

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

JULY 2005

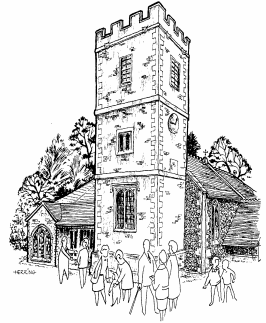


35P

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES



RECTOR

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

CURATE

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

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER

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

CHURCHWARDENS

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

www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

FROM THE CURATE

Dear Friends

'Poor' means different things to different people. When a rich man's family complains that death duties on his country estate will make them 'poor' their poverty still means that they have more wealth than an unemployed person in an inner city could ever dream about.

When a person in Britain says that because he is out of work or, that because the mortgage rate has gone up, he cannot afford to go on holiday or continue the payments on the car, his wealth is still greater than an African peasant could imagine. There are obviously different degrees of poverty, but a quick look around the world today would reveal it in its simplicity. Poverty includes, regularly not having enough to eat, inadequate shelter, little or no health care, unemployment and lack of access to education. It means limited choices and opportunities.

Some years ago, at the time when refugees from Uganda were spilling over the border into East Africa, my husband was in Nairobi on Easter Sunday and attended church in the cathedral. When the service had finished and he left, the gate was surrounded by Africans sitting on the floor.

One of those men shouted to him, 'Hey boss, are you a Christian?'

'Yes, I am' my husband replied.

Then the man asked 'Doesn't your Jesus say it's more blessed to give than to receive'. Again, although rather hesitantly my husband replied, 'Yes He did', and immediately, back from the African came the response:

'Well boss I've just come from Uganda with nothing and I'd sure like your Jesus to bless you'.

Whether or not this was a con trick didn't matter, because the point was well made.

According to statistics compiled by the 'Make Poverty History' campaign, for every click of the fingers a child dies in poverty. That is one every three seconds, twenty every minute or approximately fifty while you have been reading this article. Click, click, click, it's a shocking statistic.

Poverty is not always something that happens as an accident of circumstance. Poverty is created by human decisions and sustained by a combination of factors; injustice in global trade; the huge burden of debt; insufficient and ineffective aid. Each of these is exacerbated by inappropriate economic policies imposed by rich countries. For the poor in the Third World these decisions can be made thousands of miles away by people who have no interest in the human consequences, but seek only profit for themselves.

While I write this, there is much in the press about the preparations for the G8 leaders summit, to be held in Edinburgh during July. Also about Bob Geldof's *Live8* concerts which will ensure that more attention is brought to these issues. Already the G8 finance ministers have pledged an increase annually for debt relief, but much more is required. By doubling aid, fully cancelling poor countries debts, and by introducing trade Justice for Africa, the G8 countries could change the future for millions of men, women and children.

God's concern for the victims of poverty, oppression and injustice is evident throughout the Bible.

'If a rich man sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against his brother, how can he claim that he loves God? ... Our love should be not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action' (1 John 3:17-18)

Helping the poor is a clear obligation for Christians. It is a practical way of showing God's love and concern for people all over the world.

The G8 summit gives us an opportunity to let our politicians know what measures we support to correct poverty in the world and it also serves to remind us, that we can be part of the practical solution through our direct giving to the many relief agencies working to relieve poverty.

As that African said, 'Jesus would sure like to bless you'

Jean

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM

29 May Molly Rumble

WEDDINGS

28 May Ian Mclean and Carolyn Murphy
4 June Gareth James and Rachel Manning
18 June Clive Lister and Angela Russell

ENJOY THE SUMMER

The Purley Parish News takes its summer holiday in August, which means the next copy you see will be the September edition. Contributions for the next edition should be sent to the editor for consideration by 20 August.

Matthew Slingsby

CHURCH SERVICES

3 July	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Family Worship Holy Communion Holy Communion
10 July	9.30am 11.15am	Family Worship Holy Communion
17 July	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Family Communion Morning Worship Evening Worship
24 July	9.30am 11.15am	Family Worship Holy Communion
31 July	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Family Worship Holy Communion Deanery Service Lower Basildon (see below)
7 August	10.30am 6.00pm	Holiday Club Service Holy Communion
14 August	10.30am	Family Communion
21 August	10.30am 6.00pm	Family Worship Holy Communion
28 August	10.30am	Family Communion



The next meeting is on Tuesday 18 July, at 8pm in St. Mary's Church.

Christians living in Purley may worship in different places on Sundays, but we belong together, and this community is our home. Come together to pray and meet some other members of your worldwide family who live in the area.

If you would like further details, please contact:

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

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH LOWER BASILDON

Ever been inside this church, which has been closed for a number of years? Here's your chance - there will be a united Bradfield Deanery Service here at 6pm on Sunday 31 July. All are welcome!

ADVANCE NOTICES

Saturday 24 September – Community Harvest Supper (sponsored by Purley Parish Council and St. Mary's Church) at The Barn Beech Road. Tickets for this popular event will be on sale soon. Watch out for further information, as in previous years they have sold out very quickly. Proceeds this year will be given to the Duchess of Kent House.

Sunday 9 October – Community Memorial Service at 3pm in St. Mary's Church. Invitations to bereaved families, known to us, will be sent out at the end of August, but all are welcome.

BOOK REVIEW

I have just finished studying *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren and would commend it to others as a very practical investigation into what the Christian life is all about. It addresses the question "What on earth am I here for?" and identifies us as *born by God's purpose for God's purpose*. Proposing reading just a chapter a day (40 days), and thinking on its content and discussing with others, Rick Warren systematically considers five purposes for our lives. He quotes extensively from the Bible, whilst giving a refreshing practical appraisal of what this really means for life.

