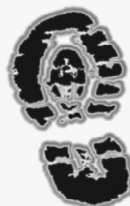
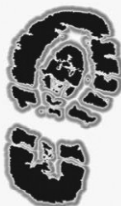


# PURLEY PARISH NEWS

**NOVEMBER 2005**



**35P**

The steps of a good man are  
ordered by the LORD, and He  
delights in his way (Psalm 37:23)

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



# ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

## PURLEY ON THAMES

### **CURATE**

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

### **CHURCHWARDENS**

Lorna Herring  
Tel: 0118 942 1547

John Rothery  
Tel: 0118 984 3625

### **RECTOR**

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

### **ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER**

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

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

---

### **FROM THE CURATE**

Dear Friends

On the last day of our holiday in France, instead of waking to the bright autumn morning we had been promised, we looked out of the window and could not see anything except dense fog. As we had a long journey to get to the port of Calais we did not relish the journey ahead. The sun was reluctant to break through and it was taking three times the estimated time to reach our landmarks along the way. Would we reach the ferry port in time to catch the ferry we wondered?

About three hours into our journey as we came to cross the Pont de Normandie at Le Havre, the frustration at our slow progress was compounded by our sense of disappointment that we could not see this impressive structure ahead of us. Together with all the other drivers we approached it slowly, not really sure when we would actually be crossing it. Suddenly a break in the fog appeared and there above us was the superstructure of the bridge bathed in the strong autumn sun light. It made an impressive sight and we could never have visualized the

brehtaking sight with its base in the fog as the main structure rose into the intense blue sky.



A similar thing happened to me this week as I travelled from Tidmarsh to Tilehurst. I set out in sunshine and as soon as I reached Sulham woods, I was picking my way carefully along the road in fog. Fog always appears to completely obliterate all the beauty and majesty around us. However that does not change the fact that, up there and all around, the sun is still shining. We know it is; we believe it is, even though we can't see it from below.

At times our lives are like that. Circumstances change frighteningly fast. One moment we are jogging along quite nicely and the next we are plummeted into despair with our lives clouded by fear, pain and uncertainty.

When this happens it is difficult to perceive the love of God. We may become blinded to spiritual truths. We may not know which way to go. All seems dark. But, in spite of the dimness, God's promises remain true and we must hold on to them. As the prophet Isaiah said '*the path you walk may be dark indeed, but trust in the Lord, rely on your God*'. Even though difficulties and trials come our way and we do not understand – we do not see what is going on – God is still with us even if we don't feel his presence.

Next time the fog comes down, literally or figuratively in your life, remember that there is sunshine and warmth beyond the greyness. And in spite of the present reality *fix your eyes upon Jesus*, the one who is *the light of the world*.

If you would like someone to walk alongside you in the darkness, please contact me. I would be happy to visit.

Jean

---

## PARISH REGISTERS

### WEDDINGS

8 October Adam May and Laura Leung  
15 October James Read and Helen Missing

### FUNERALS

16 September Stephen John Williamson, aged 49 years  
12 October Frank Wing, aged 77 years  
19 October Ian John Hart, aged 61 years

## CHURCH SERVICES

6 Nov	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
13 Nov Remembrance	9.30am	Family Worship
	10.55am	Holy Communion
20 Nov	9.30am	Family Communion
	11.15am	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
27 Nov Advent	10.30am	Advent Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service <b>at St James the Less</b>
4 Dec	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion

---



## ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

On Sunday 27 November at 6pm, St. James the Less, Pangbourne. All are welcome at this traditional service of Advent hymns, led by the choir of Pangbourne College. This is an All Churches Together event.

## COMMUNITY HARVEST SUPPER

Just over 90 people attended this event at The Barn on 25 September. The proceeds of £288.92 have been sent to The Duchess of Kent House Trust. Thanks to all who worked hard to prepare for this event and to all who supported it. Suggestions for this event in future years are welcome – please contact Roger Howell Tel. 0118 941 7727.

## INTERESTED IN VISITING THE HOLY LAND?

From 26 May to 5 June 2006 Revd Brian Spence from Englefield is organising a trip with visits to such places as: Nazareth, Lake Gallilee, Meggido, Masada, Qumran, Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Yad Va'Shem.

For further details contact St. Mark's House, Englefield, RG7 5EP. Tel. 0118 930 2227 or [brian@st.markshouse.f9.co.uk](mailto:brian@st.markshouse.f9.co.uk)

## COMMUNITY REPAINT

Here's an idea for making good use of those half full tins of paint in your garage which you have kept in case they come in useful! They will probably stay there for a long time to come, but they could be put to good use by the Community Repaint Scheme. If you would like to donate paint, it can be taken to B&Q, London Road, Newbury between 8am and 8pm on Mon-Sat., and between 10am and 4pm on Sundays.

# COULD YOU BE A FRIEND TO SOMEONE AFFECTED BY AUTISM?

Children and adults with autism often have problems making sense of, and coping with, the world around them, they have difficulty developing friendships, or understanding other people's feelings. Many lead very lonely lives. Whether you enjoy sport or TV, computers or cinema, going out for coffee, shopping, or staying in playing board-games, YOUR time could make a real difference.

Volunteers don't need to know much about autism; rather they need to be people who are open-minded and willing to learn. Could YOU spare a couple of hours a week to befriend someone in need of a friend in YOUR community?

To find out more, contact your local Volunteer Support Officer, Jean Landau, on 01635 862876, or write to her at PO Box 6134, Thatcham RG19 9AY

## ADVANCE WARNING

On Sunday 4 December from 2pm to 5pm the bells at St Mary's church will be ringing continuously as there are some visiting bellringers coming to ring a full peal. If you live near the church and sometimes find the bells annoying, you may wish to go out for the afternoon or keep your windows shut; otherwise, please enjoy the quaint English sound of church bells wafting across the village.



**ChildLine**  0800 1111

Whatever your problem, speak to someone who can help. Call us free, day or night

**0800 1111**

Textphone for deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired children: 0800 400 222

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) 

CHILDLINE RELIES ON DONATIONS TO PROVIDE THIS VITAL SERVICE



**Long Lane  
Primary School  
Christmas Fair  
Saturday 26 November**

**11.30am – 2pm**

Raffle with **cash** prizes

Tombola stalls refreshments



## **THE BASILDONIANS ARE BACK!**

The new village hall in Upper Basildon near Pangbourne is going to be ringing with laughter when the Basildonians hit the stage with their next production "Ten Times Table" by Alan Ayckbourne.

Anyone who has experience of committees, village politics and village life in general has just got to see this play. It centres around the leading lights in the village deciding to hold a pageant to mark some rather vague historic event. A left wing schoolteacher has a different take on it and so sets out to give it a Marxist twist, much to the disgust of the right wing Chairman's wife.

The Pageant turns out to be a violent and hilarious disaster, but will village life ever be the same again? Performances are 24/25/26 November in the Village Hall Upper Basildon near Pangbourne.

Ticket Bookings are being taken now on 01491 671230

---

## **MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM**

It was on the fourth day that I saw red. The DEFRA cross compliance inspection imposed on me with two days regulatory notice had been going very well. OK – it was unfortunate that Home Farm was one of the 10% of farms pulled out of the hat but with so many authorities feeling it there duty to impose more inspections... Well, over the first three days, we walked every field to look at boundaries, crop cover etc, inspected every cattle passport, movement book, records, etc., physically checked every ear tag on every animal on the farm (actually, I told them they could do the Angus cows themselves, needless to say they opted out!) plus a lot more besides. But day four was the icing on the cake.

