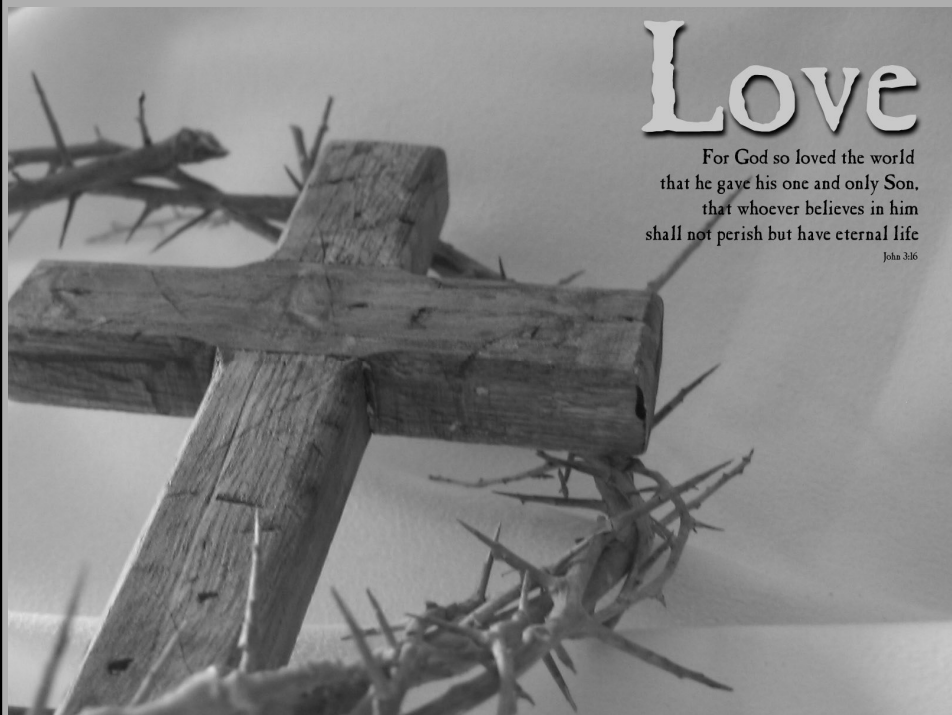


PURLEY PARISH NEWS

APRIL 2006



Love

For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life

Joh 3:16

35P

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

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends,

POST OFFICE BUSINESS

I wrote last month about the proposal from the Department of Work and Pensions to remove the Card Account facility from Post Offices. A number of people from within the church community and the wider community of Purley have spoken to me about this – expressing concern about the effects of such a withdrawal on our community life. I was glad to hear of that concern, but words of sympathy and concern alone are not enough. They will change nothing. What is needed is our action – that has a real possibility to affect outcomes. So if you are concerned about the abolition of the Post Office Card Account, please do something to put that concern into action. Write to Martin Salter MP and ask him to sign the Early Day Motion tabled by Kate Hoey. (At the time of writing – 9 March 263 MP's had signed it.)

THE RIGHT TO JUSTICE

Whilst on this subject of words of concern becoming deeds of action, I would like to draw your attention to another matter of great importance. We hear a lot about human rights these days. And in the UK there is a good deal of effort put into ensuring that the rights of religious minorities are defended. But in many parts of the world today, the rights of Christians are not only, not defended, but they are ignored altogether! Every week there are stories coming from these parts about attacks on Christian groups, damage to church premises, and severe punishments for such things as meeting in private homes to pray together.

The Barnabas Fund works to support Christians living under such harsh conditions, and now it is organising a campaign – The Right to Justice which has a two-fold aim:

- To inform the elected representatives of governments in as many Western countries as possible of the widespread religious discrimination and injustices daily suffered by Christian minorities in many countries across the world
- To ask these governments to put pressure on the leaders of those countries where such discrimination and injustices occur to try to bring about an end to the sufferings of the Christian minority.

In our community where at the last Census well over 70% of residents described themselves as Christians, there ought to be an upsurge of concern about this situation. But once again, disturbed feelings alone will not change things. Action is needed! So what can you do? You could sign the petition* in support of the above aims – either by doing it in St. Mary's Church Hall, or by visiting the website where you can sign online at www.righttojustice.org/news.html

Come on, it doesn't take much effort, and it could make a lot of difference. If you would like further information, please contact me (0118 941 7727), or go to the website.

Roger Howell

*We, the undersigned, call for Christian minorities to receive just and equal treatment with non-Christians majorities. We call for an end to the institutional and other religious discrimination which denies them equal right and freedoms.

We call upon our national government to raise this matter in the strongest of terms with representatives from the countries where Christians suffer daily discrimination and injustice.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 April at 8pm at St. Mary's Church. At this meeting we elect Churchwardens for the coming year and representatives to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the next 3 years.

WWW.CHRISTIANITY.ORG.UK

CHURCH SERVICES

2 Apr	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
9 Apr	9.30am	Family Worship
Palm Sunday	11.15am	Holy Communion
14 Apr	10.00am	Procession of Witness
Good Friday		(meet at Boathouse Surgery, Pangbourne)
	2.00pm	The Last Hour
16 Apr	10.30am	Family Communion
Easter Day	6.00pm	Easter Praise
17 Apr	4.00pm	Children's Workshop
Easter Monday		
23 Apr	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
30 Apr	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Deanery Service at All Saints, Upper Bucklebury



Pray for Purley
Pray for Purley

Mon 8 May

Tue 20 June

Mon 31 July

Tue 19 September

Mon 30 October

Tue 12 December

Join Christians in Purley from many churches as we come together to give

thanks to God for our village, and to pray - for individuals, families, schools, groups, activities etc. We start at 8pm and are finished by 9pm.

