

# PURLEY PARISH NEWS

**JUNE 2005**



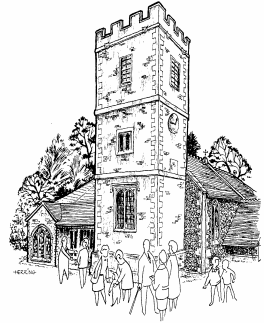
**35P**

For the Church & Community of  
**PURLEY ON THAMES**

# ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

## PURLEY ON THAMES

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### RECTOR

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Purley on Thames  
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### 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

Lorna Herring  
Tel: 0118 942 1547

John Rothery  
Tel: 0118 984 3625

### CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Lorna Herring  
Tel: 0118 942 1547

### BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

All enquiries should be made to the Rector

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[www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk)

# FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

## CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

In the recent General Election, the turnout nationally, and in the Reading West constituency was just over 60%. That means that just under 40% did not bother to cast their vote. All kinds of different reasons for non-participation could be advanced:

- Lack of confidence in Party leaders
- A feeling of insignificance as a voter
- Confusion about the issues at stake
- Lack of interest in politics
- Lack of care re. outcome

Whatever reasons kept people away, it seems strange to me that we fight to give others the right to vote elsewhere in the world, but turn our backs on the freedom we have here!

Thinking of our own community here in Purley – do we care what happens locally and on a wider front? Or are we so wrapped up in our own small lives that we can't be bothered to get involved? Neighbourhood Watch schemes do a good job and certainly help to reduce crime. Property and possessions are important concerns, but what about the people who live near us? Are we as concerned for them as persons, as we may be for protecting the things they own?

I have been struck recently by hearing stories of how people have been concerned for neighbours who face times of anxiety and stress – practical help has been given: transport to hospitals and meals prepared etc. Doubtless, much more goes on in that respect that I am aware of. It shows that the sense of community – fragmented as it may be because of our pattern of living these days – is not completely dead. The recently-produced Village Plan also revealed that the sense of belonging together has not disappeared.

But what about those who still feel that no one cares?

What of those for whom looking after a garden is becoming a bit of a nightmare?

How about those who go for doctor's appointments and then have to wait around for ages for a bus back home?

There may be people like that just along the road. Is there some way you could help them? From time to time there are reports in the press about the discovery of someone who has been dead for days, weeks or much



# CHURCH SERVICES

5 June	9.30am	Family Worship with visiting speaker from SAMS
	11.15am	Holy Communion with visiting speaker
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
12 June	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion with prayer for healing
19 June	9.30am	Family Communion
	11.15am	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
26 June	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
3 July	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion



The next opportunity to meet with Christians from a number of different churches will be on Tuesday 14 June, at 8pm at St. Mary's Church.

If you would like further details, please contact:

Sally Robertson	962 5978	sallyrobertson@waitrose.com
Chris Rayers	942 1880	c.rayers@talk21.com



Is the Fairtrade movement in danger of being diluted? This question is being asked because a few companies appear to be using the term rather loosely and now that there are more than 500 products on the market – there were only 130 in 2003 – consumers can easily get confused.

Obviously, it is a good thing that there are more Fairtrade products available, including a new Oxfam-backed coffee-shop chain (Progreso) which stocks coffee from the devastated Indonesian province of Aceh. But the entry of the multi-nationals could be a cause for concern. The worry is that big brands may jump on the ethical bandwagon, enhancing their corporate reputation but not necessarily to the benefit of local producers.

The fact that a firm is donating to a charity working in poor countries is not, in itself, a guarantee that its products conform to the criteria laid down by the Fairtrade Foundation for fair treatment of producers. The Foundation, which controls use in the UK of the Fairtrade mark (seen on packaging) by granting licences, requires that a licensed firm pays certified

producers a price that covers the cost of production plus a premium which those people, as a group or co-operative, can spend as they think fit on improving their living conditions.

The mark has been awarded not only to food and drink products, but also to roses from Kenya and footballs from Pakistan.

The Fairtrade Foundation was set up by CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Traidcraft, the World Development Movement and New Consumer (a magazine). Although charities had led the way, it was felt that it was important to get commercial manufacturers involved, and to get Fairtrade into the supermarkets where most people shop (hence the Mark).

Recently, the National Federation of Women's Institutes joined with the Foundation, CAFOD and Banana Link to urge the EU and the UK Government to help Fairtrade banana farmers in the Windward Islands whose livelihoods are threatened by new EU proposals. One in five Windward Island bananas now carry the Fairtrade Mark, and increasing sales are helping farmers to survive.

To learn more about Fairtrade, go to the website: [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) or visit the Church Shop after services at St Mary's on first and third Sundays.

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## **BUCKNELL'S MEADOW - WHAT NOW?**

In case you're one of the many people who have their own names for places, and are never sure of the *real* names, Bucknell's Meadow is the park on the way down to the river. You will no doubt be familiar with this large grassy area, with swings, slides and a climbing frame in one corner. This is an area the Parish Council is keen to develop, as currently it seems to be an under-used resource. Hence the Public meeting last month to discuss how it could best be used in the future.

The meeting agreed with the village plan conclusion that there are too few facilities for teenagers within Purley and felt something should be done to redress this balance. There are plenty of ideas, ranging from cycle tracks to teenage shelters, and basketball hoops to climbing walls. However it also acknowledged that living alongside Bucknell's Meadow is not always pleasant for the neighbours, with excessive noise and anti-social behaviour, sometimes spoiling summer evenings. So, the challenge facing us is providing more facilities without spoiling the quality of life for those living nearby.