A summary would be that we are here for God's pleasure (worship), as members of God's family (fellowship), learning from God's Son (discipleship), to be in God's service (ministry – to other believers) and to go out on God's commission (evangelism – to those who don't yet know God). But around that simple, five-fold purpose is built a lot of specific practical detail. I would encourage you to read it, to share with others who're reading it, and to use it prayerfully as a practical aid in life.

Jacky Brown

Praise in the Park 17 July – Bucknell's Meadow

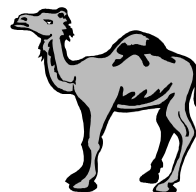
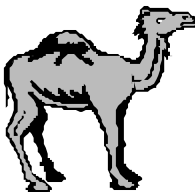
Extreme Worship

With Jim Bailey

Featuring the Spicy Camels

Music – Fun for All

3.30 – 5.30pm





Oh I do like to be beside the Seaside

St Mary's Church is organising a day trip to Bournemouth on Saturday 17 September.

We'd love you to join us!

Bournemouth is renowned for its 7 miles of golden sands, one of the cleanest beaches in Europe. There is a promenade and pier, with traditional attractions, to stroll along and just away from the sea are the peaceful Winter Gardens. The town claims to be a 'shoppers paradise', with a combination of high-street favourites and exclusive boutiques. If you're feeling adventurous, you could take a trip on the Bournemouth Eye, a tethered hot air balloon or even try Bungee trampolining. For a gentler experience there's an Aquarium right by the pier or an old fashioned Carousel. We will be ending our day with the chance to thank God for the beauty of his creation by sharing a short act of worship on the beach.

We will be travelling with Horseman Coaches and each seat has a lap belt.

If enough people are interested, it may be possible to arrange a 2¼-hour boat trip viewing the scenery around Poole Harbour at a cost of £9.00.

Planned Itinerary

- 8.45am Assemble in St. Mary's Church Car Park
- 9.00am Coach leaves
- c 11.00am Arrive Bournemouth International Conference Centre (BIC)

Free time to explore Bournemouth's attractions

- 4.30pm Optional Fish and Chip supper on the beach/promenade (cost £4.00 payable on the day)
- 5.15pm Optional Short time of worship on the beach
- 5.45pm Head for BIC to board coach
- 6.00pm Coach leaves
- c 8.00pm Coach arrives Purley, St. Mary's Car park.

The cost for each person on the coach is £10, so please collect a booking form from church or request one from Sally Robertson (Tel 962 5978). Booking forms with payment must be received by 17 August.

Please note: the cost of attractions not included.

THE LAST ALL CLEAR

As a boy I thought I would never hear
That welcome sound of the last All Clear.
It seemed like a dream that would never come true
Like over the rainbow where the birds are blue.
For when the siren wailed through the night sky
We'd rush to the coal cellar, Mum, my brothers and I,
Listening to the din in stark terror and fear
And crouch in the dark till that welcome All Clear.

Even now I'll be dreaming
Of dark bombs astreaming
Silently through the night air,
Falling on Ford – plastering Poling – and knocking sheer hell out of Tangmere.
Then later the ambulance slowly rolled by
With soldiers all bandaged it was piled so high,
Some on the running board, the roof and the rear,
When I waved at our gate someone croaked out a cheer.
Then Mum dashed from the house and gathered me in
Ignoring my din
Of tantrum and tear,
As I lay in her arms she was sobbing even after the All Clear.

At school we were herded inside double quick
To the small air raid shelters made of red brick,
And then sit in the dark, the cold and the damp
On wood slatted seats with one dingy lamp.
Miss Lettie Hill got us singing
But no cheer was it bringing,
For we'd sing to quiet our fears;
But the very young ones
Hearing the guns
Were screaming in panic and tears.
In dread and in sorrow we clutched others near
'Till out in the open we heard the All Clear.

Now the blackout curtains will come down
And lights will shine throughout the town.
We'll have condensed milk and luxuries
And more than an ounce of Cheddar cheese.
No more coupons for clothing or shoes
No more doodlebugs or those droning V2s.
No more will searchlights sweep through the sky
Or incendiary bombs falling from planes flying high.
No more will the siren drag us from our bed
To huddle together in darkness and dread
Hoping we'll live to finally hear
That long peaceful sound which is the all Clear.

When the sun shines,
And they'd cleared up the mines
And the barbed wire fences
And tank trap defences,
Mum says we can reach

Littlehampton beach.
That'll be a treat
With sandwiches to eat.
No more Walton Pie or that awful whale meat,
We'll have powdered eggs galore.
And the coalman delivering coal to the door.
No more to the gas works with a pram for the coke
Mum would be pushing and me with the yoke.
For now we'll be rich and no longer poor,
And Mum won't be mending the trousers I tore:
For after all what's a tear
When you've heard the all clear.

Mum said Dad would be home in a month or two:
He'll take us to a cricket match, the circus and the zoo.
She's had a letter from him from far across the sea
He wrote he'd bring us bon bons – whatever they may be.
But I pray each night that he'll come safely home to me.
When we can hear his footsteps fall,
In the hall,
And then he'd call
"Masie I'm here"
We'll know the end is near
And heard the Victory All Clear.

So begin the celebration
For this war sick British nation.
It's God bless Mr Churchill give him a cheer
Come laugh and be happy – for the final all Clear.

Over filled with the wounded and piled so high
With soldiers and airmen on running board and rear.

Bill Ayling

Featured in the recent VE Day 60th anniversary celebrations

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

"Gout," I exclaimed, "doesn't that normally affect recalcitrant recumbent old men who eat and drink too much rich food?"

"Yes", she said in a way that suggested I had described myself correctly.
"Go and get it checked by your doctor."