In fairness, it was a pleasant young lad who turned up from the Environment Agency. A recent graduate in a subject nothing to do with the job he was now doing but still wearing standard t-shirt and... why do they wear a leather strap around their necks with a key fob attachment telling them their name? Surely they can at least remember that. Any case he produced yet another form, running to at least thirty pages and it took me at least 1½ hours to explain it to him! Having done that he wanted to inspect the farm buildings...

"So where is your slurry storage?" he asked, "The new regulations say you must have storage for a minimum of four months production". I explained that we spread it onto the land on a weekly basis choosing the most suitable fields and weather conditions as we have done for the last 22 years. He then went on to tell me that I must erect an above-the-ground slurry store, either of metal or concrete in one of my fields to store x thousand gallons of slurry. I commented that in an A.O.N.B. erecting a huge ugly store would have a far greater detrimental impact on the environment, but it seemed to fall on deaf ears. I then politely suggested he browsed over the environment agency's pollution record and compared it to mine. The debate continued and he left to consult his superiors.

WBC should by now have sent out four thousand questionnaires to randomly selected individuals regarding the Eastern Area Vision, now renamed the Kennet and Thames Vision as the area lies between the two rivers. If you are not selected you can still have your say, as questionnaires will be available on the WBC website [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk) or can be collected from the libraries in Theale and Pangbourne, the mobile library, the information desk at Savacentre or from the Parish Council Offices.

This public consultation will identify priorities for developing facilities and services over the next 10-20 years. The population in this area is expected to grow by around 8% by 2021, which will bring pressures that need to be planned for. For example, provision of affordable housing, improved transportation links, community facilities and social care are high on the agenda for future consideration.

We have already had success with finance for a new Adventure Dolphin, the Denefield School development and sorting out the Long Lane traffic problems. As others arise, we have been promised that they will be worked into the budget.

However, I don't think they will extend to contributing to a scheme to stop the Environment Agency water from the river polluting the village or my farm for that matter!!

*Tim Metcalfe*

# **Asian Evening**

**delicious authentic food**

St Mary's Church, Purley

**Saturday 12 November  
at 7.30pm**

ADULT £10  
CHILD (under 12) £5  
FAMILY (2+2) £25

PROCEEDS go to the work of  
David Mackie with SIM

TICKETS FROM:  
Mackie 941 7170

## **Enjoy this Christmas With a Walters Turkey**

**Producers for over 30 years  
of traditional  
farm fresh turkeys**



Choose from Free Range Bronze  
or  
Barn-reared White Turkeys

Pork sausages, sausage meat,  
bacon etc also available

**Phone 01635 578251**

Bower Farm, Aldworth, Reading RG8 9TR

## PURLEY PATHFINDERS A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

With still plenty of wild flowers about for us to discover during our *Year of Wildflowers*, we began our second September walk from the Watermill Theatre at Bagnor, the "most enchanting" theatre in Britain. From its beautiful setting beside the River Lambourne we climbed out of Bagnor, pausing at the top of our climb to take in the far-reaching views over rural West Berkshire, and on into Wiltshire. From open countryside we entered pretty woodland, eventually emerging onto a lane, down which we strolled into the picturesque village of Boxford. Lovely thatched cottages displayed their pretty late-summer gardens, and we could soon see why this village is called a *photographer's delight*! We passed the church of St Andrew which dates back to Norman times. Indeed, Boxford's history goes back many centuries, and we admired the Boxford Mill, now a private house, but which is mentioned as a mill in the Domesday Book. The final leg of our walk took us along The Lambourne Valley Way beside the River Lambourne. This route boasts numerous wildflowers, and there proved to be several later-flowering varieties for us to spot. However, the signs of the approaching autumn were evident all around us as hedgerows were draped in red, black and pink from rosehips, elderberries, and spindleberries, all tucked in snugly with billowing blankets of Old Man's Beard.



My camera felt sadly lacking during our next walk. How could it possibly capture the magic of one spectacular landscape view after another? The sky also looked dramatic with white lines of clouds sweeping across a blue sky from where we heard skylarks sing their songs of joy. No wonder Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber composes such beautiful music, for we were walking in his estate of Sydmonton Court. The surroundings made even the least musical amongst us feel lyrical! Lady Lloyd Webber has a love of horses, and we passed several fields of fine animals from the Watership Down Stud. Turning into a gravel drive we

headed towards two stately cedar trees beyond which stands the family home of Sydmonton Court. Near an old VR letter box, a drive leads away to a redundant Norman church, now incorporated into the Sydmonton estate. Within its walls many of Sir Andrew's brilliant musical scores have been composed. We continued past some splendid old, moss-covered saddle stones and, passing Sydmonton Farm, were soon climbing with views towards Watership Down – more inspirational countryside! Through a tunnel of trees, we emerged beside the green hillside as the Downs tumbled down the chalk scarp towards an isolated cottage – Shepherds Cottage. It came as no surprise that within its walls, surrounded by this beautiful, natural masterpiece of gentle curves, with Watership Down above, Richard Adams was inspired to write *Watership Down* – pure magic! As we joined The Wayfarers Way we had a variety of wild flowers at our feet, a fabulous blue sky above, and a pleasant breeze dancing around us. We sailed along the crest of the Downs, pausing now and then to take in the spectacular 360° view. Skylarks provided a musical interlude as we stood at the summit of Ladle Hill, an unfinished Iron Age hill fort, and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, supporting various rare orchids. Nearby stands Beacon Hill which, at 872 feet, is the highest spot on The Downs. Sir Andrew is passionate about preserving the countryside, and, since the time he bought Sydmonton Court in 1973, he has worked hard planting hedges, plantations, and many single trees, including the avenue of chestnuts lining the Kingsclere Road. As we bowled back down the hill, with breathtaking views all around, the words of Lady Lloyd Webber sprang to mind. "We are custodians of this most amazing countryside and must do our part to maintain the working fabric of the countryside for future generations."

For Purley Pathfinders, with our love of the countryside, that sounds like music to our ears!

It was a mild and misty October morning when we left Watlington car park where we had seen a red kite circling overhead. As we climbed up the hill, the views were glorious, even though the mist obscured our view of Wittenham Clumps. There were a surprising number of late summer flowers still blooming, and many autumn fruits. We noted white and red clover, field pansy, white campion, lesser trefoil, hedge bindweed, herb Robert and speedwell. At the top of the hill, a highlight was being able to look down on five red kites so that we could see the striped markings on the top of their wings. One landed in a yew tree close by and we could see what an impressive bird of prey it was. In the wood, the trees were just beginning to change colour and some of the beech leaves were beginning to fall. However, despite a welcoming log fire at the pub halfway along the walk, it was mild enough to sit outside to drink our coffee amongst colourful Michaelmas daisies and geraniums. There was a large area of Himalayan balsam in the woods, as well as ferns and several different fungi of varying shapes and sizes. We identified hips, haws, ivy berries, crab apples, blackberries, larch cones, sweet chestnuts, the red berries of white bryony, sorrel seed heads, holly berries and spindleberries – what a feast for wildlife, and a feast for our eyes!