It was generally agreed at the meeting, and seems currently to be a popular view nationwide, that teenagers like and deserve to have responsibility and that any new equipment will be most appreciated and respected if those who are expected to use it are expected to choose it and

look after it as well. This approach should encourage responsible use of the new facilities and deter the tiny minority who may only wish to cause trouble. Coupled with the more targeted policing which the Neighbourhood Action Group is enabling, we should be able, as a parish, to have our cake and eat it, so to speak: allowing our youth to enjoy themselves, without causing misery to anyone else.

Where do we go from here? I'm looking to involve local youngsters in the next stages of planning and implementing the new facilities which they want – balanced of course, by what can be afforded and is appropriate – so if you, or anyone you know would like to be consulted, please encourage them to get in touch with me. We also have a group of adults who volunteered at the meeting to be involved in developing Bucknell's Meadow in whatever way they can, so let me know if you'd like more information on that.

*Sally Robertson*

*Tel: 962 5978. email: [sallyrobertson@waitrose.com](mailto:sallyrobertson@waitrose.com)*



## **HOLIDAY APARTMENTS**

Two brand-new beachside holiday apartments to rent in North Devon.

The purpose-built apartments are within yards of the long sandy, surfing beach at Westward Ho! (Near the market town of Bideford) They are on the ground floor with a decked area at the front, and have magnificent sea views. Each apartment has one bedroom with a double bed, and a sofa bed in the lounge. They are fully equipped, with a washing machine, dishwasher, microwave and freezer. They each have an allocated parking space in a secure car park. This is an ideal location, not only for access to the beach and coastal walks, but also to visit all the attractions in central and North Devon. The Royal Devon golf course is nearby. Some dates still available this summer.

For more details please call 942 0663

# Party in the Park 2005

## 26 June - Crafts in the Park\*

*Arts and Crafts on display and for sale*

*Children's activities - Scrabble games*

*Help decorate the picnic table*

*Comment on the future of the park*

*And much more...*

**Supported by:**

*West Berks Scrabble Club - Thames Valley Artists Group*

*1<sup>st</sup> Purley and Pangbourne Scout Group - Purley Parish Council*

*There may be a small charge for some activities*

*\*Now with added sport: postponed from Sport in the Park, 22 May*

**Both events**  
**Bucknell's Meadow**  
**3.30-5.30pm**

Parking available at:  
St. Mary's Church

Organised by St. Mary's Church and  
other local groups

## 17 July

### Praise in the Park

*Extreme Worship*

*With Jim Bailey*

*Featuring the Spicy Camels*

*Music - Fun for All*

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## WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Summer has set in with its usual severity.

*S T Coleridge*

Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.

*Charles Warner*



# Oh I do like to be beside the Seaside

St Mary's Church is organising a day trip to Bournemouth on Saturday 17 September. The cost will be £10 per person for the coach and you can also book a fish and chip supper to eat on the beach.

If you'd like to join us, please contact Sally Robertson (962 5978) for more details and a booking form.

Beautiful beach      Plenty of shops      Fun on the pier

## **COMMUNITY POLICING UPDATE TEMPERATURE UP – CRIME UP?**

The year is rushing on and summer is nearly upon us. The nights are getting longer, the evenings warmer and people are thinking about summer holidays, leaving work behind for a few weeks and balmy nights in beer gardens. Or maybe that's just me!

Seriously, that is a lovely thought, but for police it conjures up a few more – let's say – problematic images. Windows being left open while you are at work, valuables left on display with an open invite for the local burglar to help themselves, car windows open, youths with lots of time on their hands in the holidays and nowhere to go... I could go on but you get the picture and I don't want to ruin your summer. I would just ask that you all take measures to make sure you, and your neighbours, have a pleasant summer with no visits from us! The crime prevention messages are basic and I am sure you have heard them all before: don't leave your windows open if you go out, even if it is really hot (I find getting one of the PCs to act as fan monitor always solves the problem in our office), the same applies to cars. Make sure you cancel the milk/newspaper if you go away, perhaps ask your neighbour to park on your drive for the time you are gone and nip in now and again and switch a few lights on, move your post off the door mat and open and close the curtains.

Remember you can postcode all your valuables with indelible "invisible" ink (free marker pens are available from your local police station) which can be read under UV light but which can't be seen by the naked eye. At least this means we will be able to get your property back to you if it's found. As you can see, it is common sense, but every year we are faced with more people in very distressed states because they have come home to a

burglary because they forgot to shut that upstairs bathroom window. It causes absolute misery and will ruin your holiday I can assure you.

If you are a parent, you will know this time of the year can be extremely long when the kids have got all that energy and no where to expend it all. We have done a lot of work with local youths to try and curb antisocial behaviour (more of this below), but there is a massive onus on the parents here to make sure they know where their youngsters are and what they are up to. They may be out later that unusual due to the light evenings and holidays – that’s no excuse not to keep tabs on them.

Right, lecture over. I wish you all a very pleasant summer, with plenty of fun. Be careful and don’t let a few thieves ruin it for you.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UPDATE**

Neighbourhood policing in the Pangbourne area continues apace with several new developments for the local community to get involved in as well as a dramatic drop in crime in some areas.

Pangbourne, Theale and Burghfield neighbourhoods – which cover those places and the surrounding areas - were the first to “go live” with neighbourhood policing and are leading the way in resolving quality of life issues and cutting crime.

Residents and businesses in the Overdown Road and Knowsley Road in Tilehurst have benefited from the police and partners working together to use dispersal orders on youngsters hanging around and causing trouble, with the result of a dramatic 50 per cent reduction in crime in the past year and a reduction in calls to police requiring attendance.