The problem has been my right foot. It has been aching on and off since Christmas but had reached a crescendo, almost reducing me to tears with the pain. It only took 5 months to contact the doctor, after all us boys don't like to rush things, do we? So, off I limped to Pangbourne for Mike Powell to cast his experienced eye. "Gosh that looks painful, I bet it really hurts"...

"Excellent diagnosis Doc, but..." To cut the story short, after a blood test and x-rays, gout was temporarily ruled out and 'wear and tear' entered into the title and incredible little pills prescribed. It seems that over the

years too many cows have pirouetted on my foot, too many heavy items such as the twelve foot heavy duty gate that a bull lifted off its hinges last week have been dropped on it and the resulting mess of mashed bone has caught up with me. Never mind...

I was delighted to see that The Purley W.I. backed the resolution to raise public awareness of the unfair difference between the retail prices of milk and the price paid to farmers even though it was rather shadowed at their National Conference at the Royal Albert Hall by Jane Fonda talking about her three-in-a-bed antics.

At West Berks we have now finally fallen out of bed with our 'partner' Amey. We have managed to strike a very good deal with regard to compensation for releasing them from their contract and the early concerns of staff have been dispelled. There is a huge amount of untapped skill and knowledge at Newbury and a purge on using outside contractors and consultants and under utilised labour is being undertaken in every department. The first job to be axed was that extra P.R. officer I mentioned a couple of months ago. I can think of a few more...

Tim Metcalfe



PURLEY PATHFINDERS A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

As summer gets under way, the wildflowers really come into their own. We've enjoyed some wonderful walks during our quest to find as many species as possible during our 'Wildflower' themed year.

If I had to use colour to describe our walk in the Enborne Valley, I would immediately say "Green with a good dollop of white!" As we dropped down a field path from Brimpton church, we found ourselves totally immersed in a myriad of greens. Any personal worries or cares were soon drowned as we bathed in the calmness of the greens, stretching as far as the eye could see, away to Watership Down on the skyline. Secretly, the River Enborne cuts its way through this lush countryside, and soon we discovered its sparkling waters. We walked a meandering path as the river flowed happily beside us, beneath a canopy of white from the hawthorn, and beside the white of campion, comfrey and cowparsley which lit up its banks. The river took us through one wild flower meadow after another, then, gathering speed, it tumbled over a small weir. We stood on a bridge, enjoying the coolness rising up from the water below on this very warm day. Leaving the river for a while we found our first field poppies of the year, and also a single sheeps-bit looking splendid, standing erect above the grass. The Enborne flowed in to greet us with its refreshing water

once more, and, after enjoying more of the lush and varied vegetation along its banks, we left the river to climb through cultivated fields with fine views across miles of arable countryside. Reaching Hyde End we passed lovely cottages with names which tell a story of times gone by – *The Old Barn, The Old Bakery, Tanners, Huntsmoor Cottage, The Old Forge* etc. Spotting the distinctive spire of Brimpton Church, we headed back up the hill towards it to end our fabulous ‘get away from it all’ walk.

After hearing the sad news of the death of one of our very first Purley Pathfinders, a gentle meander around the pretty village of Whitchurch-on-Thames was just what we needed. We soaked up the history of this ancient village, records of which date back to before Norman times. On foot, we were able to appreciate the old buildings, imagining them in past times. We passed *Mallards*, which used to be the Post Office, and a central meeting place where snippets of gossip could be exchanged. This building, along with



Ford Cottage and *Tudor Cottage* are some of the oldest in the village. *The Little House* was once the butchers shop, and *Wellesley House* was once a public house, renowned for having the coolest beer in the area, its cellars being built deep in the chalk! We entered St Mary’s Church to discover some of its ancient treasures – the medieval roof timbers, medieval brasses, Norman South doorway, medieval stained glass window, and the medieval cross, which is preserved in a glass cabinet. Outside we passed the south porch above which a replica of the cross is placed, beside a gargoyle that dates back to the Saxon period. Beneath a wisteria clad alleyway we walked to The Mill. We could see why this picturesque spot has been much photographed and painted. The pretty gardens alongside were once busy with barges unloading their cargoes, and a ferry operated from here. The ferrymen were compensated when the first toll bridge was built in 1792. We passed *Church Cottages*, the original Ferryboat Inn, and, once back in The Street, we noticed how some cottages had doorsteps below the current level of the pavement, so obviously built before 1880. In that year it was decided to excavate soil from Whitchurch Hill to reduce its steepness, and place it at the lower end of the village to prevent flooding. At *Highway Cottage* we imagined ladies and gents gazing into the windows to choose shoes or haberdashery items when it was a shop. Leaving the main street, we walked along the peaceful Eastfield Lane, admiring the pretty gardens on our way to the allotments. Then, reaching the Millennium Maze we spent some time reading the inscriptions on brick paths, and attempting to tell the time using the human sundial! Our historic walk continued with a stroll along the Jubilee Walk, passing the bench placed to commemorate the Queen’s Silver Jubilee. With views across fields of alpacae within the Thames Valley, we made our way back

soaking up the aromatherapy from honeysuckle and billowing June roses. In private Thames side meadows we were welcomed in to enjoy our picnics beneath the welcome shade of a fine old oak tree. Refreshed, we were free to walk beside the river with its wide variety of water loving wild flowers, and along paths cut through the meadow grasses, revealing their wild flower treasures, including pyramidal orchids. We may not have burned many calories during this week's walk, but we had enjoyed the pleasant surroundings and warm sunshine, and the opportunity to share our thoughts with friends.