Sally Robertson – 962 5978 – sally.a.robertson@ntlworld.com –
 Melyn Colyton Way (on the corner next to the shop)

Chris Rayers 942 1880 – c.rayers@talk21.com – 9 Allison Gardens

BAPTISM

12 March Tommy James Woodward

FUNERAL

17 Feb Susanna Schroeder aged 8 years (Cremation)

SPRINGTIME IN THE GARDEN – 1.30-4PM SUNDAY 2 APRIL

Cherry Acre, Purley Village (near Purley CE Infant School)

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*

HELP SAVE A BROWNIE PACK!

After over seventeen years of running 1st Purley Brownie group I have decided it is now time to retire from being actively involved as from July 2006.

I started in January 1989, returning to my love of Guiding and wanting to work with young people in the community. My children were aged 13, 9 and 5 years and of course involved in many activities including Scouts, Brownies and Beavers and my husband gave me a great deal of support (still does!) allowing me the time to be involved.

Christine (Tawny), who retired two years ago, and Lynsey (Swallow) joined at the same time and we have enjoyed many years of working with the Brownies - they are terrific!

Now that my family have grown up and I continue to work full time I would like to spend more time with my husband and explore some of my other interests further. Whilst still having energy and ignoring the fact that I am getting older, I naturally do get tired and feel it's now time to pass the 'job' over to a younger person.

I sincerely hope that this unit can continue, it has been going since 1962 and I hope there is someone out there who can take over as I have had a lovely time and it has been a privilege to run the unit with such enthusiastic and lively Brownies.

Brown Owl (Mary Grant)

I am writing as so far no-one has come forward to offer help with keeping 1st Purley Brownies (based at Long Lane School) open when the present leader Mary Grant retires in July. Time is creeping on and it would be wonderful if someone would offer to help and work along side Mary for the next few months, as she will be able to give so much support, guidance and show them the ropes. It really is rewarding and an enjoyable interest as you also meet new friends as well gaining new skills and supporting the community.

As Mary's assistant is also leaving (to continue running her own Brownie Pack) 1 person on their own is not able to run a brownie pack, so if you know of a friend who could help then this would be fantastic. If you are interested then please visit the Brownies alone or with a friend there would be no obligation (Honest!), you will be made very welcome.

Obviously we would not expect anyone to come in and run a unit without support, the support offered can be varied and tailored according to needs and experience, in the past as a District we have ensured that an experienced Guider has been present weekly until new leaders feel confident in their role, running pack accounts, dealing with paper work etc, and this will be offered to any adults offering to help out regularly.

You could also ask around do you know someone who enjoyed their time in Guiding and would like to resume or you may know someone new to the area who used to be a leader. It is very important to the girls that we keep this Brownie pack open, as Guiding is very popular in the area with full packs and waiting lists, if this pack was to close that means that every week 24 members of the community aged between 7 and 10 are missing out on their Guiding.

Hopefully between us we will find leaders to keep this pack open.

Melanie Thomas

For more information or to arrange visiting the pack please either phone Mary Grant (Unit Leader) on 942 1575 or Melanie Thomas (District Commissioner) on 945 3437.

LETTERS

RE: PURLEY LANE RESURFACING

Whilst sharing Mr Pink's concerns about the state of some of our roads, I thought I ought to set the record straight over Purley Lane.

The part of Purley Lane which has been resurfaced is the short section from the traffic lights down to the railway bridge. This had not been tackled for many years and was in far worse condition than New Hill. In fact, much of it had no surface tarmac left at all, being just gravel and pot-holes. It had been specifically added to this year's programme at the request of the Parish Council.

We are conscious that New Hill is one of many roads which are also in need of attention and have already written to the Highways department seeking to have it included in the 2006/7 programme. (I trust residents have noticed that we have finally - after many years of nagging - got New Hill, The Village and Purley Lane included on the primary gritting schedule this winter.)

As far as the overall state of West Berkshire's roads is concerned, nobody is very happy. Our concerns, expressed through the Village Plan and elsewhere, have fed into the consultation on the Thames and Kennet Vision, among other things. I know that members of the new majority group are taking this very seriously. This will result, I hope, in a much more active policy towards resurfacing than we have seen in the recent past.

David Betts
Chairman, Purley on Thames Parish Council
david.betts@purleyonthames.net

KEEP FIT AT ST MARY'S

It may seem a bit weird attending a *bums, legs 'n' tums* class in a church but to the sceptical and non-believers this is one of the best ways to spend a Monday evening, we all work out to Kate's music and routines and we all benefit from the performance put on by our 'token' male (he is the only man in the group to date) who although very *fit* suffers from being feet-tied (as opposed to tongue-tied).



The class is a mixture of ages and abilities. Kate, our instructor, usually starts us off with a few aerobic exercises to get us warm and raring to go; we then move on to the main reason why most of us are there – the tone-ups. These exercises are designed to enhance our shapes but they can be as easy or as difficult as you choose to do them.



Kate is an inspiration, not only is she living proof that it works, she is very dedicated and builds motivation in us, she likes to have fun so it's not all serious, we do work hard but we enjoy ourselves. So for the uninitiated, come along and enjoy a baptism of fire, go for the burn, you will receive confirmation that it's both pleasurable and exhilarating.



This is a drop-in class, held every Monday evening at 7.30-8.30 so there is no need to book, but if you would like to contact Kate her number is 07817 858955

St Mary's will be collecting door-to-door during Christian Aid Week. So look out for the new-look red envelope coming through your door in May!

If you can spare some time during the week of 14-20 May, we would be grateful of your help delivering and collecting the envelopes. Please contact Pam or Matthew Slingsby on 961 5585 for details.