Pangbourne and district was the first area of Thames Valley Police to introduce dispersal orders, and they have had a marked impact on anti-social behaviour. Since the orders came into effect on 1 June last year, there has been a big reduction in problems caused by youths congregating.

We have received positive feedback from businesses and the community and, along with our partners, we will continue to use the powers given to us. I hope with the general improvements in both areas, people will in future feel reassured and safer. We will be renewing the dispersal orders on June 1 from 5pm.

The advantages of neighbourhood policing, and foot beat, came to light recently in Pangbourne, when two offenders were arrested for an attempted robbery at the train station. The victim had left on a train and the job was called in by two young girls on the opposite platform. Two neighbourhood officers had been walking near the train station earlier in the evening and were in the village when they heard the call come in. They ran to the station to get a car to attend. Not only did they arrest the two offenders but they identified the victim through good police work.

They remembered two youths they had recorded stop and account forms on at the station later speaking to another youth who fitted the description of the victim. When they contacted these youths they were given the name of this other youth. He was contacted and confirmed two males had tried to rob him. He was only 15 years old and had not mentioned this to his parents at that point.

## **SPEEDING TOWARDS SUCCESS**

In Burghfield, the educational Speed Indicator Device has been in use following feedback that speeding in the area was a priority. This has been manned by volunteers in conjunction with West Berkshire Council's highways department. The device alerts drivers as to their speed and whether they are breaking the limit.

Speeding has been identified in all three of the neighbourhoods as a priority and volunteers have been appointed from each neighbourhood to be a point of contact between trained local SID operators and West Berkshire Council's highways department to ensure the SID is used to educate drivers that speeding is unacceptable. The operators will feed back to police problem areas or people and if need be enforcement will be carried out to reinforce the message.

Anyone who has concerns about policing issues or information about crime in the Pangbourne area should contact one of their neighbourhood officers via the police enquiry centre on 0845 8 505 505. If you have information about crime but do not want to leave your name, or speak to an officer, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

*Inspector Andy Talbot*

## **CAN YOU LISTEN AS WELL AS HEAR?**

If you can, we want to hear from you. June is Listening and Advising Month at Volunteer Centre West Berkshire in this the Year of The Volunteer. There are many West Berkshire organizations all of whom serve West Berkshire People in a variety of ways and need more people to serve in a voluntary capacity which could be you! To find out more, we invite people of your parish to visit our Volunteer Recruitment Day at Newbury Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury. There you can find out about volunteering with The Citizens Advice Bureau, Samaritans, Cruse Bereavement Care, Thames Valley Police, Home Start West Berkshire, Buddies, Berkshire Women's Aid, 14-21 Time To Talk, Age Concern, West Berkshire Library Service and Link Up, on Saturday 25 June between 9.30am and 4pm. Alternatively, contact:



*Volunteer Centre West Berkshire*  
*01635 49004*

*newburv@volunteerbureau141.fsnet.co.uk*  
*www.volunteerwestberks.org.uk*

## MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

Want to know how to make it rain so that your maize germinates? Then plan to cut grass for silage. The machinery's all serviced and ready to roll; the building which houses the clamp is swept out and in pristine condition; and my fellow farmers, who make up the *gang* are ready to go. A perfect recipe for the sun to disappear behind grey clouds and the heavens open their *rain-doors*!

It certainly would have been good to tuck away a few acres of grass over the weekend as every evening next week is solidly booked. Mind you it could give me a good excuse to miss a few meetings! Trying to decide which I should go to, when several occur on the same night, presents its own problems. Following the recent by-election I have been asked to sit on more committees and the organisers are not keen on taking no for an answer. However I do feel guilty if, for example, I miss a meeting of a local organisation because I have a committee meeting in Newbury. I have also turned down an invitation to join a prestigious agricultural group; a group that I would very much like to have joined but due to my council commitments I feel unable to give it enough attention.

Back to the present... local issues will be raised next Tuesday at the Annual Parish Meeting to which I know I will arrive late, as I have an early evening meeting in Newbury, although I might do better missing both and attending the Adventure Dolphin Management Committee. They will be discussing the redevelopment of the centre and the fund raising needed to complete the task.

I digress! One topic which has been the source of many phone calls and meetings is the creation of disabled access to the river. Different schemes were considered but many residents were concerned about potentially opening up the fields to motorbikes and the like, whereas I was also concerned about my cattle escaping! The result is that no alteration is to be made to the access from Riverside Gardens. I know that many are relieved, partly because of the cost involved, partly as a ramp would have to be built out into the field and partly because it would be difficult to police. The work has now been done, with a key-operated gate having been installed adjacent to the kissing gate from Wintringham Way and two easy-access gates at the Mapledurham Drive end. One has already been placed by the entrance gate to Blounts Meadow and the second is to be put in the gate half-way down, as a second line of defence for my cattle if the field gate is accidentally left open!

Any problems... contact the new Chairman of WBDC!! Seriously, it gave me great pleasure in proposing John Chapman at the last Council meeting and not before time that he was elected to the top spot. I sincerely hope that he has a great year, he deserves it.

*Tim Metcalfe*

## A SPECK OF DUST – KENYA 1940

Whilst still at Gilgil base it fell to my lot to take the Colonel and the Brigade Major, and also a subaltern as my navigator, to visit Lady Idina Soltau up in the Aberdares. Starting early we reached the elegant farmstead villa (at 8,000 feet) in time for lunch.

The Clouds was aptly named for the vistas below of lesser peaks peeping through floating clouds and mists. There were acres of terraces of pyrethrum daisies plus tea and coffee shrubs.