Having read descriptions of aspects of The Warburg Nature Reserve – *brims with exciting plants and animals; abundance of colour; your ears are bombarded by birdsong; spectacular; a magical place* – we met with anticipation in the Visitors Centre car park. The Reserve rises to 500 feet in the Chiltern countryside, so it was no surprise that we began our walk with a climb! Our pleasant path between a wide variety of wild flowers proved most enjoyable. Joining the Oxfordshire Way we began to descend, and soon the magnificent world of Bix Bottom was revealed with its wide palette of greens. By way of field and woodland paths, we arrived at Crocker End where we admired the pretty cottages set in glorious June gardens alongside the village green. We passed close to Soundess House, former home of the mistress of Charles II, Nell Gwynn, before the pleasant Soundess Woods took us back to the Visitors Centre, and our picnics. After lunch the sun came out and we were joined by Park Ranger, Roger, who told us some interesting facts about the Reserve. Warburg, within its 265 acre dry valley of woods, scrub and grassland, is home to 60 breeding bird, 30 butterfly, 400 moth, 700 fungus, and 450 plant species. During our *Wild flower* year it was the latter which we had particularly come to see. With Roger as our guide for the afternoon, we set out on a tour to find as many as we could. We were privileged to be taken into areas not normally open to the public, and Roger's knowledge was greatly appreciated as he named one wildflower after another for us, and we were delighted to be shown eight varieties of orchid. All our expectations developed from what we had read about this wonderful place were realised – and more!



We have some more lovely walks planned, including a walk around a Wild Flower Farm where wild flowers are grown in abundance to produce wild flower seed for commercial and conservational use. We will end the summer term with our Summertime Special – a boat trip along flora rich countryside, and a waterside walk in the city of dreaming spires, Oxford. Any ladies wishing to receive a walks programme, do give me a ring. You will be made very welcome!

Nicki Woodward
984 2112

A special lady has died. Evelyn was one of our oldest and original Purley Pathfinders. She was a wee Scots lady, kind, helpful, with never an unkind word about anyone. Nicki arranged a surprise Birthday party for Evelyn at the Mansion House 2 years ago with cake and flowers, which Evelyn said was one of her best Birthdays. I feel privileged to have been one of her many friends who will never forget her.

Tricia Wilson

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

May I open this short article on Pangbourne Bowls Club by saying thank you to all the people who have sent me either verbally or Get Well cards their best wishes following my two stints in the Royal Berks Hospital. I am very grateful not least to the prayers for my recovery from the congregation at the Church. It really was much appreciated and I'm sure it has gone a long way in making me feel so much better. Those of you who saw, or took part in the VE Day celebrations at the Barn, will know that I am trying to do my best to get around. So far I've been able to; walk for about half a mile. I'm also obliged to those members of the Purley Players who helped me on and off the stage for the show – and those kind people who pointed out the wires!

Regretfully I am not yet able to play bowls, the specialist thinks this will be another two months, but I've seen some excellent bowling and the club is doing very well. I would like to offer congratulations to the first trophy winner of the year – Clifford Sopp from Purley. The Thames Shield is the opening competition of the season and is Cliff's first trophy. He played extremely well against Bill Steele of Pangbourne, and in the final had the better of the game. Well done Cliff – it is a great feeling to get an award and then see your name on the Honours Board in the pavilion!

The Club had made an excellent start to the Manchester Unity League; this year captained by Ralph Miller, another Purley man! And his wife, Doreen Miller, the new ladies captain has made an excellent start to her year. The club is very grateful to have two excellent players who spend so much time in working for the club. Ralph in addition to his bowling duties has also passed the Green Keepers examination, which is so important now that there are so many new EEC rules and regulations concerning the use of pesticides etc on the Green. Well done Ralph, you really did put a lot of time in and getting the certificate means a great deal not only to you but also to the Bowls Club.

I hope to keep you fully informed of future activities on the Green, but feel free at any time if you would like to come along and see the Bowls at Pangbourne; eleven new members did at our recent Open Day – which was much appreciated by everybody.

Bill Ayling

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION YORK CITY CENTRE

Explore the city on foot and have day trips to the Yorkshire dales and moors!

New two-bedroom ground floor flat (sleeps 3) in gated development near city centre. Secure car parking for one car. 5 minutes easy walk to Minster, walking distance of the station, railway museum, Jorvic centre etc. Close to shops, museum, art gallery and restaurants. Non-smoking.

Fully equipped with full size dishwasher, washer / dryer, microwave, fan oven, gas hob, refrigerator and freezer etc.

Please call 942 3087 for more details.

NORTH DEVON

If you were interested in the two brand-new beachside holiday apartments to rent in Westward Ho! North Devon, mentioned last month, I have been given updated contact details for you:

For details, please call 942 0663 or 941 4889.

ORPHAN OF THE 'FLU

That year, 1918, my mother was on a visit for specialist treatment to Cape Town where Opal, my younger sister, was born in the July at the Monastery Hospital in Sea Point. Many years later my mother told us of her remembering the refuse carts in Cape Town collecting some of the 'flu dead in the streets of the slums.

Mother came back with the baby by train to the railhead in Maclear, and then by horsecart and crossing various rivers by pontoon, and so to Mount Fletcher. It is doubtful whether she brought the infection with her to this remote district on the south-eastern side of the great escarpment of the Drakensberg mountain range where we lived; however, even here the 'flu became rampant.

Thousands died, and most of the native labourers and servants, the groom, the gardener and others in the tiny village, nearly all Basutos, fled back into the shelter of the Drakensberg mountains, to their home kraals over the border in Basutoland. However, one loyal maid-of-all-work, a Basuto woman, remained in our household as we all contracted 'flu. My father had it first, and after a short time died, by which stage my mother was in a coma. The housemaid, according to my mother, loyally nursed her and fed my elder brother Laurence, then six years old, and sister Ruth, who was four. When my mother recovered consciousness, after the death

of my father, she was shocked to find that I (aged two) and my baby sister Opal were missing. Apparently we had been away for 10 to 14 days. At first her enquiries as to our whereabouts were answered with negative shrugs, then silently one night we reappeared. My mother was told that another servant, the nanny, had taken us into the mountains to the kraal (hamlet) of a Basuto chieftain called Lebenya, where one of his several wives looked after us, presumably suckling my baby sister and possibly me too. (It was not uncommon then and now also for native nannies, especially in rural areas, occasionally to put their charges to the breast to quieten them and, in abnormal circumstances, to feed them.)