14-20 May 2006

PROJECT PURLEY

Purley Lodge is already well known to members of Project Purley as the adjoining Gatehouse has been the venue for so many enjoyable Christmas parties hosted by Rick and Val Jones, so there was added interest in the talk given by Rick on 17 February about the history of the Lodge.

Rick began by explaining that he would divide his talk into two parts. He would concentrate firstly on known facts, supported by documentation, about the building, then spend some time speculating about the "what might have beens" and the "what could have happened" to do with the house. One of the most interesting rumours about Purley Lodge, however, was to come from a member of the audience right at the end of the meeting.

The factual history of Purley Lodge is as follows. It is a Grade II listed building at the foot of Purley Lane and, although its origins are obscure, it is of Georgian design. However the cellars contain ancient timbers and flint-work which look much earlier, and an ancient holy water stoop was discovered during renovation work. Maps and documents dated around 1760 show a house on the present site with the village street running past the front instead of being diverted round the garden as it is now. It is safe to assume therefore that Purley Lodge was built in the period 1750-1760. A Reading Mercury advertisement of the time describes it as "a brick house in good repair", situated two hundred yards from the turnpike. We can see nowadays that the house is not symmetrical, so there were clearly some later additions, though it retains its typical Georgian façade.

The Tithe Map of 1840, apart from showing that the Great Western Railway had come to Reading, also depicted the house in greater detail and with more accuracy. In addition the land adjoining the property totalled approximately 40 acres. Several portions of the original property have been sold off, the original walled garden is now occupied by three houses, there are two more houses between the Lodge and the railway line, and the Coach House has been converted into a residence as has The Barn. Accommodation in the Lodge was divided almost equally between the family and their servants, as a family of four would usually require the same number of servants to look after them.

The Lodge was rented until about 1891, when the mineral rights of the property, needed by the GWR as it sought to extend its land holdings, had to be obtained from the Countess of Shannon, the mother of the then owner. Previous occupiers who had paid rent included John George Liebenrood, a Dutch merchant who lived there from 1786 to 1794 and who is buried in Saint Mary's churchyard; Michael Blount (1835-1846) who was related to the Blounts at Mapledurham House; Major-General Sir James Hope, KCB (1845-1853) who served with great distinction in the Peninsular War and The Honourable Robert Boyle (1861-1887), a Royal Naval Vice-Admiral who commanded HMS Spey one of the Navy's first steamships. One of his ship's bells was mounted on the north face of the house and can still be seen there.

More recently the Lodge has been owned by Charles Ernest Hodgkin (1902-1949), who moved in with his family when he became Managing Director of

Pulsometer Pumps in Oxford Road. He was also Chairman of the Parish Council and a churchwarden for 45 years. His son, Curwen (1955-1956) was an artist and converted the Coach House into an artist's studio.

In 1957 Purley Lodge was divided into two residences; the kitchen and servants' quarters forming the Gatehouse, and the family rooms, making up the main house still known as Purley Lodge. There are still different ground levels, the north ground level equivalent to that of the Village Street, the south equal to that of the lawns, one storey higher.

The first occupant of the new Gatehouse, who lived there from 1957-1973, was Peter Mosley, nephew of the notorious Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Facists, who knew the area from the time when he lived in Caversham Court. There have been three more owner occupiers of the gatehouse since, the most recent being our speaker, who has been in residence since 1985.

Rick concluded his well-illustrated talk by discussing some of the speculation that surrounds the house. One theory is that Purley Lodge once incorporated the remains of a medieval church. In the 1960s Peter Mosley, while carrying out repairs to the Gatehouse kitchen, found an underground tunnel leading in the direction of the river. Local and national newspapers suggested that the tunnel might have formed an escape route to Mapledurham House, at a time when Henry VIII and then later Oliver Cromwell were intent on persecuting and imprisoning Catholics. The Blounts at Mapledurham were a well-known Catholic family, and could have harboured fugitives from The Lodge, but it seems unlikely that a tunnel of such a distance could have been structurally possible.

Jean Debney and John Chapman spoke from the floor of the meeting, Jean showing an ancient piece of stone found recently in the Lodge garden which would appear to be part of a very old window sill. John explained that the monks of Reading Abbey were obliged to look after the needs of tenants in the area, though they usually off loaded any problems to be dealt with by the Lord of the Manor. He also stated that Purley Lodge is not the oldest home in the village – that distinction probably belongs to Ivy Cottage.

But the most fascinating piece of conjecture about Purley Lodge was supplied by the current owners, Stewart and Emily Kennedy. When they moved in in 1996, they were told by a cleaning lady that the house has a ghost! Folklore claims that an elderly lady walks through the house and, although she cannot be seen, doors open and close to allow her uninterrupted passage. Evidence of this strange happening has been supplied by workmen in the house. If anyone knows the origin of this story, or who the old lady might be, please contact a member of Project Purley with the explanation, so that further lustre may be added to this intriguing mystery.

The next meeting of Project Purley will be on Friday, 21 April, when Leslie Grout will talk about "Burial Grounds of London." The meeting will be in the Barn in Goosecroft Lane off Beech Road at 8pm. Visitors are always most welcome.

David Downs

THE BIG BOOST

The Big Boost provides a rare opportunity for individuals and small groups of young people to access financial support to get their ideas off the ground. At the Scarman Trust South East we want to make sure young people and their communities in this region get the boost they so often need to make their ideas into thriving projects.