My passengers were well refreshed, whilst I was entertained in the library with soft drinks and a nice luncheon tray brought by a very beautiful young lady who stayed for an obligatory chat. Later after a stroll then a snooze, I was awakened by the same princess, bringing tea and cake.

On the return journey my officers were soon sound asleep, including my navigator.

Next day I was ordered to continue as the Colonel's chauffeur until one day Brigade held an arms inspection – a speck of dust appeared in the barrel of my rifle. So ended my dreams of revisiting my "Princess" amongst the daisies in the Clouds.

All forgotten, but the scene of the Clouds was recalled 60 years later seeing the fairy-tale castle of Cordes-sur-Ciel floating above clouds in France, but alas no princess!

*An extract from: Testament of a Doctor – A Life of Contrasts  
by Dr John A. Hofmeyr. Reprinted with permission.*

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## **PURLEY INFANT SCHOOL RAINBOW CARNIVAL & PARTY IN THE PARK SATURDAY 9 JULY**

Carnival parade leaves school for Bucknell's meadow at 2.30

Attractions in the park include

Dancing display by the school children

BBQ                      bar                      disco

Face painting                                      balloon modelling

Children's entertainer

Tombolas

lucky dips and more

Admission adults £1

Accompanied children free

## **PURLEY W.I.**

Thanks must go to Gillian MacDonald for a very profitable coffee morning, which included a bring-and-buy. She raised £100 towards a scanner and this sum will be forwarded to Royal Berkshire Hospital, a welcome donation I'm sure, and something we will all benefit from as it makes its way to the X-Ray Department.

We are hoping to man a stall at this year's Fete in Pangbourne on Saturday 11 June, so please may we have good weather!

Tilehurst W.I. are celebrating their 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, we wish them Happy Birthday and will send two representatives along to their party.

No speaker this month as we have this year's resolutions to chew over and in this we were helped by our own W.I. Adviser, Ruth Mordon. This is always a good debate and the results of our voting will be forwarded by our representative to the Annual Conference to be held in the Albert Hall. Details of resolutions below:

### **CARE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT**

This meeting calls on W.I. members to take further action to reduce waste and conserve resources in their own homes and communities; to lobby manufacturers, retailers and decision makers to reduce waste in the production, packaging and transportation of public and consumer goods.

### **FARMGATE MILK PRICES**

This meeting urges W.I. members to do all in their power to raise public awareness of the unfair difference between the retail prices of milk and the price paid to the farmer.

### **FLOWER COMPETITION**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ann Davis
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Daphne Howard
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sylvia Conquest and Valerie Hutchings.

Next month's speaker, Pauline Boulton, will be demonstrating T.V. makeup.

Competition: Hand-made Face Mask.

Stall: Make-up, bath and beauty.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8 June at 7.30pm in Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley. Visitors are welcome.

*Sylvia Conquest*  
941 1936

# PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



At the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 12 May David Betts was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing council year. Rick Jones was appointed Vice Chairman and Penny Williams will continue as Alternate Vice Chairman. Members were appointed to the service committees and representatives chosen to liaise with a number of local organisations. The meeting was adjourned for the committees to appoint their own Chairman as follows:

Highways & Footpaths	Penny Williams
Recreation	Sally Robertson
Barn Management	Rick Jones

A schedule of meetings for the year was agreed and this will be displayed on the notice boards shortly. During June the Chairman's Committee will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Barn Management Committee on the 16<sup>th</sup> and the full Parish Council on the 30<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the meeting the Council reluctantly accepted the resignation of the previous Vice Chairman, Christine Taylor, on personal grounds. West Berkshire Council have already been notified and, unless an election is called in accordance with the statutory notices displayed, the Council will be given powers to co-opt to fill the vacancy in due course. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Council is invited to contact the Clerk for further information.

The above meeting should not be confused with the Annual Parish Meeting which was scheduled to be held in the Barn on 24 May when Inspector Andy Talbot from Thames Valley Police was due to report on the work of the Neighbourhood Action Group and update the public on the outcomes from the previous public meeting also held in the Barn.

We have been asked to draw attention to the Community Furniture Project and more information can be obtained on 01635 43933 or online [www.cfpnewbury.org](http://www.cfpnewbury.org)

West Berkshire Council & Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service are offering a new free service for elderly or disabled, who live in private accommodation (owned or rented), to carry out a Home Safety Check. Smoke Alarms can also be fitted free of charge. For further information: contact West Berkshire Trading Standards on 01635 519930.

The dates have been agreed for the distribution of travel tokens from this office as:

Friday 1 July 10am to 4pm, Wednesday 6 July 1pm to 4pm and Thursday 7 July 10am to 1pm. All previous recipients should receive a letter from West Berkshire Council advising them of the arrangements and times both

here and at other distribution points. This is likely to be the last year for tokens as it is the intention of central government to issue bus passes in future. We have also been advised that the colour of tokens will be changed and the existing tokens will be phased out by the end of August (operators will be able to cash them in for a further month). If you have any old unused tokens it has been suggested that they might be donated to charities such as the Pangbourne Volunteer Centre before they expire. The Parish Council are prepared to act as a collection point, so if you wish to do so, please bring them with you when you collect the new ones.

Finally, a service is being offered in conjunction with WBC to enable texts to be sent to mobile phones about emergency situations such as severe weather, fires, major traffic accidents and terrorist alerts. If interested, text CATS then a space followed by your postcode to 89080. Alerts are free but registration costs £1.50 per year. This service is being provided by Eazytext.com to whom any enquiries should be addressed.