Communications were difficult in those days – no telephones – but each village had a postmaster/telegraphist. The post came once or twice weekly by a horse-drawn van. The local postmaster was found dead in his office in rigor mortis with his hand clamped on his Morse code key, and there were many other grim examples of the 'flu with people being found alone, dead.

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

JANET FOSKETT SCHOOL OF DANCING

Reluctantly, all classes have now moved to Whitchurch on Thames on a Monday and Thursday evening. Classes are held for children aged 2½ to 18. In the autumn, there will be vacancies in the Tiny Tots class (2½ to 4) that is held on a Monday afternoon at Whitchurch. Please call for details.

20TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

This will be held at Pangbourne College in March 2006. If there are any ex-pupils (and I know there are many!) out there that would like to be involved, either in a helping-out capacity or an 'old girls' number, then please give me a call.

PILATES

Two classes have been running on a Thursday afternoon at St Mary's Purley, one an improver's and one a beginner's.

Should you be interested in joining either of these classes, there are vacancies, 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, and obviously if you already have experience then you could join the improvers. Should you require further information then please do contact me.

*Janet Foskett - Dance and Pilates Teacher
01635 863891*

PURLEY W.I.

Dates for our diaries means we have dates for a coffee morning, the annual Pangbourne Fete (so, ladies, get cooking your mouth watering cakes and scones), plus a cream tea in a member's garden with a country garden theme.

Pauline Boulton, an ex-T.V. and film make-up lady held us all spellbound with a talk on her life, starting with BBC training as a beautician and hair stylist at Ealing Studios. Apparently, the make-up lady is the last person an actor has contact with before facing the cameras. The actor is often nervous, very tense, has tempers, emotions and egos that have to be "dealt with"! Her vivid memories took us back to a major production of Lily Langtree, which covered thirteen episodes. In three weeks of filming in Jersey, Francesca Annis who played Lily had the ageing treatment including face and figure being filled out (and it didn't help that she was pregnant). Hair became gradually more grey and the filming on a boat was hampered by the fact that wigs and moustaches (for the male actors) react badly to sea breezes and water! Pauline did much researching at the Victoria & Albert Museum and injuries were made to look realistic. One must know how the skin and body react to bullet wounds, rope burns, bruises, etc. plus how to produce blood spattering, tears and sweat. Latex helped filling on the face, like extra chins, to say nothing of the prosthesis treatment. Pauline took five hours to make Lily up in the ageing process and one and half hours to remove the make-up!

The production had such an impact on the T.V. world that Pauline and her wig assistant were given a BAFTA award. Well deserved I'm sure.

Competitions:

Hand-made Face Mask:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 st | Edna Bint |
| 2 nd | Sylvia Conquest |

Flower of the Month:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Joint 1 st | Bernadine Perry and Marilyn Hoare |
| 2 nd | Everyone else! |

July's Speaker and Demonstrator will be Lesley Honnor on craft. Please bring scissors, glue and newspaper. The competition will be a "grotty" seaside souvenir and there will be a produce stall.

The meeting will be held at the Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley on Wednesday, 13 July commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors always welcome.

Sylvia Conquest
941 1936

BELL RINGERS ON TOUR

On Saturday 4 June a band of 13 ringers from St Mary's Purley on Thames, 2 ringers from St James in Pangbourne and 5 ringers from Sussex set out to tour the Vale of the White Horse in Wiltshire.

A tight schedule was planned by David and Sonia Rooke, beginning at St Andrew's church in Letcombe Regis. Undeterred by the very long, very steep and somewhat ancient ladder to the ringing chamber, the ringers soon began a very useful practice led by Simon Robertson. St Andrews has six bells with a tenor weighing 8cwt, so these bells were very similar in weight to our own.



After a 45minute ring and a slow descent, we headed off to St Mary's in Uffington. Set in a beautiful village, this ancient church with its unusual octagonal tower was our next venue. Mike Adnett led the practice on the six bells. These were heavier than we are used to, with the tenor weighing 12cwt.

A bell ringing tour may seem a strange concept to those unfamiliar to the practice of campanology, after all "it's only tugging a rope", I hear you cry. To become well practised at the art, it is necessary to put in many hours of ringing, and to experience the different handling conditions of different bells. Those of you who drive will understand how, moving from one type of car to another, it takes a few moments to adjust to the slight differences; the seating position, the clutch bite and the general handling. This adjustment is the same, but the bells are sometimes very old, the oldest bell at St Mary's was cast in 1627, so it is necessary to respect these ancient bells and their often-quirky ways. Touring gives us the opportunity to experience this.

After Uffington, it was off to St Andrew's Church in Wanborough. June Wells led the practice on a set of eight heavy bells, the tenor here was 18cwt. Being used to a six bell ring, this was a great opportunity for some of us to try out some eight bell methods. Once settled into the different rhythm, we all rang successfully.

A very short drive took us to our next venue where, as many thousands of ringers in the past, we retired to the pub to partake of liquid refreshment and a well-earned meal.

Refreshed we set off for St Margaret's church in Stratton St Margaret, a lighter ring of eight bells, with the tenor only 8.5cwt. John Wells conducted the practice and kept us on our toes. It is always difficult to get

going after a meal, but fortunately no tricky ladders or narrow staircases here.