With the approaching Trafalgar Day, it was interesting to meet at Chapel Row, near the Trafalgar Oaks, planted to celebrate victory in the Battle of Trafalgar, 200 years ago. This next walk was to take us into Bucklebury which claims to

have more footpaths than any other parish in England. We were determined to explore as many as possible on this lovely morning so we set off down a bridleway beneath a canopy of early autumn colour. In an orchard beside us we noticed the apple trees heavily laden with their precious autumn crop. Gaps in the trees gave us glimpses of the changing countryside, dotted with trees and hedgerows in various autumnal stages. Emerging from the trees, we walked closely to each other at this mystical time of year as we took to field paths of Bushnell's Green, which has its fair share of gruesome myths and legends! Our path was edged with wild chicory, its flowers flowing along in a pretty blue stream. This more than compensated for the fact that, when we crossed a bridge, the River Pang, which should have flowed beneath, was just a puddle! We turned and paused to breathe in the delights of the autumnal wooded slopes of Bucklebury Common behind us, before heading up a path beside a field of free-range pigs and piglets. Soon a church tower came into view, betraying the existence of a village. An ancient road bridge took us back over the, now flowing, River Pang, and soon we were standing beside the church of St Mary's, protected by a cluster of old cottages of Bucklebury village. We used our break to explore inside the beautiful Norman church, built on Saxon foundations. The stained-glass windows are stunning! Intense blue drew our eyes to the East window, which is unusual in that the portrayal of the crucifixion shows Christ looking up to heaven, not bowed in pain. By the pulpit a window displays a kingfisher and fish, important features in this Pangside village. No bright colours in this window, but its beauty came from its sheer simplicity. Above the Manor pew we found, possibly the most famous of its windows – the *Fly Window*. A sundial holds a central shield in enamel colours, and, next to the sundial, is *the fly*, painted so intricately as to appear completely real. The sundial and the fly reminded us that *time flies!* And so we resumed our walk by climbing out of the village beneath trees to eventually arrive alongside the pastures of Bucklebury Farm Park. The large herd of deer were shyly hiding, so we had to make do with a muntjac deer which ran across our path. Our route now proved straightforward as we followed one linked path after another along pleasant woodland strips, to finally emerge alongside the *Millennium bench*. Walking beside the *Millennium Oaks*, we made our way towards the Bladebone Inn, which has not escaped legend. Its copper bladebone hanging above the doorway is probably the scapula of a whale, but legend has it that it is the bone of a pre-historic mammoth that used to stalk the area! Thankfully the Inn's conservatory proved snug and welcoming in which to enjoy an uneventful lunch!

On 18 October we enjoyed our Autumn-time Special, and were delighted when unexpected sunshine forced its way through the clouds to give a glow to the surrounding autumn colours. We were walking in the south eastern corner of Windsor Great Park where a wide range of trees, shrubs and flowering plants form an ever changing landscape. We came alongside the green swathe that is Smith's Lawn, celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year as home to The Guard's Polo Club. The only horses we saw were made of bronze, plus a fabulous topiary horse and rider. Nearby we entered the Heather Garden which holds the British National Collection of Heathers. Excellent subject for throughout the year, we enjoyed either the swathes of colourful flowers, or their striking foliage of many shapes, colours and textures. Here is also held the National Collection of slow growing

conifers – 2000 different forms in fact, each adding great interest with their variety of shapes and colours, from warm golden yellows to cool steely blue. Taller trees give a framework to the whole area, planted to give further interest like the exotic birches with their amazing bark, and the sorbus with small pearly berries dangling amongst apricot foliage. We were now walking within *The Valley Gardens* where the diversity of trees leads to spectacular autumn colour with russets, purples, reds, oranges and yellows, while green is provided by the structural evergreen trees and rhododendron bushes. Fungi in marvellous shades add their contribution to the colourful scene. We took our break at Plunket Memorial, a neoclassical building commemorating Lord Plunket, Deputy Master of the Queen's household. From here we gained a lovely view down to the shimmering surface of Virginia Water. Some of us made use of the seats and steps to relax, while others squirreled away, collecting sweet chestnuts which lay in profusion at our feet. We were alongside the famous *Punchbowl*, probably the Valley Gardens' most well-known springtime feature when it is ablaze with colour from azaleas and rhododendrons. Even on this autumn day some of the rhododendrons were flowering (we were told later that there is a rhododendron to provide flowers 52 weeks of the year). We walked down to the lakeside, created in 1753 when it was the largest manmade body of water in the British Isles. Our path gave us fleeting glimpses of this impressive lake as we made our way along sweeping valleys planted with majestic trees. Eventually, at the eastern end of Virginia Water, we reached the Totem Pole. Looming 100 feet in the air, it is carved from a single log of 600 year old Western Red Cedar, cut from a forest near Vancouver. We attempted to find the ten parts, each carved to represent a different tribe, starting at the top with *a man with large hat* down to *cedar man*, with creatures such as a whale and a two-headed snake in between! The final part of our walk took us up beside the Obelisk Pond, its



autumnal reflections rippled only by a few ducks and a fisherman's float. We headed for the Obelisk rising up behind the pond, and here we found benches on which to picnic. After lunch, we began the second part of our special day. We entered The Savill Garden where we were met by our Garden Guides who took us, in three groups, around this stunning garden. Acclaimed to be one of the finest gardens in England, it holds nine National Collections of plants! Some fine trees were already in place when, in 1932, Sir Eric Savill began turning an area of wilderness into a garden of beauty and interest. These trees now form the structural bones of the garden. We were told to look at three levels of interest – the top level having mature trees such as old oaks and newer cherries, maples and magnolias. In the next level are the shrubs with rhododendrons, camellias, witchhazels and hydrangeas. The herbaceous plants, ferns, hostas, and bulbous plants such as the autumn crocus, colchicums, form the lower level on the woodland floor. Amongst russets and oranges, our tour treated us to the fiery reds of maples and the buttery yellows of witchhazels. The scented flowers of the latter were delightful, but more powerful was the Katsura tree which stopped us in our tracks with its strong toffee caramel scent

which brought back memories of a similar tree enjoyed at Highgrove. (We were interested to learn that the Head Gardener of Highgrove was trained at Savill Garden). The garden contains many rare trees, and our attention was drawn to a pterocarya fraxinifolia with its ash type leaves, growing alongside a vintage oak. Several trees form climbing frames for other plants like a magnificent wisteria, a monstrous Montana, and a vine, clothing its host tree in a voluptuous blanket of red and orange. Beds of hydrangeas gave a variety of colour through pink, red, white and blue. In the Formal Area we enjoyed the rich deep colours of the herbaceous borders, planted to give a long season of interest through colour and form. A border full of dahlias gave a stunning show, with trees in the background complementing the reds and yellows. Roses, planted in single colour beds, make a bold impact. It was thought that the only thing missing from this formal area was a house, so a 5 metre high wall was built to represent the wall of a house. It is actually built using bricks from houses destroyed in London's East End during the Blitz. The wall faces due south, providing the ideal backdrop for a wide range of wall shrubs and climbers, with nerines and alpinas planted beneath. Dwarf conifers form a permanent textured backdrop. In the Jubilee Garden is a striking modern water feature surrounded by pots of flowering and foliage plants with benches between. Created in 1978, this area is planted mainly for autumn colour, as is the Dry Garden nearby, giving further opportunity for diversity of planting with its herbs and airy grasses. Here an Arbutus tree caught our eye with its splendid orange, flaky bark. More orange caught our eye as we headed for the Queen Elizabeth Temperate House, named for the Queen Mother. Pumpkins were arranged in groups for great visual impact. The Temperate House aims to *bring the woodland garden under glass* and, to this end, is planted with broadleaved trees, rhododendrons and camellias, with ferns at their feet. We were lucky to be given a preview of a new water feature, waiting to be unveiled. Water forms a cyclone as it fills two copper bowls, eventually to overflow, revealing the beauty of the metal – a stunning gift from The Friends of Savill Garden. Savill Garden has many water courses and, after crossing a bridge over one of these, we ended our tour by walking beside the lush planting along the edge of a pond. Our Special day was nearly over, but there was just time to browse in the gift shop and plant centre, before finishing with a *Pathfinders tradition* of tea and cake in the restaurant.



We look forward to more autumnal walks as we take a trek around Turville and scrunch leaves in the beechwoods around Cane End. As autumn gives way to winter we will be following the Chiltern Sculpture Trail, and foraging for fungi in Bowdown Woods. Any ladies wishing to join us, please give me a ring. You will be very welcome!