*Brian J. Smith*

*Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council*

The office is located near the tennis courts and is open:

Mondays (not BH): 5.45pm - 8.30pm

Including an opportunity to meet  
Councillors between 6pm & 7pm

Thursdays: 9.00am to 3.15pm

Barn Manager:

Jean Chudleigh 07917 453187

Purley on Thames Parish Council

Parish Office

Goosecroft Lane

off Beech Road

Purley on Thames

Reading

RG8 8DR

Tel/fax: 0118 984 4507

E-mail: [clerk@purleypc.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:clerk@purleypc.wanadoo.co.uk)

**Family Funday  
Sunday 19th June 2005**

**"Fathers Day"**

**11.30 - 2.30 p.m.**

**Purley Memorial Hall**

**Come along and join in the FUN !**

**Free Children's Entertainer**

**Face Painting "Jester Giggles"**

**Sporting Activities**

**Bar**

**BBQ**

**Bouncy Castle**

**Craft Activities**

**Plus More exciting Stalls.....**

**Raffle**

**Entry 50p for adults, Children - FREE**



# **PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

## **TRADING**

The Trading store (in the Memorial Hall car park) is open Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 11am. Membership of the Society, costing only £1.50 for a year is tremendous value, not only can you buy items at the Store at lower prices than most other sources, but you can also 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 Nurseries, 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. If you are unable to get to the Trading Store during the opening times, you may telephone your order to Alex Stott on 941 9186 or email: vastott@aol.com.



## **TREASURER**

After many loyal years of service to the Society, Mr. George Critchell has decided not to seek re-election as Treasurer at the 2006 A.G.M. Other members of the Committee will undertake some of George's many duties, but we do need someone to look after our accounts. If there is anyone in the Society who feels they could help us out, we would be grateful if you could have a word with George at the Trading Shed or contact Jimmy Armstrong on 942 1645.

## **COACH TRIP**

On Sunday, 26 June we have arranged a coach trip to the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley. If you have not already put your name on the list in the Trading Shed and are interested, could you please **FILL IN ONE OF THE FORMS AT THE TRADING STORE** as soon as possible as we need at least 40 people for this trip to take place. The cost will be £10.50 payable by 5 June to Mr. J. Armstrong, 169 Long Lane Tilehurst or can be handed in at the Trading Shed (Cheques made payable to Purley Horticultural Society). *[Editor's note: as the deadline may have passed when you read this, I suggest you call Mr Armstrong to enquire about availability]*

We are hoping to organize a trip to HDRA Organic Gardens at Ryton by minibus on 4 September. The estimated cost including admission will be £10.75. Will those interested please contact Mr. J. Armstrong (Tel. No. 942 1645).

## **22ND LATE SUMMER SHOW**

Schedules for the Show on Saturday 10 September are now available in the Trading Shed.

*Marion Dabbs*  
942 2349

# Long Lane Primary School



## **PURLEY PATHFINDERS A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES**

Continuing our *Wild Flower* theme for 2005, we have been on some wonderful walks as springtime really starts to get underway.

It was April when we set out from Beech Hill to cross wide fields, with skylarks singing their sweet song from high in the sky. Near Great Park Farm we paused to enjoy the sight of a copse flooded with bluebells, with stitchwort forming ripples of white in a sea of the deepest blue. Fabulous! Between crops we made our way towards the Georgian buildings of the farm with a fine view across the fields to the imposing buildings of Wokefield Park, built for a member of the Palmer family of Huntley and Palmer fame. On we went to cross the Foudry Brook, with the spire of the parish church at Stratfield Mortimer in the distance. This was our next target, and in no time at all, field paths and country lanes led us to this fine church, a replica of Englefield church visited earlier in the year. Sadly the locked door prevented us from seeing the Saxon tomb inside, but we made full use of the porch to sit for our break. Refreshed, we crossed the Foudry Brook once more to walk between crops, watched closely by three deer which, deciding we were of no threat, continued to graze nearby.

Soon we joined the Devil's Highway, a Roman road which joined London with Silchester. Sadly the beginning of this ancient track has been deeply rutted by 4x4's. Safely past this part, we walked a pleasant 1½ miles, following the county boundary between Berkshire and Hampshire. Back at Beech Hill we enjoyed the wide country views from the Elm Tree whilst eating lunch. Then, a short drive took us to the Stratfield Saye estate where we had permission to wander through three meadows which delighted us with their huge numbers of snake's head fritillary, covering the area in a mass of purple and white. These rare wild flowers have flourished here for many years, spreading happily as the nearby River Loddon floods their habitat from time to time – just what they like! We made our way home knowing we had witnessed a very special sight indeed!



Our first walk in May found us making our way along a meandering footpath through Bottom Wood, passing the bench placed in the wood in memory of Lady Rose. We enjoyed the peacefulness exuding from the greens, as the innocent new green of the beech leaves reached down to



blend with the fresh bright green of the grassy understory. Further on, the green floor was replaced with the blue of bluebells – here the saying, 'blue and green should never be seen' seemed completely misplaced, for the colours blended perfectly in this special place. The scent of the bluebells combined deliciously with that of wild garlic, serving up a mouthwatering aroma. Emerging from the woodland, gasps of delight

rippled amongst the group as we found ourselves high up at the viewpoint opposite Purley. We enjoyed spotting our homes in the village, and locating other landmarks from, on one side, the toll bridge at Whitchurch, to, on the other, buildings near Reading. The River Thames linked our view, with Mapledurham Lock glistening in the middle. Down the hill we joined a pleasant bridleway as earlier showers gave way to brighter skies. Mop heads of cow parsley nodded cheerily from the wayside, and, on the hawthorn, the flower buds sat like billions of pearls, waiting for the moment when they will burst forth in a glorious white celebration of *May*. Had there been a maypole handy, I believe we would have been dancing joyfully round it!