St Mary Magdalene's Church at South Marston greeted us next; a six-bell ring, the tenor 12cwt, Jackie Benstead organising and a band of tiring ringers. Undaunted, we got stuck in, everyone ringing successfully.

St Faith at Shellingford was the last church visited; this was a light ring of six bells with the tenor only weighing 6cwt. June Wells conducted the practice, and we all enjoyed the light and joyful ring.

Another successful annual tour, and our thanks go to the organisers and conductors who gave us four and a half hours of very useful practice, a chance to see the beautiful Wiltshire countryside and an opportunity to relax with friends over a meal.

Postscript:

The ringers of St Mary's Church in Purley on Thames have been ringing the bells, to call parishioners to Sunday services, each week since 1999, when the bells were re-hung and the tower made safe. If you are interested in finding out what this involves and how you might serve God in this way, then please call our tower captain June Wells on 941 0061.

ANOTHER WORLD

Our latest "regular" contributor, Dorothy West, hands over the reigns this month to her granddaughter, Bethan, whose poem was included in a recent publication of poems by schoolchildren from her local area.

Glistening silver beads fly from the rippling sapphire sea,
As the pearl dolphin plunges into the new blue world,
Emerald seaweed and peach coral,
All disappearing just as quickly as they had emerged,
Schools of scarlet fish swim past,
As an agile body glides effortlessly around in the cool azure water,
And then once again leaps back up into the sunlight.

FRIENDS OF PURLEY PARK TRUST

On Saturday 23 July from 10am to noon at St Mary's Church Hall Friends of Purley Park Trust are holding a coffee morning to raise funds for the purchase of a hydro pool for the residents.



THE PERILS OF TECHNOLOGY

I halve a spelling checker,
It came with my pea see.
It plainly marks four my revue
Mistakes I dew knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait aweigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the era rite
Its rarely ever wrong.

I've scent this massage threw it,
And I'm shore your pleased too no
Its letter prefect in every weigh;
My checker tolled me sew.



Ape roofed bye thee detour!

R U 5 - 11 yrs old? Bored in the hols?



Holiday Club 2005
Mon 1 - Fri 5 August
St Mary's Church
Purley on Thames

9.30am until 3pm

£6 per day/ £3.50 per session*

Reduced weekly rates when more than one child from a family attending
Subsidised weekly rates for families on low incomes.

Contact Anna for further information:

0118 942 8351 / 07764 660721

*£10 non-returnable deposit required



PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



The schedule for the 2005/2006 cycle of Council meetings has been finalised as follows:

Council – 28 July, 25 August, 29 September, 27 October, 24 November, 26 January, 23 February, 30 March, 27 April

Barn Management Committee – 7 July, 13 October, 9 February

Recreation Committee – 14 July, 3 November, 9 March

Highways & Footpaths Committee – 21 July, 10 November, 16 March

Chairman's Committee – 12 January

Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings, which are held at the Council Office adjacent to the tennis courts at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground commencing at 7.30pm. The annual meeting at the start of the 2006/2007 cycle is scheduled for 11 May and the Annual Parish Public Meeting (for all local residents) will be held in the Barn on Tuesday 23 May 2006 also at 7.30pm.

West Berkshire Council has advised that following the display of the statutory notice regarding the vacancy on the Council no call for an election has been made and therefore we will be given powers to co-opt to fill the position. We have had some enquiries but anyone else interested in becoming a member of the Council is invited to contact the Clerk for further information. This matter is likely to be considered at the July or August meeting.

Previous recipients of West Berkshire travel tokens should have received a letter advising them of distribution arrangements and full details will have been posted on the West Berkshire District Council website. Locally issuing started from this office on Friday 1 July (10am to 4pm) and will continue on Wednesday 6 July (1pm to 4pm) and Thursday 7 July (10am to 1pm). As mentioned last month 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 please bring them with you when you collect the new ones if you feel you will be unable to use them before the expiry date.

Since I mentioned about possible available allotment plots John Chapman, who acted on our behalf as Allotment Manager, was elected Chairman of

West Berkshire District Council (congratulations John!) and obviously will not have time to continue at present. Alex Stott kindly agreed to take over but then went away on holiday. He should have returned by now and can be contacted on 0118 941 9186 or by e-mail vastott@aol.com. Rents for 2005/2006 have been set at £8 per half plot (£5 concession) but are likely to rise in the future due to increased costs.

West Berkshire Council has recently advised us of a new free consumer advice service available on 08454 040506 or online www.consumerdirect.gov.uk which has been funded by the DTI.

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

STERLING MICRO SCOOTER - FOR SALE

This mobility scooter is in excellent condition, and has just been fitted with brand new batteries. It also comes with Keys, Battery charger, plus 1 year's insurance, and has a range of 10-12 miles. The selling price of this scooter is £400.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any enquiries regarding this mobility scooter. Contact Anne on 0118 943 1289

CROSSWORD

Several people told me that last month's crossword was a particularly tough one. I hope that doesn't mean I printed the wrong clues (again)!

The official answers are:

Across

5 Tooth, 6 Eunice, 8 Lice, 9 Cardinal, 10 Essenes, 12 Hare, 14 Seer, 15 Rameses, 18 Mountain, 19 Burn, 20 Beetle, 21 Spain

Down

1 Stoics, 2 Love, 3 Shechem, 4 Indicate, 6 Ezra, 7 Crane, 11 Eternity, 13 Earnest, 14 Store, 16 Earing, 17 Late, 19 Baal



PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PLANT SALE

The Plant Sale arranged for Saturday, 21 May had to be postponed until the 28th, but despite this it was very successful with a wide range of plants available. Thank you to all the people who supported us and to members of the Society who looked after the sales. We were lucky to have a sunny morning and we hope that all the plants purchased have grown well and people are pleased with them.