Nicki Woodward  
984 2112

# PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## WINTER TALKS

On Wednesday 19 October, Mrs. Gwen Barton gave us a very entertaining talk and slide show on her visit to New Zealand. On Wednesday 16 November, Mr. Jim Asher will talk on: *How can gardens help butterflies?* This will take place in Purley Memorial Hall commencing at 8pm. Please try and come along so that we have a good audience for the speaker.



## TRADING

The Shed is now closed for the winter months and will re-open the first weekend in February.

*Marion Dabbs*  
942 2349

---

## THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP

Is there anyone who would like to meet new friends, and spend a pleasant afternoon in friendly company? The Hand of Friendship is a group that meets every Tuesday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm in St. Mary's Church Hall. We welcome new members, of any age, for a chat, tea and cakes; we have a small raffle. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Babs Waring 942 8844*  
*Gladys Morris 942 3610*



*The Thames Vale Singers*  
*Invite you to a*  
*Christmas Concert*

### *"Seasonal Songs and* *Christmas Carols"*

Friday 9 December 2005  
Purley Memorial Hall

And

Saturday 10 December 2005  
The Barn, Purley on Thames

Performances will commence at 8pm

To obtain your tickets or for more details  
please contact:

John Dimmock, TVS Chairman  
0118 962 4651

## PURLEY CE INFANT SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 3 December 2-4pm

In The

### NEW SCHOOL HALL

Attractions include

### FATHER CHRISTMAS

RAFFLE LUCKY DIPS TOMBOLAS

CAKES STALL REFRESHMENTS

### CRAFT ACTIVITY TABLE

And many more

Entrance 50p  
Accompanied Children FREE

## WHAT IS CRIMESTOPPERS?

Some people who have information about crime don't want to speak to the police and certainly don't want anyone to know who they are. So how do they pass on what they know? The answer is to call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. So how does that information actually help to fight crime? This short article aims to answer these and other questions.

Because the callers are anonymous, there is no way of knowing who they are. The calls are not traced or recorded and don't show up on phone bills, unless made from some mobile phones. There can be many reasons why somebody does not want to speak directly to the police. They may not want to give a formal statement or appear in court as a witness; they may have information about a relative, neighbour or work colleague; they may be afraid of what will happen if someone finds out they have spoken to the police. Crimestoppers removes any fear of reprisal, retribution or revenge. The critical point is that the information does get through and certainly makes a difference. This is because the police cannot solve crime on their own but need help from everyone. Sometimes the police know who the criminals are, but don't have enough evidence to make an arrest. When information – often like the final piece in a jigsaw – is given through Crimestoppers, the criminals are caught.

The Freephone number: 0800 555 111 should only be used to give information about people who are involved in crime or who may be planning crime. The emergency 999 number should always be used if, for example, a crime is actually being committed. If anyone is not bothered about anonymity, then they can call the general police enquiry number: 08458 505505.

When someone calls Crimestoppers, they speak to a specially trained person. All the information that can be given is taken down and passed on for investigation. Very often, the information helps an enquiry already taking place. Sometimes, though, it tells the police something completely new. This is why, without the help of the Crimestoppers caller, some crimes might never be solved.

Since it was set up in April 1999, calls to Thames Valley Crimestoppers have led to almost 10,000 investigations. As a result, nearly 1,200 people have been arrested and charged with all sorts of offences. The crimes solved with the help of information given by callers to Crimestoppers include: drugs dealing; traffic offences; driving whilst unfit through drink or drugs; theft; assault; theft from vehicles; robbery; handling stolen goods; theft of vehicles; arson; murder and attempted murder; criminal damage; fraud; and burglary

A national charity, Crimestoppers Trust, is the body behind Thames Valley Crimestoppers and the other 30 regions that cover the United Kingdom. Formed in 1988, the Trust helps to publicise the scheme and works with government departments and other organisations to improve the scheme and make it grow. It is very successful with over 57,000 people arrested and charged in 15 years. This includes one murderer every week.

The three counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire are broken down into 16 police areas. This is also the way Thames Valley Crimestoppers is

organised. There is a Regional Board of volunteer members drawn from the areas. They represent the community and, because they work closely with local crime reduction partnerships, they also know the problems that are of most concern locally. The job of the Board is to publicise Crimestoppers throughout the Thames Valley so that people living in the region are aware of the 0800 555 111 number and understand how it works. The Board also raises money to pay for publicity and for rewards; although very few of these are claimed.

Thames Valley Crimestoppers can work quickly when there is a local problem because publicity material already prepared for use in one place can often be used somewhere else too. Examples include campaigns that are aimed at:

- Dealing with bogus callers who target elderly people
- Drivers who are over the drink limit
- Banned drivers who should not be on the road
- People who have illegal guns
- Dealers in hard drugs who force addicts into crime
- People who steal from cars and also take vehicles
- Robbers who attack people in the street

As well as these campaigns, Thames Valley Crimestoppers has also made a big effort to take the message to young people. The next generation must understand the threat of crime to them and know that they, also, can give any information they have to Crimestoppers without anybody finding out.

Basically, Crimestoppers is a partnership between the community (local councils and businesses); the media (newspapers, radio, and television); and the police. The community provides funding, the media provides publicity, and the police take action on the calls. But unless people know about the number these calls will not be made. Local councils, shops, offices, community groups and many others can help by:

- Displaying posters in public places
- Inviting Crimestoppers to talk to meetings of local groups
- Putting up display stands at open days and similar events
- Raising money to pay for special campaigns to tackle local crime
- Printing articles in church, parish and other local magazines
- Distributing leaflets or other publicity material

These are just a few ways of spreading the message about Crimestoppers.

If you would like to know how you can get involved with Crimestoppers, please contact: Thames Valley Crimestoppers, PO Box 4818, Earley, Berks RG10 0FT  
email: TVCS@ehotspot.co.uk



# PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



West Berkshire Council have amended the times and venues for their mobile library service. As before route 11 will arrive on a Thursday and the new timings are:

Orchard Close	2.00 - 2.15
Memorial Hall	2.25 - 2.40
Hazel Road	2.50 - 3.15
Purley Church	3.25 - 4.20

Visits are scheduled for 24 November, 15 December 2005, 5 & 26 January, 16 February, 9 & 30 March 2006.

As the Returning Officer at West Berkshire Council advised that no election had been called, the Parish Council will most likely have filled the casual vacancy by co-optation at their October meeting (details to follow). Anyone interested in serving as a councillor in future is invited to contact the Clerk for further information.

All the Parish Council notice boards are currently being replaced or refurbished but we are still seeking information on who is wasting public money by causing criminal damage to them. Please contact this office, or the Police non-emergency number 0845 8 595 505, if you are able to help. The Council are happy to place suitable notices on those boards, for activities organised by local organisations, but please allow at least three weeks before the event to ensure they are displayed in time. Posters should be left at the Parish office in the letter box (when the office is closed).

The Council will soon be issuing copies of our current grant policy, together with application forms to local organisations who have benefited in the past, but if there is any other group who require this information please contact us. These grants are usually awarded for annual payment in March but as the number of requests normally exceeds the budgeted amount available, we would again draw attention to the lottery *Awards For All* scheme who can be contacted on 01483 462943 ([www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk)).

*Brian J. Smith*  
*Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council*

The office, located near the tennis courts, opens:

Mondays (not BH): 5.45pm to 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)

**[www.purleyonthames.net](http://www.purleyonthames.net)**

## WEST BERKS SCRABBLE CLUB

Our Thursday afternoon meetings are now devoted to Scrabble beginners – those of you who enjoy playing with family and friends but who have never ventured to a club. We are a friendly sociable group who warmly welcome newcomers. Why not pay us a visit and see for yourselves.