The Big Boost will fund a huge range of different projects and The Scarman Trust, together with our partner organisations, will offer tailored support to help make young people's ideas a reality. In order for a project to be eligible it must:

- Be led by a young person aged between 16 and 25
- Be for the benefit of the community
- Be a learning opportunity for the young person/people involved
- Be a new project or a development of an existing one

Projects can last for a short or long period of time and can be based on anything from arts to animals, music to new media, history to horticulture, as long as they benefit a form of community.

We would like to hear from any young person who has a project idea, or from anyone who knows where a Big Boost could make a real difference to a young person's project. Pick up the phone and give me a call, or drop me an email to discuss your idea or find out more about how to make an application. You may also like to look at the website www.thebigboost.org.uk before getting in touch.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Roz Ward
Big Boost Awards Manager - South East Region, The Scarman Trust
01273 234006
roz.ward@thescarmantrust.org

BROOKFIELDS SCHOOL



Brookfields School, Tilehurst received £500 by way of a donation from Purley Players following their recent production of "Aladdin". Rita Denman, the director, is seen presenting a cheque to Mr John Byrne, the Headteacher at Brookfields School, Tilehurst.

Mr Byrne said he was delighted to receive this donation and said that the money would be put towards buying a curling game for the school.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE

PURLEY PRE SCHOOL FUN DAY

SATURDAY 13 MAY

PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL, GLEBE ROAD

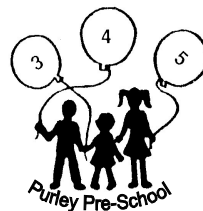
11.30AM TILL 2.30PM

FUN DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Food Drink Children's entertainer

Bouncy castle various stalls

Go on – bring out the child in you...



SO WHAT'S GOING ON IN BUCKNELL'S MEADOW?

"LOOKS LIKE NOTHING TO ME, HOW TYPICAL!"

You may well have had thoughts like this in the past few months, especially if you remember the public meeting and the youth consultation we held last year to see what extra facilities the Parish council could usefully provide there. However, although you can't see the fruits of any labours yet, we do have some plans and we're hoping to make a difference over the coming months.

We are planning to install a ball wall and a bicycle track in the meadow.

The cycle track will be positioned at the river end of the meadow, beyond the far goal post and be entirely fenced off with its own access gate. It will consist of a selection of small 'jumps' and obstacles laid out, probably, in a figure of 8 and should provide some challenge for a proficient cyclist, as well as having parts which can be enjoyed by younger children. Before finalising the details for this we are hoping to arrange a meeting with those local youngsters who are likely to use the facility and particularly those who have used similar facilities elsewhere, so that we can get a worthwhile and usable route. We are obviously keen to ensure we find good value for money and the most inventive lay out we can, but we are being delayed by difficulties finding a sufficient range of suppliers of such equipment.

For the ball wall, there are plenty of potential suppliers, but finding the right wall for our situation is tricky. The purpose of a ball wall is to allow youngsters to play basket ball, as well as kicking a football or hitting a tennis ball against a wall on their own. You can buy solid wooden structures, which are ideal for an enclosed school type setting, but could be inviting to those with destructive tendencies in a public recreation ground or you can buy metal mesh ones. My research, armed with tennis racket, football and 3 children, has so far proved

that metal can produce a very annoying 'twang', so we are keen to avoid placing something this noisy close to local houses.

Our research will continue, so please don't give up on us. If you have any views or ideas please feel free to contact me via the Parish Office or sally.robertson@purleyonthames.net.

Sally Robertson
Chairman Purley on Thames Recreation Committee

DECLUTTERING?

We've been shredding lots of old papers in one of our regular sessions of decluttering. This time it was the turn of the folder with all the documents of my teaching career which began in 1984 and ended in 2002. I had kept all my appraisals, notice of promotions and pay rises, and an abundance of ephemera chronicling this part of my life.

A report at the end of my teacher training contained a phrase that assumed enormous significance throughout my career: "**is good with difficult children**".

It sounds like a real compliment and I suppose it is, but it meant that in every position I ever took afterwards, I was invariably given the most unruly classes and individuals.

I earned this accolade with just one pupil who was the talk of the staffroom because she was so disruptive in class. She was due to take part in a Drama presentation for me in which she was playing an archetypical granny. "I've got a shawl and old fashioned clothes but what would be really good would be a rocking chair" she said. I have a rocking chair and decided that I would take it in for her. This made an enormous difference to her attitude towards me and I had no further problems.

So in every school I went to, I was given 'Design for Living', 'Life Skills' or some such lesson which usually meant these pupils weren't prepared to work and would certainly quit school at the first opportunity. In one of the 'failing' schools I had my handbag turned out, masks for Drama which I had made were slashed with sharp implements and the costume store trashed. Yet somehow, sometimes by unorthodox means, I usually managed to cope and form some sort of profitable relationship with my pupils. One girl has written to me every month since 1985 and is a thoroughly worthwhile citizen despite coming from an appalling background.

I'm very proud to have been a teacher but it is an incredibly demanding job and becoming increasingly so. But I still have faith in and admire young people. They have a lot to live up to and deserve all our support and every chance to change and put right any harm they may cause in the awful process of growing up into valuable members of society.

Dorothy West

THE TALENT STOP

PART-TIME PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY.

During this last term, there has been no stopping The Talent Stop's young Performing Arts pupils who have done just about everything. They've hopped Over the Rainbow, paddled to Treasure Island and battled the Sea Monster whilst the older students have been Switchin' with Will Smith, Suddenly Seeing with K.T. Tunstall and happily Singing in the Rain!

All that's left for them to do now is gain a whole bunch of medals at The Talent Stop's forthcoming DTF Dance Medal Test then start auditioning and rehearsing for their big Summer Show... for which they still have parts available.

If you fancy being a part of it all, why not come to The Talent Stop for a Free Trial - any child who wants to try their classes can come along for FREE!