LATE SUMMER SHOW

This will be held in The Barn at the Recreation Ground, Beech Road, Purley on Thames on Saturday, 10 September, 2005. Schedules are available from the Trading Shed and we look forward to a good number of entries, but you need to be a member of the Society or Women's Institute. Entry forms must be handed into the Trading Shed or to Mr. J. Armstrong, 169 Long Lane, Tilehurst by Wednesday, 7 September. The Show opens to the public at 2.30pm to 4pm with presentation of trophies at 3.45pm Entry to the Show is free.

TRADING

The Shed in the Memorial Hall car park is open from 10am to 11am on Saturdays and Sundays until the end of October. Membership is only £1.50 and garden supplies, etc. can be purchased at discounted prices. Alex Stott on 941 9186 (e-mail vastott@aol.com) will be pleased to take your order if you are unable to visit the Store during opening times. If you have not yet renewed your membership, we would be grateful if you could do so in the near future. We are always pleased to receive new members as well.

HDRA ORGANIC GARDENS

We are hoping to organize a trip to the above gardens by minibus on 4 September. The estimated cost including admission will be £11. Will those interested please contact Mr. J. Armstrong (Tel. No. 942 1645).

ROYAL HORTICULTURE SOCIETY GARDENS

As an affiliated Society, we hold a card that provides entry to the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley, Rosemoor and Hyde Hall for one member and one guest. If you require further information or would like the card, please contact Pat Brightwell on 941 2424).

If you have not taken your summer holiday yet, we hope you will have an enjoyable one with good weather. Happy gardening.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349



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 10am and finish by 4pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools. Please phone the project office for further details of projects, meeting points etc, on 0118 930 5336.

FRIENDS' DIARY

Tue 5 July 10am

Kissing Gate Installation

Eling Farm

Come and spend the day helping Dick Greenaway to install a kissing gate linking the new Access Path to a Public Footpath at Eling Farm.

Thu 7 July 7.30pm

Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers AGM

The Victory Rooms Bucklebury Village

Please note change of venue and date. Come and join the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers for their AGM at the Victory Rooms at Bucklebury Village

Sat 9 July Sheep Racing 5pm – 9pm Fairholme Farm Stanford Dingley

Come and join in the fun at the annual sheep racing to be held at Fairholme Farm in support of the Pang and Kennet Valleys Countryside Projects. The Pangbourne Silver band will be in attendance and other attractions will include a bouncy castle and a hog roast, fun for all the family. Admission is free but donations appreciated. If you would like to sponsor a race or be an owner of a sheep for the evening, please contact the Project office for further details.

Sat/Sun 9/10 July

Open Weekend

Stanford Dingley

The village of Stanford Dingley is holding an open weekend, events include a flower festival, and an art exhibition. Some of the delightful gardens will be open for you to wander round. So, come along and visit this lovely gem of a village. Why not make a day of it and come to the Sheep Racing on the Saturday evening.

Tue 12 July 10am

Pond Management

Stanford Dingley

Help with our annual task to maintain Pangfield Pond and the surrounding habitat. This task includes grass cutting and clearing back vegetation to allow educational visits. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10am.

Sun 17 July 2-4pm

Guided walk

Speen Moor Newbury

Join Sally Wallington exploring the beautiful countryside to be found just a few minutes walk from Newbury. A whole host of interesting features, including: chalk streams; meadows; pillboxes; and the Kennet and Avon Canal. Meet at St Mary's Church in Speen, off Speen Lane. Grid ref: SU 455 678.

- Tue 19 July 2-4pm River Dipping (for adults) Speen Moor Newbury**
Come and explore the under water life of a chalk stream, on the hunt for invertebrate life on a backwater of the river Kennet. Numbers are limited; call the Project office to book your place, wellies essential. Meet at St Mary's Church in Speen, off Speen Lane. Grid ref: SU 455 678.
- Sun 24 July 1pm Castle and Marshes Lambourn Valley**
Come and explore part of the Lower Lambourn Valley in company with Dick Greenaway. About 4 miles (6.5km) some of which will be soggy! Meet at Donnington Castle car park (SU 462 691) at 1pm No dogs please.
- Tue 26 July 10am Tools Maintenance & BBQ Englefield**
All the hard work we put in through the year puts a strain on our tools! We will be working at our tool store to repair those broken handles and sharpen those worn blades. We will also be having a BBQ (please bring your own food) so why not join us to find out more about what we do. Meet at the Old Estate Office, Englefield Road, and Theale from 10am onwards.
- Tue 2 August 10am Meadow Management Pangbourne**
We will be clearing ragwort from Sulham Meadows SSSI, so that this important site can be grazed. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm at 10am.
- Tue 9 August Footpath Work Bucklebury**
Improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm at 10am.
- Sat/Sun 13/14 August 10am Pond Creation
Shefford CE Primary School Great Shefford**
Come and be part of an exciting project involving new technology to create a new wildlife pond at the School using geo-textile lining. This will enable the pupils of the school to use this important educational resource. Meet at 10am at Shefford CE Primary School.
- Tue 16 August 10am Grassland management Ashampstead Common**
Come and help Dick Greenaway maintain the glades and grassland in this beautiful woodland. Meet at Ashampstead Common car park (SU 587 751) at 10am
- Sun 21 August 1pm A Stroll around Bucklebury Common**
Join Dick Greenaway and John Bundy for a 3-mile (5km) stroll around this ancient common to see some of the historic features and wildlife and also to inspect the remarkable work being carried out by the Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group. Meet at Angels Corner (SU 550 688) at 1pm. Well-behaved dogs welcome.
- Tue 23 August 10am Grassland management Ashampstead Common**
Come and maintain our three flower rich glades by removing cut herbage. Meet at Ashampstead Common car park (SU 587 751) at 10am.
- Sun 4 September 10am Otter Holt Creation Priory Farm Beech Hill**
Come and help build and install an Otter Holt at Priory Farm Beech Hill.
- Tue 6 September 10am Footpath Work Bucklebury**
Improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm at 10am.