We meet twice weekly at The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Purley, on Tuesday evenings at 7.15-10pm., and Thursday afternoons at 2-5pm.

We are all local folk so when paying us a visit there's a likely chance of seeing amongst us someone you recognise or know.

For further details please speak to Ian or Elizabeth on: 984 5045.



## FOND MEMORIES

My Granny never read a book in her life. She found it hard to believe that people could go up in the air and fly to all parts of the world. Her first ever telephone call was made to me when she was over eighty and she shouted into the receiver, not quite believing in the technology.

In a very troubled childhood my Granny was my rock, my security. She cared for me when there was no-one else and although I resented her old-fashioned and eccentric ways, I always knew that her love was constant. My dinner money was wrapped in a whole sheet of the newspaper and the packet was placed in my hand with a warning not to let it go until the teacher took the money from me. She made me wear a liberty bodice (a kind of war time vest) all winter and short socks were completely unacceptable until the weather was sweltering.

I suppose her crowning moment came when the local Member of Parliament (the celebrated Richard Crossman) came canvassing in Granny's street in Coventry. She had an issue to take up with him and when he failed to respond in a satisfactory way, she grabbed the lapels of his very smart suit and shook him so hard that onlookers said his teeth rattled. Probably today that incident would have made the newspapers but that wouldn't have fazed her, she was fearless.

She began her working life as a maid at a large house in Coventry but her life changed for ever when she met my Granddad (always known as Pop) at Banbury fair. Pop was a farm worker in Oxfordshire but made the journey to Coventry every Sunday by pony and trap to court Florrie. A rather hasty wedding the following year led to over sixty years of marriage. I've always believed it to be a love match.

*Dorothy West*



## **PURLEY ON THAMES CC REVIEW OF 2005 SEASON**

We have had a very successful season for both Adults and Junior sections on and off the pitch in 2005.

Our number of members has increased allowing us to play three teams on a Saturday, two on Sundays, and to compete in several midweek cup competitions. We had a successful trial with the Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> XI to enable progression for juniors into adult cricket, with mentoring from some of our more *established* players.

The Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> XI became the Berkshire Premier Division champions for the first time in 15 years, and the Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> XI team became Sunday Millennium League winners. Our midweek team was the winner of the Reading midweek League Knockout Competition.

From our growing number of Juniors, who are aged from 6-17 years, the U13 team reached the semi-final of the Berkshire Colts League competition.

We also successfully piloted the *FUNDamentals* training scheme for 6-9 year olds in Berkshire, on behalf of the English Cricket Board (ECB).

If you are interested in participating – playing, coaching or helping behind the scenes – please get in touch with Martin Bishop 0118 945 3117 or Barry Carter 0118 942 2075.

Don't worry if you have no previous experience – we are happy to assist with training and registration...

Also, don't delay, as cricket continues year round with Adult indoor league competitions in the winter, and indoor nets and training for Juniors commencing in February.

---

## **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

I hope to be round the parish, collecting the Children's Society boxes, during November. Anyone who has a box that I may not know about – and would like to add it to my list – please contact me.

*S Pryor*  
984 3589

## **PURLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND INFANT SCHOOL**

I am sure many of you who walk around the village have seen the considerable building work that has been taking place at Purley School. After many years of planning our new hall is now open and fully functional. Work on the original school building is almost complete and soon the builders will be leaving us to enjoy our new surroundings in peace. The teachers and pupils have coped well

with the disruption and have continued their studies as per normal. They have enjoyed watching the building take shape and have taken part in design competitions organised by the builders and architects. The large diggers and trucks have also created excitement for pupils.

For those of you who do not know, Purley Infants is a small, Church of England school for Foundation and Key Stage 1 pupils. The school has close links with St Mary's Church and the local community. Reverend Howell attends all our Christian Celebrations he leads a collective Worship for the pupils every Monday. The children look forward to his visits and always enjoy his stories.

One of the strengths of the school is that we are able to provide a high level of adult support in each class. Every class has a teacher and a teaching assistant. In the foundation stage there is also a qualified Nursery Nurse. The school prides itself on the high level of care and attention it is able to provide for its pupils alongside good educational standards. We are also an *Artsmark* School which is an award from the Arts Council which recognises the schools' commitment to providing a rich curriculum for the Arts.

This term our Harvest Festival was held for the first time in our new hall. All of the children took part in celebrating Harvest Festival they performed songs, dances and took part in a play. The event was, as always, very well attended by parents and friends of the school. Harvest produce was donated to Purley Park Trust.

Also this term, as part of their geography studies the Year 2 pupils have taken part in an exchange visit with All Saints' School in Reading. Our pupils study the conservation area around Brownlow road in Reading they visit the Church, the school and a local park. All Saints' pupils visit Purley Lock, St Mary's Church and Purley School. Next month all of the pupils (and many of the parents) are due to visit the National Gallery in London. This is a trip which takes place every year and one that we all look forward to and enjoy.

Purley School has a very active parent/teacher Association which is called FOPS (Friends of Purley School). Funds are raised through regular cake sales, raffles Christmas and summer fairs and a whole range of activities for pupils and parents. Recently three mothers took part in the 5K Hydro Active run in Hyde Park where they managed to raise over £300 for school funds Thanks to the generosity of FOPS we have been able to buy two interactive white boards, new maths equipment and subsidise visits out of school and visitors into school.

The other main news for many of the people who have attended the school in past years is that Peggy Greenway our school secretary and finance officer is retiring at the end of term. Peggy has been a part of the school for an incredible 32 years. It will be very strange without her, she will be sorely missed by pupils, staff and governors. The Christmas plays won't be quite the same without Peggy on the keyboard! We wish her well in her retirement and thank her for all her years of loyal service to the school.

If you wish to visit the school please contact Jeannette Goddard, Headteacher on 0118 984 2384 for further details.

## PROJECT PURLEY AND THE BASILDON PARK EXTRAS

Impeccable timing ensured that Project Purley's September meeting took place on the day that Universal Pictures big screen production of *Pride and Prejudice* went on general release throughout the UK. One of the best attended and longest gatherings of recent years listened enthralled as Society members plus invited guests spoke of their experiences as support artists in the Netherfield Ball scenes filmed at Basildon Park in September 2004.

John Southall *topped and tailed* the meeting. Although not involved in the actual filming, because he was reluctant to shave off his beard, he was on site throughout as a member of the Basildon Park staff. He explained that the film unit comprised 90 camera and technical crew, and that he and his colleagues had to close the house as early as July to accommodate them. They were helped by a conservation expert as they wrapped and stored away precious and irreplaceable items, then took up valuable carpets that would be permanently damaged by the footsteps of the 200 extras that had been recruited by Working Titles. The film village gradually assembled, including huge hairdressing and costume marquees; catering vans; stage sets; scaffolding; a rebuilt Octagon Room; and motor homes for the stars that included Keira Knightley, Donald Sutherland, Matthew MacFadyen and Brenda Blethyn. Basildon Park staff also had the mundane task of directing traffic and checking identity cards, as well as ensuring that no gravel from the driveway was trodden into the house.

Janet Southall, John's wife, was an extra in the crowd scenes and spent four days on the set, and can see the back of her head, wearing a mop cap, in the film. She particularly remembered the stifling heat in the ballroom scenes on the Thursday afternoon shoot, and how terrified she was that one of the large candles would set alight a lady's ball gown. Continuity meant that filming often had to be stopped to ensure that candles were seen at the appropriate length, and the musicians of the English Chamber Orchestra were hearing piped music through their earpieces in some scenes, as were the dancers, to enable the sound crew to record the conversation between the actors. But the real highlight came on the last day, when having missed the minibus transport back to the dressing room, she was given a lift in film director Joe Wright's Mercedes!