At Bozedown Vineyard we were joined by the owner, Sandra, who took us on an interesting and informative tour of the hillsides around her home. We climbed towards stunning horse chestnut trees, their huge white floral *candles* glowing from their branches. A bank of cowslips was dotted with helpful signs, pinpointing the presence of a huge variety of wild flowers. In fact, Sandra informed us that should a metre square be placed on the ground in any part of the meadow, it would contain over twenty species of wild flower – marvellous! She then delighted us by demonstrating this fact

by identifying over twenty different wild flowers thriving on an anthill. At the highest point of the meadow, with sun on our heads and cowslips at our feet, we took time to just stand and stare. A panoramic view stretched from across the Kennet Valley to the mast at Hannington on the skyline, and along the Thames Valley to the tall buildings of Reading town centre – Wow!

Some may say that Friday 13<sup>th</sup> is unlucky! For Purley Pathfinders it proved a lucky day, dawning warmer and brighter than it had been all week. In dappled sunshine, a meandering path led us through a lovely bluebell beech wood for a promising start to our walk. Our next path took us through parkland, flaunting some fine trees now in full leaf. At Bromsden Farm we admired the fabulous life-sized statue of a rearing horse, before dropping down into Earl's Wood where we spotted one of the many deer which live in these woods. Here bluebells were an intense blue, contrasting with the brilliant white of wood anemones. After climbing to a high point in the wood, we looked left for a scenic view over the wooded Bix valley towards Warburg Nature Reserve, and right for a view across acres of fields towards the distinct white building of Crowsley Park. Soon we were walking along the drive of Greys Court where, beneath some fine trees in the surrounding parkland, rare breed Soay sheep stood feeding their young lambs. We looked forward to our visit later in the day, but meanwhile we took to more splendid woodland. Then, passing through the pretty hamlet of Shepherds Green we arrived at The Lamb at Satwell. Here the new owners welcomed us warmly for lunch.



Afterwards a short drive took us back to Greys Court where we explored the lovely May garden with its famous, extensive Wisteria Walkway. We wandered through the White Garden and the Kitchen Garden; beneath Clematis and Honeysuckle Arches; between borders of rose bushes; beside the Cherry Orchard, and round and round in the Archbishop's Maze! We climbed the tower for a superb view over the garden, parkland grounds, and the surrounding countryside. Some of us found time to walk across the Moon Bridge to see the

thatched Ice House. Then there was the Tudor Donkey Wheel to see, and the inside of the Jacobean House to explore. Of course we all found time to indulge in tea and cake in the Cromwellian Stables! The perfect end to a perfect day!

Our birthday falls in May and, after indulging in birthday cake, we began our sixth birthday walk which offered much variety – The River Thames with its families of young wildfowl, shimmering water, and view across to Winter Hill; a large lake, created by gravel extraction, and now reclaimed



by nature to form a beautiful haven for many ducks and geese; field upon field flaunting their amazing shades of green, and lovely woodland with the last of the bluebells, and pretty clumps of violets. Numerous birds treated us to a fine show, from the aerial acrobatics of the Red Kites, to the songs from a choir of skylarks. On top of all this beauty we were treated to views stretching all around us for miles and miles – Wonderful!

After a picnic lunch our special day continued with a tour of Enid Blyton's former garden at *Old Thatch*. Ducking beneath a low lych gate, the *magic* of Old Thatch, of which Enid Blyton had written passionately about, was revealed. "It is perfect," she had written, "just like a Fairy Tale house" – and so it is! Jackie Hawthorne, owner of Old Thatch for the past eleven years, welcomed us warmly into the front garden of the beautiful, and deceptively large, 17<sup>th</sup> century thatched cottage. She told us some history of the house and garden, and told us how Enid's two daughters, Gillian and Imogen, have visited the restored garden and have enthusiastically approved saying, "Enid would have loved it!"



Free to explore, we set off up the enchanting front path with its stepping stones leading past drifts of burgeoning cottage garden flowers. Working our way around the wisteria clad cottage we found the 1½ acre garden divided into a series of *rooms*. The Formal Garden held six box-edged beds studded with standard hollies and planted with cosmos. The Lavender Terrace exploded with purple spheres of alliums, rising up through the grey leaves of lavender.



The Water Garden designed on a circular theme with a fountain cascading into a substantial round bowl. The Circle Garden echoes the water garden's theme and is planted with grasses. The Rose Arbour, one of the oldest structures, dating from the 1920's was especially loved by Enid. Climbing roses scrambled happily, their buds waiting to burst open while at our feet bluebells, aquilegia and nepeta stole the show for now with their stunning mass of

blues and purples. A recently planted Hornbeam Walk took us on to The Old Orchard where paths have been cut through long grass dotted with lady's smock and oxeye daisies. Some of the apple and pear trees remain from Enid's time here.

The garden is bounded on one side by old yew hedges *thick and cool in which little birds have built their nests*, just as Enid described them. The garden ends by a small stream, something which Enid had always wanted in a garden, and which she cleared of overgrown vegetation herself. The Pencil Garden was fun with three huge *pencils* rising from the ground at the end of a *squiggle* bed – an apt design with both Enid and Jackie having been teachers! In The Cottage Garden we found the old well, featured in many of Enid’s writings, and the pond *dug by her own fair hand*. We sat in the sunshine amongst typical cottage garden plants like honesty, lupins, aquilegia and foxgloves. These have been deliberately planted in random fashion and allowed to seed where they desire to give the cottage look.