The successful Part-Time Performing Arts Academy is where 2½-13 year olds learn Acting, Dance and Singing at weekends and have a lot of laughs doing it! "We never forget the main reason our students join us and that is TO ENJOY THEMSELVES!"

For more details and to book a FREE trial hit the website www.thetalentstop.co.uk or give them a call on 0118 962 3379.

The Talent Shop has moved from Denefield School to the Cornwell Centre

WALKING THE DOG

I am a member of 'The Cinnamon Trust' with whom I am a registered dog walker.

The trust is the only specialist national charity which seeks to relieve anxieties and problems faced by elderly and terminally ill people and their pets. The charity's patrons include Katie Boyle, Virginia McKenna, Nerys Hughes, Sir Peter O'Sullivan and Sir Paul McCartney.

Perhaps there are people in this area, who are unfortunately suffering from illness or infirmity, and who feel that their dog is not receiving the exercise that it needs. I would be most happy to provide this help.

I am a full time working mother, so my time is limited. However, I will do my best to assist anybody who requires my help.

Any person who wishes to take up this offer please, in the first instance, telephone 'The Cinnamon Trust' who will then pass your details on to me in order to contact you. Or, call this number if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, as they are crying out for help.

Telephone Number: 01736 757900. Fax Number: 01736 757010

Jill Hawkins

Are You Interested in Gardening?

If you're not already a member, why not join



PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Memorial Hall – Glebe Road



Trading Store

Open February to November Saturday & Sunday 10-11am
for the sale of Potting Composts, Fertilisers & Pesticides,
Bulbs, Tools, Bird Food and lots of other items for your garden

Social Activities

Talks on Gardening, Natural History, Environment, etc (October – March)
Shows (Spring & Late Summer), Plant Sale (May)

Join at the Trading Store, or ring:

941 2424 (Secretary) or 942 1645(Chairman) or 941 7247 (Membership Sec)

PANGBOURNE CHORAL SOCIETY'S SUMMER SAIL!

Pangbourne Choral Society will celebrate the start of summer (hopefully!) with an exciting selection of the very best choral music on a nautical theme on Sunday 14 May at 7.30pm in the Falklands Islands Chapel, Pangbourne College.

The programme includes Horizons by Andrew Carter, whose daughter will be one of the soloists, Songs of the Fleet by CV Stanford, and Percy Grainger's choral arrangements of Shenandoah and Shallow Brown. The concert will open with Vaughan Williams' Wasps Overture and finish with his magnificent choral setting of poet George Herbert's Five Mystical Songs.

Soloists will be Elinor Carter (Mezzo-Soprano) and Julian Hubbard (Baritone) and Darren Everhart, Pangbourne College's Director of Music, will conduct the Philomel Orchestra.

Why not come and listen to one of the best choirs in the county, on your doorstep, and think about joining us in September for a season that will include a performance of Verdi's 'Requiem' with Reading Symphony Orchestra at the Hexagon in May 2007?

Tickets (£10 adults, £2 U-18s) are available from Premier Pet Store Pangbourne, or (with cheque to 'PCS' and SAE) by post from PCS Tickets, 13 Shooters Hill, Pangbourne, RG8 7DZ. Early booking is advised as Pangbourne Choral Society concerts are in high demand and usually sell out fast.

www.pangbournechoralsociety.fsnet.co.uk

pcs@musician.org

Tony Maynard 01635 200354

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



Despite a misleading story in the local press I can confirm that dates have been agreed with the Thames Valley Farmers Market for the remainder of this year. This monthly event will be held at the Barn, in the Goosecroft Recreation Ground, off Beech Road on 8 April, 13 May, 10 June, 8 July, 12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November and 9 December. If you have not already attended why not give it a try on one of those dates.

I regret that there has been yet another spate of vandalism with damage to a bench, footpath notice board and the shelter at the Post Office bus terminus on Purley Rise. Costs of repair will again fall on us all through the local council tax. The only way we can start to stamp out this sort of behaviour is by everyone ensuring that all incidents of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage are reported when they occur. The Police non-emergency telephone number is 0845 8 505 505 but if a serious crime is in progress please use the usual 999 emergency call.

There have been minor changes to the Council meetings schedule with the Highways & Footpaths Committee postponed to 6 April. The Parish Council meeting on 27 April has been brought forward to 20 April to avoid a clash with the Eastern Area Forum on the original date. That meeting will complete the 2005/2006 council year and a full list of meeting dates for 2006/2007 will be tabled at the Annual Parish Council meeting on 11 May and will also be published here. All these meetings are held at the Parish Office, near the tennis courts, in the Recreation Ground at 7.30pm and members of the public are always welcome to attend.

The above meeting is not to be confused with the statutory Annual Parish Meeting when all local residents are invited to attend an open session in the Barn. This year it will be held on Tuesday 23 May and although the agenda has yet to be agreed it is likely to include presentations from the Parish Council, Thames Valley Police and West Berkshire Neighbourhood Wardens.

The West Berkshire Council website has recently been revamped and I would recommend trying this out to locate information relevant to your own property. If you go to the home page www.westberks.gov.uk (or through the link on our own website) you can insert your road name which will provide a list of addresses. Clicking on your address will bring up a page from where you can access a veritable mine of information about the area. In addition WBC will also be providing copies of planning applications and drawings online. Copies can still be viewed at this office or Pangbourne Library as well.

West Berkshire Council has also announced that a free local off-peak bus pass will soon be available to residents over 60 and will contact those concerned. This may well benefit those who are regular bus users instead of the existing travel tokens. However these are being retained as an alternative option as they can also be used on trains, taxi or coach journeys and will be available from 1 July as usual. The lowest band A will increase from £20 to £30 and band B from £40 to

£45. Further information will be available on the WBC website or by telephone on 01635 519800.