Cold feet almost prevented Sylvia Conquest from auditioning for a part, but once she was accepted and had seen the wonderful costumes, she was delighted to be involved in the filming of the Jane Austen novel she most adores. She received her £20 fee for a fitting and worked on each of the four days. The organisation was superb, including the first-aid facility for an injured lady who fell heavily, plus the *Real Meals* catering van which could produce hot meals throughout the day. Sylvia was embarrassed by her sore throat, even though she had a non-speaking part, but made up for it by acting out an exaggerated swoon on the settee during the ball scene. She had a sense of anti-climax once the filming was over, but in retrospect enjoyed the whole experience, even if Colin Firth was not playing Mr Darcy.

Christine Wall, Sylvia's friend from many years ago, had joined a casting agency without any opportunity of work until she saw the advert for extras for *Pride and*

*Prejudice* in the Newbury Weekly News. At her fitting she noticed that the costumes had been supplied by five different companies, and some dresses were in dire need of repair. The hairdresser attached a bun to her short hair, added a feather and she was told to wear no jewellery or make-up. A devotee of period drama, Christine loved the film when she saw it, and managed to recognise her own back view in one of the scenes.

Peter Mason, a member of the Basildonians amateur dramatics group, auditioned, was enlisted as a footman, and was then rapidly promoted to a gentleman guest at the ball. He spoke of the problem for background artists in miming animated dialogue for take after take, and at the same time making suitable accompanying facial expressions. Peter was called back at the end of the week to film an additional scene, this time as a footman, and can be seen covering the house furniture with dustsheets before closing the huge double doors as the curtains are brought down at the far end of the corridor. For him, an equally memorable part of the experience was meeting other extras including a former investment banker, a taxi driver, a children's game designer and the man who sold George Harrison his first electric guitar for £17.

Working as a volunteer in the teasop at Basildon Park meant that Edward Dingwell, an M.A. student at Reading University, was in pole position for a part as a crowd extra. He used a superb phrase to describe his feelings when he said that during the week he was "able to get under the skin of the film". He had been told to mingle in crowd scenes, but like many of the extras was too star-struck to do this immediately. He also had a narrow escape when he survived an attempted seduction by Sylvia and Christine during some enthusiastic background action, and accidentally clobbered one of the stars, Rosamund Pike, whilst waving his arms about too animatedly during the Netherfield Ball.

I was originally offered all four days, but this was cut to two when the heavy rain meant that no outdoor filming could take place on Monday or Tuesday. I had only been accepted as a crowd member after promising to shave off my beard, and suffered more humiliation when the hair stylist said my hair was a bit *Doris Day*. I learned from one of the costume assistants that this was rhyming slang for *gone astray*! I spent two long days wearing a heavy wig, thick clothes and tight silk stockings, and at times felt like a stray dog in Battersea Dogs Home, as assistant directors looking for people to fill out crowd scenes walked straight past me in the marquee. But I was impressed by the attention to detail in the scenes in which I was included, such as the correct way to hold a glass, the constant attention of the hair stylists and dressers between takes, and the provision of water bottles in the heat of the Octagon Room, which then had to be tucked away out of sight. Like the rest of the speakers, I enjoyed the kindness and thoughtfulness of all the film unit, and the camaraderie among the extras. The only disappointment came when the director asked for a couple to indulge in a passionate embrace as background to the dancing. I suggested to the lady standing next to me near the piano that we might oblige, but she replied, "Certainly not, we're far too old!"

John Southall finished the evening by saying what happened after the extras had left. There were a further six days filming for the principal actors, with the house

staff spending much time raking over the grass and gravel after each take of the horses and carriages travelling over it. On the warmest day the Fire Brigade arrived to work the rain machine, and Keira Knightley had glycerine applied to her face to produce artificial tears. John and his colleagues were able to eat gourmet-type food alongside the actors, and this also gave him the opportunity to collect autographs on prints from a 1964 reproduction of an 1896 edition of the book. These much prized signatures are now in the safe at Basildon Park. The house needed a fortnight's work before it could revert from a film set to a National Trust property, but now includes, at no extra charge, an exhibition of the items connected with the filming of *Pride and Prejudice*.

Looking back on those exciting days at Basildon Park in September 2004, those of us who were lucky enough to be involved will remember several highlights. Not the £60 per day we were paid, or the excellent way in which we were fed and watered, but the friends we made, the opportunity, however brief, to rub shoulders with the stars of the silver screen, the patience we all showed in standing through seventeen takes of the ballroom scene, the director's cries of "Lovely, lovely, lovely!", but more than anything, the fun of it all. Go and see this marvellous film. Blink and you'll miss us, but I promise you, we are there!

*David Downs*

The next meeting of Project Purley will be on 18 November at 8pm at The Barn. Liz Woodhouse will be giving a talk about Wilson Road School.

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you, everyone who supported my Macmillan Coffee Morning at St Mary's. I am delighted to report that a cheque for £1,500 has been forwarded to this very worthwhile cause.

*Nicki Woodward*

## **PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY LUNCH**

The lunch on 20 September had been planned by representatives from the following Parish Planning groups: Basildon, Pangbourne, Purley, Streatley and Tidmarsh with the support of Community Action West Berkshire.

### **SELECTED MINUTES**

#### **RECYCLING INITIATIVE**

130 pots of paint were collected at the Paint Swap in May, however publicity could be improved. Purley hope to use the new Farmers Market as a possible venue for future local recycling initiatives

#### **OLDER PEOPLES VOICE - Jenny Hatch WBC User/Carer Development Worker**

Jenny is looking to form a forum to discuss the issues for older people in the Pangbourne Area if anyone is interested please contact Jenny on 01635 519406  
E mail: [jhatch@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:jhatch@westberks.gov.uk)

## ADVENTURE DOLPHIN - Rob Yates

Two new workers have been appointed. The project has been busy fundraising for the redevelopment of the centre – £500,000 needs to be raised. Sport England has given funding. Extensive consultation with the young people

## THAMES VALLEY POLICE/NAG – Insp. Roger Cartwright and Sgt. Barry Walker

The new Neighbourhood Action Groups are working well with representatives from each Parish, the schools, youth and community and the police: all working together to tackle local problems, including those highlighted by local communities in their Parish Plans: e.g. Purley had a problem, with young people riding motorized scooters and not wearing helmets. Every household was leafleted about the legal position of using these scooters and incidents were reduced by two thirds.

Main areas of concern are anti-social behaviour and speeding. Local people are working together to tackle the speeding issues. The public are encouraged to come to open meetings and to report crime. Thames Valley Police have a commitment to Neighbourhood Policing and that will be in place across the whole force by 2008. Pangbourne is a pilot area that was started in April 2005.

## THAMES VALLEY FARMERS MARKETS - Stuart Chandler local market co-ordinator

Interest in starting a Farmers Market in Purley was highlighted in Purley's Parish Plan. The first market was a resounding success with over 500 people attending. There were also a number of craft stalls which Stuart would like to see expanded, maybe the Pangbourne W.I. market would like to link with it? Stuart was impressed by the community spirit.

DATE OF NEXT LUNCH: Tuesday 21 March 2006 12.30-2pm Dorman Rooms, Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne

---

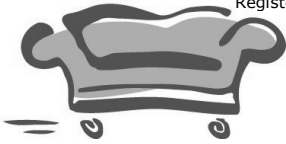
## **JUNE MYCROFT SCHOOL OF DANCING FOR ADULTS**

I have been teaching in Battle hospital since 1981 but sadly the hospital has closed down and we must move to another venue. After a long search I have found THE BARN in my home village of Purley and we started there on 24 October at 8pm.