‘Lashings of Ginger Beer’ were substituted with Copious Cups of Tea served with homemade cake from the kitchen. This was once the stable when the house was an inn, before Enid moved there. Enid wrote that Dick Turpin’s horse, Bess, was stabled here while Turpin slept inside the inn – preparing, no doubt, to rob travellers through Maidenhead Thicket! Before we left, Jackie kindly took us back around various parts of the garden, identifying plants. Her love and enthusiasm for the garden was infectious and we were drawn to a quote of Enid’s, ‘The whole place has a lovely feel to it – friendly, happy, welcoming.’ Indeed, we felt overwhelmingly welcome, but sadly it was time to go. Clutching our purchases of plants raised in the garden of Old Thatch, and biographies of Enid Blyton, we made our way back to the coach after a truly Fairytale day out.

Nicki Woodward  
984 2112

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## **BEWARE OF TOILETS AND VOLCANOES**

Last week my husband and I were making a visit to a National Trust property. The day was going splendidly until he decided to make use of the ‘facilities’. After an inordinately long time, he reappeared with a nasty bump on his head, sustained from a poorly positioned doorstep on the wall. After reporting the accident to an extremely concerned official, we sat down for a very comforting pot of tea and our discussion ended up remembering another bumped head in Sicily.

Our holiday to Sicily was prompted by a long-held desire to see an active volcano. Etna is the most active volcano in Europe. It is 80 miles around its base and can be seen from many miles away. It has not one, but several vents where lava erupts on a regular basis. The whole venture seemed pretty exciting.

On the day, our new friends in the hotel wished us a safe journey and jokes were exchanged about avoiding flying rocks of lava.

The slopes of Etna are probably as close as I will ever get to scaling a moonscape.

There is a top layer of warm ash and a few inches beneath, deep snow. There is a pungent aroma of sulphur and asthmatics are advised not to go too high. During our visit, there was a very dramatic thunderstorm, which necessitated stopping the cable car mid-flight. We were able to observe the other unfortunate passengers from the safety of the restaurant.

So, after a totally exhilarating experience, we boarded the coach for the journey back to the hotel. En route the driver stopped at a service station for a 'comfort break', very welcome. After using the 'facilities', I washed my hands, bent down to pick up my bag, and cracked my head on the metal towel holder. I emerged to my waiting husband with a huge bump on my forehead, lots of blood too. The remainder of the journey was spent lying on the back seat with a cold, wet handkerchief pressed to my head.

That evening at dinner, our friends were shocked to see my poor state and were sure that Etna had taken one more victim. I didn't tell them the true story for a day or two!

*Dorothy West*

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## **DENEFIELD BUSINESS ACADEMY**

Please see the 'Open' Courses for the Summer Term 2005.

Please contact Nikki on 07963 973933 or [nikki@inschool.com](mailto:nikki@inschool.com) for more information.

### **SUMMER 2005**

#### **IT COURSES**

Build Your Own Website (MS FrontPage)

Tuesdays 19.00 – 21.00 starts 7 June for 5 weeks (£35 per person)

#### **HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING**

Essentials of Health and Safety for Small Businesses

Tuesday 28 June 15.30 – 17.30 (£20 per person).

Managing Stress

Wednesday 8 June 14.00 – 17.30 (£40 per person)

#### **BUSINESS COURSES**

##### **Management Skills**

Time Management

Wednesday 22 June 14.00 – 17.30 (£40 per person)

## PROJECT PURLEY

The speaker at our April meeting was our Chair, Jean Debney, who chose as the title of her talk "In a Manor of Speaking". Despite the inclement weather on the evening a good number of Project Purley members assembled in the Barn to listen to Jean as she recreated a picture of Purley in times long gone.

A definition of terms 'parish', 'estate' and 'manor' is always useful in considering the history of our village and the feudal system. A 'parish' is defined as an area of ecclesiastical jurisdiction which includes a church, and an 'estate' is a piece of property or real estate, whilst a 'manor' is an estate with rights, and indeed some people still impose certain rules within manors, though the practice largely ended in 1920.

Before the Norman conquest of 1066 the area known as Berkshire was within The Wessex region of England, and Berkshire itself was divided into Hundreds, which were sub-divided into tithings, grouped into Hundreds.

By 1086, when the Domesday Book was compiled, the area of Purley within Berkshire had been divided into three manors, known as Purley Magna, Purley Parva and Purley La Hide. Typically a Manor would include a manor house, farm and dwellings, with an allocation of land which continued until the early 1900s, and the addition of a mill, always built on or near a stream, with the miller keeping some of the grain which was brought to him for grinding as a payment for his work.

There were three types of land tenure in the manorial system, freehold, leasehold and copyhold. The first two are self explanatory, but a copyhold farmer was always at risk, as a copy of his landholding was kept in the court roll, and his land could be claimed by The Lord of the Manor, almost at a moment's notice. The Purley Manors had the authority to hold their own Manorial Courts and there is a record of a Purley Magna Court Baron being held at the Red Lion public House on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1786. Intriguingly, court records show that the word 'piddle', still in use in place names such as Piddlehampton, meant a small area of land. The Court Baron was celebrated and recreated by members of Project Purley in The Barn at the time of the Millennium in 2000 AD and the barn in which the Court Baron was recreated, and in which we were listening to our speaker, could be seen in its original location on an old map of Purley Magna Farm from 1790. The area near the river was as vulnerable to flooding as it is now. The difference in those days was that farmers and local residents spent time moving their horses out of their stables as the water rose, rather than driving their cars to safety.