Sun 11 September**Heathland Management****Bucklebury Common**

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

Tue 13 Sept 10am**Footpath Work****Paices Wood**

Help to make sure the woodland and lakeside footpaths are clear at Paices Wood Country Park. Meet at 10am at Paices Wood (through Young's Industrial Est.) Grid ref: SU586638

Sat/Sun 17/18 September**Newbury Royal County of Berkshire Show**

Come and visit our new and vastly improved stand in the Countryside Area at the Royal County of Berkshire Show. Our display is being designed in conjunction with the Barn Owl Conservation Network, Murray Maclean (grower of hedgerow trees and shrubs), and the John Simonds Trust and will demonstrate how all four organisations' work is linked to comprehensively improve the wildlife in the Pang & Kennet Valleys.

PROJECT PURLEY

Project Purley's May meeting took the form of an outing to Englefield estate on a dull and overcast Friday evening. Despite the threat of a darkening sky, the weather remained dry, and a group of thirty, including several guests as well as the hardcore of members, was able to experience an enjoyable and informative evening.

The visit began with a procession of cars sweeping up the long driveway towards Englefield House, before we turned right into the car park before gathering for the obligatory group photograph. On our way into the estate we had noticed the caravans, lighting and equipment of a film crew, somewhat reminiscent of the scenes at Basildon Park in September, where shooting took place for *Pride and Prejudice*. One of the assistant directors explained that Englefield is frequently used as a location for "Hex" a science fiction series which is shown on Sky One television, and as we toured the grounds we could see the technicians setting up for a night shoot.

We all put our £3 in the moneybox as we passed through the gate, and the first item of interest was a small gravestone engraved "Mistopheles 1978 - 1987" who had been one of the estates favourite cats. Next we saw huge clusters of rhododendrons and magnolia, an appropriate combination of red and white, as it was the red and white-shirted Arsenal Team which was to win the FA Cup the following afternoon. Primula candelabra and azalea were in abundance too as we negotiated, somewhat gingerly, the undulating slopes of the extensive gardens, some of which had gradients resembling the north face of the Eiger.

There was a beautiful background of birdsong throughout our walk, and we spotted plenty of wildlife too, most noticeably the rabbits, scurrying home to their burrows, and the herds of deer, ears cocked at our approach, more

curious than alarmed. We also saw, hidden away among the tall trees, an aggressive looking bear, but on closer inspection he turned out to be just one of the wooden sculptures that lurk among the foliage.

The tallest tree and one which almost brings on symptoms of vertigo, is a nineteenth century Wellingtonia, and it was while we stopped to admire this colossus, that the contrast between ancient and modern became starkly apparent. As we looked beyond Englefield towards Theale, the picturesque church could be seen silhouetted on the horizon between the tall and ugly electricity pylons.

The Englefield estate has its own church of course, which we found after walking through the children's garden with its swing, slide and watersports and the blue Wisteria garden, adjacent to an outdoor swimming pool. The small but beautifully formed Englefield Chapel of St Mark has a nave which dates from 1190 AD. One of the many ancient memorials recorded the death of Anthony Englefyld, aged only 11 years in 1672. A more recent stone marked the deaths in The Great War of 1914-18 of four estate workers who were all members of the Royal Berkshire Regiment and one who lost his life in World War II whilst serving with the Royal Air Force.

We were almost at the end of our visit now, though there was just time for our guide Nikki Woodward, to give us some background information about the house and estate. It has been suggested that the name *Englefield* means *Englishman's battlefield* and the area was the site of a battle in 870 AD when King Alfred's Saxon Army defeated the invading Danes. The Englefield family owned the manor from the time of King Edgar the Peacemaker, though the house is now the home of the Benyon family, who had it painted by Constable in 1832. Englefield House is a late Elizabethan building of the classic E-shape style with extensive remodelling and re-facing in the 18th and 19th centuries. Although we were not able to go inside on this occasion, the house itself would be an interesting venue for a Project Purley outing at a later date.

David Downs

The July meeting of Project Purley will be the annual barbecue to be held on 15 July. Admission is by ticket only which should be reserved by 8 July and are available from Lee Hall Tel. 942 9238 and Ann Betts Tel 942 2485.



**AGE 4-12
YEARS**

Goose-Bumps Holiday Club

Purley

All school holidays (9am-6pm)

**Specialist activity days
all summer**

£15 full day £7.50 half day

Lots of specialised activities including horse & cart riding, tae kwon do, football, trampolining, karate, dance and ice skating

Jessica 07910 205158 Susie 07910 227874
www.goose-bumps.co.uk
 Ofsted registration number: EY294287

Places will be allocated on first come first served basis



PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

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.

Purley Parish News

EDITOR: Matthew Slingsby

24 Skerritt Way

Purley on Thames, RG8 8DD

Tel: 0118 961 5585 Fax: 0118 961 5125

purley.parishnews@ntlworld.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Les Jamieson

58a Wintringham Way

Purley on Thames

Tel: 0118 941 2342

CIRCULATION: Steve Corrigan

5 Menpes Road

Tilehurst, RG31 6GF

Tel: 0118 967 6061

ADVERTISING: Liane Southam

27 Waterside Drive

Purley on Thames, RG8 8AQ

Tel: 0118 942 8243

adverts@stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

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 1/2 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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