My classes are for adults only and are aimed at using movements and memory, all set to music. After a happy year of dancing and success in our exam session including Centenary Awards with the National Association of Teachers of Dancing, all candidates had Hons and Dist for Tap dancing, Freestyle, and Dance and exercise

Not everyone does examinations; I have a wide range of amateur and leisure awards. The main focus is to enjoy the sessions. If you would like information please call me.

*June Mycroft*  
967 6376



## **RE-USE ROADSHOW**

Purley-on-Thames Farmers Market  
The Barn, next to the Goosecroft  
recreation ground in Beech Road

**Saturday 12 November 2005**  
**8.30am to 12.30pm**

- Donate your surplus re-useable furniture, domestic appliances, electrical items and household goods for re-use.
- Smaller items can be brought and donated on the day; arrangements can be made on the day for us to collect larger items during the following week.
- Items donated on the day are available (at no cost) to visitors to the Community Furniture Project stand – except electrical items, which need to be taken for testing at our workshop.

For more information, ring the Community Furniture Project on 01635 43933 or visit [www.cfpnewbury.org](http://www.cfpnewbury.org)

This event is supported by West Berkshire Council and Purley on Thames Parish Council

## **DON'T MISS OUT ON AWARDS FOR ALL**

Grants of £500 to £5,000 in Lottery money are still available for community projects across England under the Awards for All programme and applications are being encouraged for the £2.5 million remaining to be allocated in the South East this year.

Awards for All is actively encouraging small community groups, schools, health bodies, parish or town councils with projects that support the arts, education, sport, heritage, health and the environment in their community to apply for funding under this scheme.

Money is available now through a straightforward application process. Applicants will be advised within eight weeks if they have been successful and information can be given to groups that are unsure about their eligibility or how to apply.

Liz Daw, Head of Programme Management at Awards for All said: "The Awards for All programme can make a huge difference by directing smaller sums of money to the heart of community projects. Thanks to the straightforward applications process many groups who may not normally apply for lottery money have been able to access funds for people in their area. There is still money available this year for such groups and we would welcome applications from groups who may not have previously thought we could help them."

To find out more about Awards for All grants – who is eligible to apply and how to submit your application – log onto [www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk) or call 0845 600 2040. If you would like to discuss your project before applying please contact the Awards for All South East team on 01483 462 943.

## **PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the above mentioned Charitable Trust will be held on Wednesday 2 November 2005 in the Memorial Hall Glebe Road, Purley on Thames at 7.30pm.

Inhabitants of the Parish of Purley-on-Thames in the County of Berkshire who are aged twenty one and above may attend and vote at this meeting. They may also nominate prospective members of the Management Committee and submit resolutions as described below.

Six members may be elected to the Management Committee. According to the rules of the Management Committee each nomination must be in writing and contain the names of the candidate and of the proposer and seconder. Motions for discussion at the Annual General Meeting must also be in writing and contain the names of the proposer and seconder.

Both nominations and motions must reach the Honorary Secretary at the address given below not later than Tuesday 1 November 2005 In order that they may be incorporated in the Agenda.

### **NEW EXTENSION**

The Memorial Hall Management Committee is pleased to announce that the new extension housing the disabled lavatory and baby changing facility is now completed.

Work began in January of this year to draw up the plans for the building and these were submitted to West Berkshire planning committee in May.

Then the task of securing funding began. Purley Parish Council got us off to a good start with a grant of £1000. Then the Adult and Community Learning Minor Capital Project Grant Programme awarded us £2000 and finally we applied for a grant to the Lottery Awards for All. Although the initial forms which accompany such applications are somewhat daunting it was approved and we were awarded £5000. This success gave us the funding to go ahead with the project.

A local builder E Stayte and Co started work in August and it was completed in time for the autumn term. While the work was in progress we took the opportunity to install new lighting in the main hall. These new facilities are now in use but will be officially opened on 2 November after the AGM.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make this project become a reality and especially the chairman Mr John Devine.

*Mrs M Hoare (Honorary Secretary)  
16 Beech Road*

---

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

*Mark Twain*

# PURLEY W.I.

## SEPTEMBER

This year is the Federation's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and up and down the country we raised our glasses of wine in celebration. Our President Daphne Howard made a Birthday cake for us and, as we sang our usual Jerusalem, it was with great gusto – I wonder why!

We were thrilled at our many winnings at the Horticultural Show. Our own W.I. trophy was won and shared by Marion Venners, Sylvia Conquest and Daphne Howard. Must say the cup is much bigger than The Ashes (happy they won – Cricket I mean).

We enjoyed a fish and chip supper in the lovely spacious garden of one of our members. This followed a walk to Whitchurch to visit their Millennium Maze, which provided a good appetite. We finished with ice-cream and wine – fantastic traditional food, don't you think!

Mr.Clews, the September speaker, provided an enthralling talk on the birds of Berkshire, coupled with stunning slides. We are lucky to be close to woodlands and the river, as many birds inhabit these areas. About 200-300 different birds are accounted for in our county, and with the disappearance of many hedges, this has taken its toll on numbers. Happily, hedges are being planted again thanks to the National Plan. Nests were lost due to the 1987 hurricane and, sadly, we are aware of the disappearance of the house sparrow. Global warming means birds don't fly so far as they have discovered warmer countries. Mr. Clews reminded us that, when we hear the call of the owl, "too-wit, too-woo" it is the female call to her mate, "too-wit" and her partner replying "too-woo-woo," but then they would wouldn't they!!! He also mentioned that it is always a good idea while walking the dog and strolling through the woods, to take your camera and binoculars. The magic is right under our noses.

### Competitions

Flower of the Month	1 <sup>st</sup> Margaret Martin
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dorothy Viljeon
Photograph of bird	1 <sup>st</sup> Ann Betts
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wendy Chapman

## OCTOBER

It is time again to arrange Christmas activities and a group of ladies are off on a coach to the New Forest thanks to unused travel vouchers.

We had hoped an ex W.I. member from way back – Marjorie Turner – would visit us, but as she is about to move, she wished us well and mentioned how much she had enjoyed her days in Purley. Her previous address here was Flat 6, Westfield.



## HIGHGROVE

On 21 September 2005, twenty-five Purley Pathfinders were given the *once in a lifetime* opportunity to visit His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales' private gardens at Highgrove.

Arriving at our very precise time, we set off down the drive to be met by our Guide. As the first gate opened we were warmly welcomed by the first of many robins singing a joyful song. A Laurel Tunnel led us to *The Gladiator* statue from where, in one direction, our eye was drawn down the Lime Avenue towards the distant Dovecote. In the other direction stands The Fountain Garden with its pool designed in the shape of a water lily. Beyond lies the tapestry which is The Thyme Walk, guarded on each side by Golden Yews. Prince Charles had individually allocated these to his gardeners with the instructions to 'let their imagination run loose'. The result is a row of eccentric topiary shapes, a spectacular contrast to the uniformity of the rows of pleached hornbeams alongside. Beyond stands the west side of the house with its huge Magnolia Grandiflora hugging the walls protectively.

As we walked beside the main drive we imagined this area before its recent cut, for here, in the heart of the garden, is The Wild Flower Meadow – five acres where, in summer, a multitude of meadow flowers, threatened in the wild, sway in the breeze in gay abandon, with no fear of pesticides or weed killers. We entered The Woodland Garden where lies a pond with a strange central fountain formed from discarded stone. In place for only 3½ years, it looks as if it has stood here for ever with its covering of lichen and moss, and with a giant Gunnera growing out of the top. Dragonflies flitted and, nearby, a robin sang.

