed may also be purchased from Alex Stott on 941 9186(e-mail: vastott@aol.com) or Bob Hawkins on 982 2949 whilst the Shed is closed.

Finally, a very happy new year to everyone and good gardening in 2005.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting with the Thames Valley Police, organised by the Neighbourhood Action Group, in the Barn on 23 November was very well attended and provided residents with the opportunity to air their concerns about local crime issues and policing. At the end of the meeting all present were invited to indicate their personal priorities on the issues raised. The outcomes of this action will be summarised and reported to the next meeting of NAG during this month. At the meeting it was again stressed that all anti-social behaviour or low level crime should be reported on the TVP non-emergency telephone no. 0845 8 505 505. Without knowledge of incidents there will obviously be a limit to actions taken by the Police. Where there is risk of serious injury or crime is being committed, or about to be committed, the emergency number (999) should always be used.

On the same night there was a meeting of local volunteer flood wardens organised by the Environment Agency. The Parish Council now has its own flood plan in place and is equipped to run an emergency control centre in the event of a repeat of the flood problems. A further meeting has been organised at the Council office on 18 January when the new type sandbag

will be demonstrated by West Berkshire Council who have upgraded their own emergency planning as they are of course the principle agency involved.

The village plan survey indicated that over 30% of those replying obtained local information from the notice boards but as these have suffered from vandalism and decline, a programme of refurbishment or replacement is being put in hand starting with the one at the end of Mapledurham Drive. Another programme has been put in place for litter bins with additional provision being made at Goosecroft Recreation Ground, Pikeshaw and Purley Village. This will also be reviewed in the forthcoming budgetary process.

The hours for the weekly surgery at the Council office on Monday evenings has been changed to 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. but the office itself will remain open to 8.30 p.m. as usual. A key and chain were recently found in the Goosecroft play area and are available from the office as is an umbrella left over on the days of the travel token issue in 2003!

As mentioned last month application forms and criteria have been sent out to local organisations that have either received, or applied for, small grants from the Parish Council in previous years. If your organisation has not received one and wishes to apply please contact the office urgently as completed forms will need to be returned by 31 January to ensure consideration.

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

WEDNESDAY CLUB

The Wednesday Club is sponsored by the Purley Sports and Social Club and meets fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons from 2.15 p.m. to 4.15 p.m. in the comfort of the Purley Sports and Social Club. We welcome retired Purley residents who would like to join us for a chat and a cup of tea to meet old friends and make new friends. Our first meeting in 2005 will be on 10 January. Please contact Rita Denman on 984 4682.

PROJECT PURLEY

The next meeting of Project Purley will be on 18 February at 8 p.m. at The Barn, Goosecroft Lane. Leslie Grout will give a talk about St George's Chapel Windsor.

On Friday 19 November, Ros Downing gave a very interesting talk on two very different yet connected lives, that of the 3rd Earl of Radnor and his coachman Joseph Fuller.

William Pleydell Bouverie Third Earl of Radnor was born in 1779. He was educated in France and presented to royalty there. He continued his education at Oxford and did the Grand Tour of Europe. Heir to many titles and vast estates the seat of the Pleydell Bouveries was Coleshill House situated between Highworth and Farringdon. Built in 1660 Inigo Jones gave advice during the building. At the time it was known as The Flower of Berkshire. Coleshill House was inhabited until World War II after which it was sold to Cooks the travel company. In 1952 Coleshill was ruined by fire but the estate remains as a working agricultural estate.

It was to the 6,000 acre estate of Coleshill that William brought his bride Lady Catherine Pelham Clinton. Sadly Catherine died in the early years of the marriage. Following her death William went to pieces. However he pulled himself together again and re-married. His second wife was Anne Judith St John Mildmay who blessed the union with sons and daughters.

William embarked on a political career. His strong principles and ultra liberalism distinguished him from all other lords. He was instrumental in bringing about the abolition of the slave trade in 1807 and the abolition of slavery in 1829. He fought for the civil rights of dissenters and was committed to civil liberties. He was involved with the Education Act which was eventually passed in 1870, parliamentary reform, the secret ballot and extending the franchise to a wider section of the population. He believed in free trade and freedom from government economics. He fought against protectionism and the Corn Laws which were finally repealed in 1846. High Farming was promoted by William, the principles of which were contained in the publication by James Caird in 1849 titled 'High Farming under Liberal Covenants'.

William retired from politics in 1848 spending his energies in running his estate at Coleshill. He bred the Coleshill pig, a white pig, gaining him a high reputation, in this country and in France. In 1856 he built the first and prototype Model Farm at Coleshill. This was designed with factory like efficiency and was copied on many other estates. William was also conscious of the needs of his workers and cottages he built in Coleshill Village were admired and no doubt viewed with envy by less fortunate workers on other estates

William Pleydell Bouverie spent much of his life working for the rights of those less fortunate than himself. He died in 1869.