As many people have expressed their concern that one of our local postmen, Michael Murray, has been relieved of his duties despite many years service Charlotte Jenkins at the Purley Post Office has been collecting signatures to a petition which will be submitted in the next few days. If you wish to add your name please do so without delay.

A child's buggy has been left in the Goosecroft Recreation Ground and seems to be in good condition despite the mud! If you have lost one please contact the office for further information.

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

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Tel/fax: 0118 984 4507

E-mail: clerk@purleypc.wanadoo.co.uk

www.purleyonthames.net



THE THAMES VALE SINGERS

PRESENT

A SPRING CELEBRATION

Sicut cervus by Palestrina

Exsultate justi by Viadana

Panis Angelicus by Franck

Cantique de Jean Racine by Faure

John Rutter's Magnificat

Tilehurst Methodist Church, School Road ~ 8pm Friday 28 April, 2006

Caversham Heights Methodist Church ~ 8pm Saturday 29 April, 2006

Musical Director: Bernard Soper

Accompanist: Peter Bernard

Followed by refreshments

For more information please ring: 962 4651 or visit our website

www.thamesvalesingers.co.uk

PURLEY PATHFINDERS

A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

Living in such wonderful surroundings, we didn't need to use our cars for this February walk, for, at the end of Purley Village, we joined the bridleway, which boasts possibly the best view in Purley. Across the green expanse, through which the River Thames cuts its way along, we worked out our 'view'. From the far right: The Warren in Caversham; through Park Wood high above Mapledurham; and across to the Viewpoint on the skyline. Next: Bottom Wood protectively overlooking Hardwick House; then the 'green pillows' of Bozedown with their resident alpaca. It was easy to make out the regimental diagonal rows of the vines at Bozedown Vineyard surrounded by meadows so rich in wildflowers, and on to views of Whitchurch and Pangbourne, with Upper Basildon above. It was satisfying to know that we have explored all these areas close up on previous walks. So, 'ticking' each of these stunning areas, we could say, "We were there"! The next part of our walk took us into an equally lovely area, right here on our doorstep – Sulham Wood. Here too we gained far-reaching views through the bare branches of the trees. Emerging from the wood, we walked between open fields from where skylarks took to the air. Despite their decline, here they thrive to form a large 'choir'. How glad we were to see and hear them, although we continued our walk with a shudder as we reflected on possible encroaching development in this area. Twisting and turning down meandering footpaths between houses, we found the entrance to Pikeshaw Copse. Through this oasis, set within urban development, we discovered snowdrops, yellow dancing catkins, and green shoots promising a good show of bluebells. Back in Purley Village, after a tour of the snowdrops, aconites, crocuses and hellebores of the early spring garden of Cherry Acre, we gathered indoors for warming homemade soup, and cake.



Our next walk began half-way between Oxford and London in the Thameside village of Hurley. We gathered beside the church of St Mary, a site on which a church has existed since 633AD. This fact gives some idea of Hurley's great age – infact, we were to walk between two of the oldest settlements along the Thames – Hurley and Marlow. It was no surprise, therefore, that there were many interesting historical facts to relate. We gazed through an archway alongside the

church to see the cloisters, and the original refectory wall of the Benedictine Priory, built here in the 11th century, but dissolved in 1536 by order of Henry VIII. Alongside the Tithe Barn stands a fabulous dovecote with 750 nesting boxes – a source of eggs and meat for the monks. The Thames Path took us along the riverbank to the impressive Temple Bridge. Built in 1989, it provided a crossing from Berkshire to Buckinghamshire here for the first time since the ferry ceased in 1953. At 80 metres long it is the longest hardwood bridge in Britain.

One of our ladies, a member of Project Purley, recalled a photograph of the wood for the bridge passing through Mapledurham Lock on a barge. We paused on the bridge to look at the lovely views up and down the river, before continuing on the Buckinghamshire riverbank. We passed through the pretty Temple Lock before, further on along the pleasant route, the solid Norman tower of the 12th century All Saints Church at Bisham came into view on the Berkshire side, beyond the buildings of Bisham Abbey. The Abbey had, actually, stood next door and was dissolved by Henry VIII. The buildings remaining are Bisham Manor where Elizabeth I (then Princess) had taken shelter during her exile in the reign of 'Bloody' Mary. We peered across, hoping to spy any members of the England

football team who use the grounds for training. Sadly we saw no-one famous, not even any of the members of Fit Club, also based here! Further on the river became busier as we neared Marlow. A flurry of white swans and multicoloured ducks jostled for the bread thrown to them by toddlers and their Mums – an extra sweet sight with the news full of the threat of bird flu! The fine suspension bridge, built in 1832 and one of the most attractive over



the Thames, indicated our arrival in Marlow. Rising above it is the spire of All Saints Church. Although another of Marlow's most prominent landmarks, interestingly the church was built in the 1830's without a spire, this being added in 1898. Jerome K. Jerome described Marlow as somewhere where 'the river itself is at its best' – and so it was, but we left it for now to find the welcoming George & Dragon where morning coffee was laid on for us. A pleasant interlude, especially as it was surprisingly warm enough to sit outside on this early March day. Our walk continued in the attractive Higginson Park. Marlow has connections with many famous people, but during our 'Waterways' themed year it was good to stand by the 9½ foot high bronze statue of rower, and five times Olympic Gold Medallist, Sir Steve Redgrave. A leafy lane runs parallel to the river, and along here we enjoyed the yellow canopy provided by thousands of dangling catkins. Eventually we rejoined the river as we made our way to Hurley Lock. Unfortunately construction vehicles meant we didn't see the lock at its best. Jerome had written, 'By Hurley weir....I have often thought that I could stay a month without having sufficient time to drink in all the beauty of the scene'. With a £300,000 facelift in operation, we look forward to appreciating this beauty in the future. Our interesting and picturesque walk finished with lunch in Hurley's youngest pub, The Rising Sun. The others being the 16th century Black Boy, referring to Charles II, and Ye Olde Bell which dates from 1135 and claims to be the oldest hostelry in England.