Suddenly we found ourselves in the mysterious and magical Stumpery, formed from huge tree stumps of oak and sweet chestnut. Locked together, these fantastic, natural sculptures form contorted walls and arches. Here, on the death of his beloved Grandmother, The Queen Mother, The Prince had worked for several hours, planting hostas, hellebores and ferns. It is nice to know, in this special, moody place, he could spend time, lost in his own private thoughts. (Many gardeners will associate with this I'm sure) In a glade nearby we came across a Temple made of green oak, and at the edge of the woodland, we passed The Wall of Gifts – a collection of gifts of masonry which have been cleverly placed to form a masterpiece of vertical crazy-paving. A little further on, a mesh filled with compost and planted with ferns, forms a 10-foot high green pyramid. In the boughs of an old holly tree sits an amazing tree house, built for the young Princes William and Harry. With holly shaped door, windows and balcony it is fondly known by the Princes as *Hollyrood House*. In a clearing, beneath an oak tree, peacefully sits The Goddess of The Woods. So wonderfully sculpted from a single piece of marble, that we could feel each vertebrae as we ran our fingers down her spine. Two Temples of green oak rise on each side of the clearing, their triangular roofs filled with driftwood. Inscriptions on the Temples translate as 'They think that virtue is just a word, and a sacred grove merely sticks' and 'Find tongues in trees, books in running brooks, sermons in stone, and good in everything'.

Leaving this special place we were invited to glimpse through a gate into the Southern Hemisphere Garden where The Prince grows delicate Tree Ferns. The gates we passed were interesting in their own right, many having been made from drawings of Prince Charles during his travels. One such gate allowed us into The Azalea Walk where azaleas grow happily in pots. A stone sculpture of a dog, *Tigga*, caught our eye, placed within the Cotswold stone wall above a grave. One of Prince Charles' favourite dogs, Tigga would accompany him into the garden here. Often he would trick his master by hiding so that the Prince, unknowingly, would carefully close the gate to deter rabbits, before making his way back to the house. He would be some distance away before the bark of the trapped Tigga could be heard. There was nothing for it but to walk all the way back to release the mischievous dog. Prince Charles decided this part of the garden should be his final resting place. (Just one of the very *human* stories we were told about His Royal Highness).

Through a faded pink door we entered, possibly the Prince's favourite place, The Walled Garden – an acre of bountiful and beautiful vegetable garden. The four areas, laid out in the forms of two St Andrew crosses, and two St George crosses, are planted both for production and pleasing looks, e.g. the green and purple brussel sprouts mimic a chess set! We walked beneath tunnels of apple trees, heavy with fruit; arches of scented sweet peas, and hazel arches dripping with runner beans. At the centre of the four areas sits a moss-covered fountain surrounded by herbs. In the water, Koi Carp, a present from Yehudi Menuhim, lurk beneath the water lilies. The mellow perimeter walls are covered with roses, and fruit trees planted as fans. Leaving this place full of all things good and organic, we entered The Arboretum. Prince Charles has chosen to plant maples for outstanding autumn colour, amongst ash, hazel and cherry trees. From beneath a Katsura tree we were invited to collect some of its sweet, vanilla scented leaves to keep as bookmarks. A horseshoe shaped seat nearby was formerly the arched entrance to The Healing Garden at The Chelsea Flower Show. At its centre stands a beautiful bronze sculpture of four ladies in flowing dresses – The Daughters of Odessa, which was created in remembrance of the young women of the 20<sup>th</sup> century who have suffered through repression. Acers planted alongside, cleverly pick out the colour of the statue. In a quiet corner, amongst the trees, stands The Prince's private Chapel, The Sanctuary. Commemorating the Millennium, it is built from blocks made of clay and barley straw and is covered in a golden lime render. Blessed by The Bishop of London, above its door is the inscription, *Lighten our darkness we beseech thee O Lord*. Much love and care by The Prince went into the design of this private place. It depicts the trees from around the garden, and the walls are decorated with designs of vegetables as an expression of thanksgiving for all good things from God. The stained-glass windows depict flowers and leaves from the garden. The saying, *One is nearer to God in a garden than anywhere else on earth* sprang to mind.

Making our way back towards the house, passing a giant topiary frog and snail, and impressive solid slate pots, we walked down what is known as The Tulip Walk where, in spring, tulips form a wide purple edging. Standing in front of the house we admired its vistas: one, an uninterrupted view to the church spire in

Tetbury, bathed in sunshine; and another down an avenue of limes towards a cast iron column which came from Victoria Station. Perched on the top is a gilded steel bird on its nest. Yew hedges, formed into *clouds*, drew our eye to the Chicken Palace. The hens were not at home. Instead, we were told, they were scratching happily away in The Orchard.

At the south, Wisteria clad side of the house, we entered The Sundial Garden. Originally planted with roses edged with lavender, it now has neat Box-edged borders planted in a black and white theme to great effect. Another of Prince Charles' *finds* stands at the end of this garden – some fine iron gates from a reclamation yard, which now sport the feathers of The Prince of Wales, fashioned in gold. Yew hedging, sculpted into shape, encloses the rest of the garden. To the west of the house we stood beside the towering Cedar of Lebanon – a fine tree which first attracted Prince Charles to Highgrove. Hanging from its branches are several intricate bird feeders, gifts to The Prince, and proving popular with a variety of Highgrove's feathered residents! On we went to find The Pergola, constructed with fat Cotswold stone columns smothered with roses, clematis, wisteria and honeysuckle. Beside the swimming pool the former sunbathing lawn has been transformed into a Box Garden set around an enormous terracotta pot, lying on its side and surrounded by *waves* of sea green Box. A winding, grassy path took us through The Cottage Garden with its beds burgeoning with herbaceous plants and cottage garden favourites, many planted by Prince Charles and the Princes William and Harry. A circular seat, a fortieth birthday present, surrounds a sorbus tree making a cool place to sit to enjoy the exuberance of this area.

The last garden of our tour came as quite a surprise with its contrasting style, The Carpet Garden. The Prince's inspiration for this garden for The Chelsea Flower Show came from a Persian Carpet. It contains the essential elements – water to purify and soothe; roses to provide scent; pink walls to give privacy, and square tiles for uniformity and order. Olive trees, grapes and figs grow amongst marble chairs. The intricate patterns of the tiles surrounding the raised fountain add drama to this *show garden*. Despite the huge contrast to the rest of the English country garden, somewhere from within, a robin sang.

Our tour ended in The Orchard Room, which displays some of the paintings of Prince Charles. Tea was served in bone china *Topiary Garden* cups along with Duchy of Cornwall biscuits. Photographs showed 'before' and 'after' scenes in the garden, but like any other garden it is constantly evolving within the inspiration of His Royal Highness.

"I knew I wanted to take care of the place in a very personal way, and to leave it one day in a far better condition than I found it"

Clutching precious, exclusive mementoes from the Highgrove Shop, we made our way back to our coach reflecting on what Prince Charles has achieved during his time at Highgrove. How honoured we all felt to have witnessed for ourselves this *Prince's Legacy*.

*Nicki Woodward*



## 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.pariishnews@ntlworld.com](mailto:purley.pariishnews@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](mailto: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 ½ page entry to be published. If specially preparing content, please set your page size to A5.

Comments and opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the P.C.C. of St. Mary's Church, Purley on Thames – publishers of Purley Parish News – nor is any endorsement of the products and services of our advertisers implied by their inclusion.

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

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

This edition published	Next edition copy deadline	Next edition published
5 November 2005	19 November 2005	3 December 2005

Cover image © Mark J Smith, CrossDaily.com (used under licence)

Purley Parish News is printed by Richfield Graphics Limited