Joseph Fuller was born in 1827, the son of an ostler. He took a position as a stable helper with the Earl of Radnor at Coleshill House in 1843. By diligence and hard work he rose to groom and later to coachman and eventually to head coachman. He was supplied with livery and a set of clothes and accommodation. Also employed at Coleshill as a housemaid and also as a living in servant, was Christiana the daughter of the local butcher of Coleshill Village. The young couple formed a friendship which blossomed into marriage which took place in 1843. The newly married couple confidently expected to be granted married quarters but must have been surprised if not dismayed that the new quarters were in London in Grosvenor Mews behind Lord Radnor's town house. It must have been a traumatic time for Joseph and Christiana coming from a country environment into the hustle and bustle of London town life. They spent the rest of their working lives in London employed by Lord Radnor, retiring to Kemsing in the Kent countryside. Christiana died in 1903, and Joseph in 1910.

Ros Downing revealed that she had more than a passing interest in Joseph and Christiana Fuller as they were her great great grandparents, and the study of Lord Radnor had come about through her research into her family history.

Rita Denman.

PURLEY PLAYERS

**Back by popular demand
a reprise of the recent successful
Murder Mystery Evening**



“A Show to Die For”

Saturday, 29 January 2005

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

Tickets: £12.50 to include a three course meal

Please bring your own drink

Box Office opens: Monday, 10 January 2005

Tel: 0118 962 5760

Email: mike.adnett@ntlworld.com

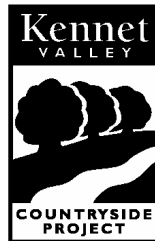
Tickets on a first come first served basis

www.purleyplayers.fsnet.co.uk





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

Sun 9 Jan

Heathland Management

Bucklebury Common

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 16 Jan

Winter Bird Walk 9.30am

Moatlands, Reading

Come and join John Lerpiniere and the Theale Area Bird Conservation Group on their monthly walk and hone your winter bird identification skills. Meet at the Moatlands car park, off the Burghfield Rd. NGR SU669703

Tue 18 Jan

Coppicing

Jennets Hill

Help Dennis Gower to restore coppice woodland and cut stakes and binders for hedge laying. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10 a.m. or phone the Project office for details of meeting on site.

Sat 22 Jan

Hedgerow maintenance

Hosehill LNR Theale

Join the Ranger and Theale Area Bird Conservation Group to carry out essential maintenance to the hedge that was planted by volunteers last February. Meet at the entrance opposite the Fox & Hounds Pub at 9.00am. Grid ref: SU650697

Tue 25 Jan

Scrub clearance

Hampstead Norreys

Get involved with the historic environment by joining Dennis Gower in clearing a Norman motte. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10 a.m. or phone the Project office for details of meeting on site.

Sun 30 Jan

Old Boundary and New Woods 1.00pm

Frilsham, Yattendon

Four and a quarter miles (7km) along sheltered paths and quiet country roads starting and finishing at The Pot Kiln pub. (SU 552 731). Start 1 p.m. back about 4 p.m. Walk leader Dick Greenaway. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Please phone to book your place

Sun 6 Feb

Hedge planting

Bucklebury

Help Karen Davies restore a hedge next to the river Pang. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10.00am or phone the Project office for details of meeting on site.

- Fri/Sat 11/12 Feb 10 a.m. Hedge laying Training course Turnpike**
 Come and learn the traditional skill of hedge-laying at the Riverside Meadow, Newbury. A trainer will be on hand to help develop and improve your hedge-laying skills. Meet at Riverside Meadow, next to Riverside Community Centre SU485677. Booking is required for this event through the Project office either £10 per day or £5 per day for concessions.
- Sat 12 Feb BBQ & Heathland Management Bucklebury Common**
 Please bring own food for BBQ. For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (Grid ref. SU 550688) at 10 a.m. Contact Tim Culley for more details on 0118 971 4830.
- Fri 18 Feb 'Pang Valley Skittles Championship' Upper Bucklebury**
7.30 p.m. - 11 p.m.
 Join the volunteer group for the annual 'Pang Valley Skittles Championship'. Cost £8 per person. Tickets include a buffet meal (please bring own drink and glasses), available from Project Office. Numbers are strictly limited so please book early. Meet at Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall (SU 545 684) for 7.30 p.m.
- Sat 19 Feb Hedge planting Hosehill LNR Theale**
 Join the Ranger and Theale Area Bird Conservation Group to plant a hedge along a path at this tranquil wildlife reserve. Meet at the entrance opposite the Fox & Hounds Pub at 9 a.m. Grid ref: SU650697
- Sun 20 Feb Downs with Barrows 1 p.m. Lambourn**
 Lambourn Seven Barrows is an internationally important site for both archaeology and botany. Join Dick and Jill Greenaway for a 3.5-mile (5.5km) walk across open down land and along green lanes to look at the barrows and the surrounding downland. Meet at the Nature Reserve car park (SU 329 828) at 1 p.m. Back soon after 3 p.m. Dogs on leads only please. Please phone to book your place.
- Tue 22 Feb Footpath Work Bucklebury**
 Help 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 a.m.
- Sun 27 Feb Hedge Restoration Holt Lodge Farm**
 Come and help Karen Davies restore hedgerows in the beautiful North Wessex Downs AONB and experience the hospitality of Holt Lodge Farm. We will be coppicing and planting to help regenerate an overgrown hedge. Meet at Kintbury train station. Grid Ref: SU386672 at 9.30 a.m.
- Tue 1 Mar Hedge planting Brookfield's School Tilehurst**
 Come and help Colin Esrich and the children of this special needs school plant a new hedge to encourage wildlife into the school grounds and provide the children with a valuable learning resource. Meet at the Brookfields School, Sage Road Tilehurst at 10 a.m.
- Fri/Sat 4/5 Mar 10 a.m. Hedge laying Training course Hampstead Norreys**
 Come and have a go at hedge-laying in the picturesque Pang Valley. A trainer will be on hand to help develop and improve your hedge-laying skills. Meet off Wyld Court Hill NGR SU536762. Booking is required for this event through the Project office either £10 per day or £5 per day for concessions.