Water, water, everywhere, but not a drop to drink! The threat of hosepipe bans announced on the news added insult to injury as we set out on a very wet day. Despite the rain we looked forward to our 'watery' walk, and were not

disappointed. We began along the towpath of the Kennet & Avon Canal, crossing it via Swan Bridge, designed for barge horses to cross. In this environment of rivers, canals and lakes it is difficult to know where one begins and another ends, but after Burghfield Lock, seemingly far from the madding crowd yet in the suburbs of Reading, we joined The River Kennet as it cut it's way peacefully through meadows and havens for wildlife. Across the railway line we now joined The Holy Brook on its tree-lined route which took us to the beautiful setting of Calcot Mill. Now converted into desirable residences, it was once part of the Manor of Tilehurst and held by monks until Reading Abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII. Banks of snowdrops and crocuses lay beside us as we continued along The Holy Brook before leaving it to rejoin the Kennet & Avon Canal, briefly. At the split we followed The River Kennet until it rejoined the canal at an attractive weir. Our path passed colourful canal boats, adding to the pleasant scene. Soon the newly refurbished, thatched Cuning Man came into view, and here we were welcomed in for lunch and a chance to dry out after our delightful watery walk!

We gathered in one of Berkshire's most beautiful villages, Stanford Dingley, with it's wealth of old and interesting buildings. We noted the church, possibly Saxon in origin, and with an attractive 18th century weatherboard bell turret, and the brick and weatherboarded mill on the River Pang. Cutting across fields, with fine views back across the Pang Valley, we made our way towards the woodland ahead.

A wide track cut through these lovely woods, part of Rushall Farm. A most welcome warm sun shone down on us, and, despite the snowdrops still much in evidence, we felt quite spring-like, as we were serenaded with birdsong, and especially when we came across a field of newborn lambs. We rejoined the Pang alongside another mill, this time at Bradfield. This delightful setting led us to the church, on the site of a Saxon Minster. In the churchyard snowdrops lay in a wave



of white, showing no sign of surrendering to the daffodils and primroses, their yellow, cowardly hiding from the cold weather of late. Today, at least, we could enjoy the elusive sunshine, warming us as we took a path alongside one of the prettiest stretches of The River Pang. Leaving the shimmering water once more, we climbed through fields to reach Rotten Row, a gem of a village despite its unfortunate name! Down between plantations we rejoined the Pang which soon opened up into The Blue Pool. We paused at this special place, where chemicals cause the water to appear a strange blue. Bubbles could clearly be seen rising from the sandy bottom. An easy line led us back into Stanford Dingley where we were made very welcome in The Boot for lunch.

We continue to look for further signs of spring on the rest of our March, and April, 'Waterways' walks. We will be beside the Thames at Marsh Lock, and at

Goring, and afloat on the Kennet & Avon Canal on a Horse-Drawn Barge for our Springtime Special. Then, along the River Loddon, we hope to find Berkshire's Flower, the Loddon Lily.

If any ladies would like to join us on weekday mornings, do give me a ring, or contact me through our web page, where you will also be able to see photographs taken on our walks in colour.

www.purleypathfinders.co.uk

Nicki Woodward
984 2112 (niw2001@lineone.co.uk)

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

TALK

On Wednesday, 15 March, Pete & Di Boor from Swindon gave us a very entertaining talk and demonstration on how to grow "Fuchsias". We all learnt some very good tips on this subject and I think everyone enjoyed the evening.



SPRING SHOW

This will take place in the Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road on Saturday, 8 April and will be open to the public from 2.30pm until 4pm. Tea and biscuits will be available.

PLANT SALE

This will take place in the Purley Memorial Hall car park on Saturday, 20 May from 9.30am until 11.30am (approx.). Bedding plants will be available.

COACH TRIP

We are hoping to organize a trip to Lullingstone Castle, Kent on either Sunday, 25 June or Sunday, 2 July. We still need more people to make this trip viable, so if you are interested, a list with all the details is available from the Trading Store.

TRADING STORE

The Trading Store is open Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 11am in the Memorial Hall Car Park, Glebe Road. If you are a new resident in this area, why not visit the Trading Shed to see the advantage of being a member of the Society. The yearly subscription is only £1.50. If you have not renewed your subscription, we would be grateful if you could do so in the near future. I would like to remind members that we do have several lawn spreaders and an aerator for hire at a small charge.

I hope by the time this article is published, Spring will have arrived in order that we can catch up on all the gardening jobs.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

LOST WATCH

On Saturday 25 February, a lady's gold Rotary bracelet watch was lost during a circular walk from the bottom of Purley Lane, along the railway track and river to the lock and back to Purley Lane. If you have found it, please call 942 8096.

PURLEY W.I.

It is this time of year when a new committee is elected. New members have joined us and we thanked the retiring members who have given so much time, thought and support – Always appreciated. The Secretary and President gave detailed accounts of the last year and we realised how we had all been joyfully educated as a result of the speakers' efforts. The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the last year. Following the completion of business, we took part in a noisy and excitable Beetle Drive and cheese & wine that went down very nicely, thank-you.