The old parish registers from the different manors are a useful clue to the names of the families living in Purley in days gone by. A list of all males over the age of 12 living in Purley can be found in registers from 1770 - 1842 and these documents also give us information about buildings in the area. For example, the Reverend Charles Manesty and his wife are

thought to have opened and run a village school around 1813, though we also learn from old papers that not all of his activities were quite so noble. The Rector of Purley was found guilty in 1827 of allowing his property to extend into his neighbours' land. As a punishment he was fined £5 and ordered to place boundary markings at the exact limits of his estate. The Education Act of 1870 declared that there should be a school in every parish for the children of that parish, and this emphasised the quality and community spirit of village life. The village based upon the original manorial system, reflected the interdependence of its inhabitants. Farmers could co-operate by sharing oxen to pull ploughs, and land could be divided into strips so that good and bad soil would be evenly distributed. A similar system operates today though the technology and resources are different. Also modernised is the form of law-making. Nowadays we rely on a centralised government to do this. Whereas in the time of the manors of Purley, the Lord of the Manor presided over all agricultural law, and could introduce any local byelaws he wished.

Jean Debney had covered a complex subject in some detail with interesting references, and ended by quoting some thought provoking statistics from a book entitled '1215'. The population of England in 1086 was 2.5 million, by 1300 it had grown to 6 million, and today stands at 60 million. One wonders what population figure will confront members of Project Purley – still meeting presumably in The Barn – in the year 2105.

*David Downs*

The next meeting of Project Purley will be on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June and is a day outing to Nuffield Place. Please meet at 10.30am at the venue. We will take coffee and biscuits (£1) followed by a tour of the house (£4). Weather permitting a walk around the four-acre garden is also planned.

"The Merry Wives of Windsor" performed by the Rain or Shine Theatre Company takes place in The Barn on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Tickets £10 (£7.50 for concessions) have arrived and are selling quickly. If you would like more information or wish to order tickets, please contact David Downs (942 4167)

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## **MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF**

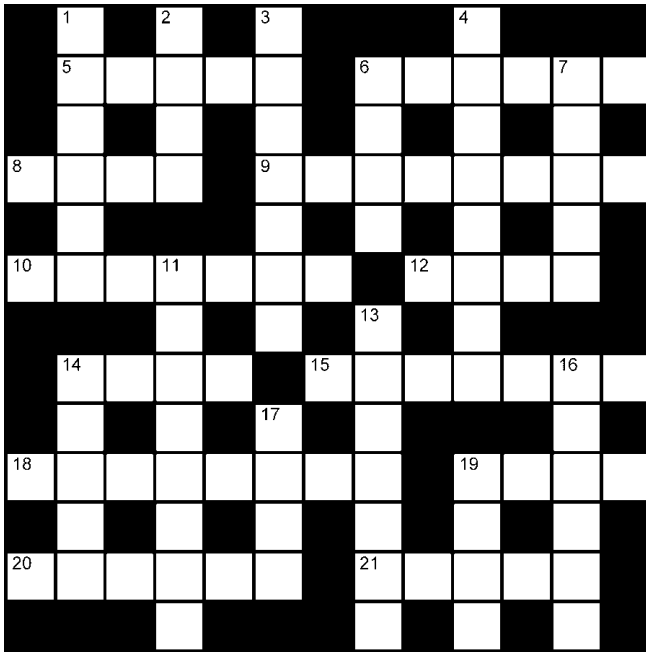
Brenda Jenkins from Select Tours is organising a number of events this summer in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief. Please call Brenda on 942 9665 for tickets or further information.

19 June: Guided tour of Farleyhill Place Gardens at 2.30pm. Tickets: £5

17 July: Mozart Summer Festival at Highfield Park, 3pm. Tickets: £12

21 August: Jazz in the Park at Highfield Park, Heckfield, 12.30-3.30pm

# CROSSWORD



## Across

- 5 Used for biting and chewing (5)
- 6 Mother of Timothy (6)
- 8 Creatures employed in the third plague sent upon Egypt (4)
- 9 Fundamental (8)
- 10 Jewish mystical sect somewhat resembling the Pharisees but affecting greater purity (7)
- 12 Large rabbit (4)
- 14 Oracle (4)
- 15 City built by the Israelites for the Pharoah (7)
- 18 Large hill (8)
- 19 Combust (4)
- 20 Biting insect with wings (6)
- 21 Country in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula (5)

## Down

- 1 Members of the ancient Greek school of philosophy founded by Zeno (6)
- 2 A strong positive emotion of regard and affection (4)
- 3 Central city of refuge for Western Palestine (7)
- 4 Show (8)
- 6 OT book recording events at the end of the Babylonian captivity (4)
- 7 Large long-necked wading bird (5)
- 11 Time without end (8)
- 13 Devout (7)
- 14 Depot (5)
- 16 Old English word for ploughing (6)
- 17 Delayed (4)
- 19 Phoenician deity (4)



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If you need help with transport, or know of anyone else who does, please contact us.

Volunteer drivers always needed! Do you have a few spare hours? Car drivers are needed to transport clients to hospitals, also for local journeys to doctors, etc. Help in the office is also required. Office opening hours: Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri 9.30am to 11.30am. Please come and join us.

Call 984 4586 or pop into The Committee Room, Pangbourne Village Hall.

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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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If you are new to the area and would like to subscribe to Purley Parish News, please contact either Steve Corrigan or Les Jamieson.

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