Tue 8 Mar **Footpath clearance** **Paices Wood**
Come and clear the final section of the path that winds through Paices Wood, to complete the footpath network in this fascinating country park. Meet at 10 a.m. at Paices Wood (through Youngs Industrial Est.) Grid ref: SU586638

Sun 13 Mar **River Clean up** **Shaw/Newbury**
The Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clean-Up Event is back! Come and help clean up part of the River Lambourn at Shaw as part of the RESCUE event. Meet on bridge in Walton Way off Turnpike Road at 10 a.m.

Sun 13 Mar **Heathland Management** **Bucklebury Common**
For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (Grid ref. SU 550688) at 10 a.m. Contact Tim Culley for more details on 0118 971 4830.

Sat/Sun 19/ 20 Mar 11 a.m.-6 p.m. **Lambing Open Days** **Rushall Farm**
Come and see the first lambs of the season at Rushall Farm, Bradfield*. The farm will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. all proceeds go towards the Reading Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Sun 20 Mar **New Paths and Old Parks 1 p.m.** **Eling**
An inaugural walk around a network of paths newly created at Eling Farm and then through ancient woods. These paths form part of a Countryside Stewardship Scheme on which the Pang and Kennet Valleys Countryside Project FWAG advised. Eling Farm is an organic farm. The walk will be led by Eling's farmer Brian Goodenough and Dick Greenaway. Meet at Eling Farm (SU523 749) at 1 p.m. Dogs on leads only. The walk is about 2.5 miles (4km) and includes a modest hill. Please phone to book your place.

Sun 20 Mar 11 a.m. **Tree marking training event** **Paices Wood**
David Rees from Oxfordshire Woodland Group will run a training day to show people how to decide which trees to mark for cutting and which to leave when coppicing a wood. This should prove to be an excellent event, at a venue with an ideal range of woodland in which to carry out demonstrations. This free training day has a limited number of places available, so please book early. This would suit all those interested in woodland management, particularly volunteers and land managers.

Tue 22 Mar **Meadow Management** **Riverside Meadow Turnpike**
Help to rake up the cuttings from the recently established wildflower meadow at Riverside Gardens. Set alongside the River Lambourn, the meadow is a valuable resource for the local community to enjoy. Meet outside the Riverside Community Centre at 10 a.m. Grid ref: SU485678

Sun 3 Apr 11 a.m.-4 p.m. **Open day** **Paices Wood Country Park**
At last the grand opening of West Berkshire's best-kept secret is here! Come for a fun family day out from 11 a.m. onwards and discover your local Country Park. Nature trails, wildflower planting, family activities, face painting and displays from local conservation groups are just some of the highlights of the day. Access to the Country Park is through Youngs Industrial Estate. Grid ref: SU586638

*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.

Tue 19 Apr Friends AGM 7-7.30 p.m.

Discovery Centre Thattham

The AGM of the 'Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valleys' will be held at the Discovery Centre Thattham. The AGM will be followed by a talk from Jason Ball of the Barn Owl Conservation Network based at Sheepdrove Organic Farm Lambourn. Any items for the agenda please contact the Project Office.

For more information, directions, etc.

See our Web site www.pangandkennetvalleys.org.uk

Or contact the Projects Office on 0118 930 5336.

Purley Parish News

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I welcome all contributions to this magazine, particularly on local issues and events. Contributions can either be delivered in writing or 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. If specially preparing content, please set your page size to A5.

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This magazine is published on the first Saturday of each month (except August). The price of each issue is 35p with a discounted annual subscription price of £3.50 for eleven issues.

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

This edition published	Next edition copy deadline	Next edition published
1 January 2005	22 January 2005	5 February 2005

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