Competition prize winners for the last year were as follows:

Monthly Competitions (Cup)

- Winner Sylvia Conquest
- 2nd Kath Hodge
- 3rd Edna Bint, Phyll Hasemore and Daphne Howard

Flower of the Month (Cranberry Glass Jug)

- Winner Sylvia Conquest

April Meeting – Speaker – Mr. A. Doble on "How to Dazzle your Friends."

Competition: Pewter Item. Stall: Spring Cleaning.

The next meeting will be on 12 April in the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley starting at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

N.B. Last month's speaker Chris Smallbone spoke of his dramatic shipwreck adventure on the Lakonia. Well, the story doesn't end there. A neighbour of one of our Committee members was on one of the stand-by ships waiting to rescue survivors. Small world, don't you just love it!!

Farmers' Market – second Saturday in the month. You asked for it – please support it. 'MEAT – YOUR – MATES – AT – THE – MARKET.'

The Community Furniture Project: Should you want to move your household goods, ring 01635 43933 and ask if they will be at the Farmers' Market and you could kill two birds with one stone. Just a thought...

Sylvia Conquest
941 1936

Was that a pun or a typo Sylvia? - Editor

KNOCKING KNEES

"This will feel very, very cold," said the voice of the anaesthetist as I bent my head down to my knees on the trolley on which they had wheeled me from the ward! Cold! Never, in all my life, have I ever felt such a surge of freezing liquid – or whatever it was that poured onto my back.

I was in the preparation room of the operating theatre at the Royal Berks. Around me were kind faces; friendly faces all trying their best to put a shivering lump of jelly at his ease. It was my second knee operation, the right leg this time. The specialist thought that as the left one, which I had operated on in April last year, was successful it could bear the weight of the left.

"Can you feel anything?" asked the friendly female voice. I grunted assent. "How about this?" Again that freezing. I gasped. "You bet I can feel that!" I told her gasping for air.

"Right what I'm doing is to give you a little sedative. You'll be awake throughout the operation. There's nothing to fear, I'll be with you the whole time. If it doesn't work I'll be there to put you right out!"

On the previous Saturday I saw Roger and Jean at the Farmer's Market. Jean, when she heard I was going into hospital the following day, gave me a little book that I found wonderfully comforting, as were Roger's final words – "Remember, Bill, even though you're under anaesthetic God is with you!" It did definitely help all the time I was in the Operating Theatre.

This was now Monday afternoon. On the Monday morning at 5.30 I was "awakened" – who can sleep in hospital when the lights are going on and the cleaners are sweeping around the ward?

Hack brought me some cornflakes (with sugar) and two slices of buttered toast. This was the last I had eaten, until now, 4.30 pm in the operating theatre. Boy was I hungry and dry! At lunchtime the warm scent of savoury mince (or whatever was on the patient's plates) wafted around my nostrils – it was agony! A nibble I thought, just a nibble; But, as they say "Nil by Mouth".

"Right," I was back in the operating room, "Can you feel this?" I was starting to go numb from the belly button downwards.

"Feel what?" I asked. I looked over the edge of the blankets and saw one of the theatre staff playing with what looked like a large fat pink worm. Tossing it about and twisting it. "Is that my leg?" I almost screamed. It was totally dead. Nothing, no feeling, no sensation. He laughed. "Yes that's your leg."

I sank back on the trolley it just didn't seem possible. Gradually everything went numb. Again the cold was sprayed over some part of my lower body, nothing! No sensation.

"Right," said the anaesthetist. I looked at the large clock over the doorway as they pushed me through. Four fifteen. I didn't know what to expect in the

Operating Theatre – A Scene from Holby City perhaps. But I could see nothing – truth to tell I didn't really want to look.

"Can I recite some of my poetry?" I asked. The Anaesthetist I think smiled – she was masked – "I'd love to hear it."

"The Bells St Mary's," I began. It was incredible I remembered every word, even although I wrote that nearly five years ago.

"That was wonderful, did you write it?" I nodded.

Work had started on my leg, not that I could see anything beyond the blue strip across my tummy. "I know a poem by John Betjeman," I said, "would you like to hear it?"

"I love John Benjamin," It was the poem I'd learnt for the Murder Mystery evening last year. How long I lay there reciting poetry I have no idea.

Suddenly there was a noise like the clanking of a blacksmith hitting on a horseshoe. It carried on. I had a vision of the surgeon hammering down on my leg, smashing the new knee into place. How long this continued I have no idea. It was very loud.

"Right," it was the friendly voice again, "we're going to put the staples in."

"I must remember how many," I replied. "When I had them out last year, the nurse needed to know." Together we counted: "one, two, three... thirty."

"There all over! Do please let me have a copy of the poem, my husband is going to visit the war graves shortly, he'd love to read it."

I was pushed into the recovery room – a one to one situation. Kind, friendly considerate faces, beds all around. I stayed there for about an hour. Then back to my ward, incredibly hungry and very, very thirsty. I was able to ring Eileen; the Senior Nurse said she could come over for very short visit.

It seemed no time at all before she was there, smiling at me. She couldn't believe I was so awake – the previous year I had apparently been in the recovery room for more than four hours. She had brought a couple of beef rolls (we'd had roast beef the previous day) I can't remember any food I have enjoyed so much.

Four days later I was home. As Eileen was pushing me through the hospital I saw Mike and Sheila Adnett – they were in the cafeteria – it was lovely to see them, Sheila grabbed my hand – "Bill, how very well you look! I can't believe it."

The cold air in the car park felt wonderfully refreshing. The drive home and being greeted by Ambers was all part of an unbelievable sensation. Home!

Finally, thanks to all my friends and their cards. Special thanks to Roger for his visit and Jean for the lovely little book, which I still pick up and read from time to time, and the prayers for my recovery.

Bill Ayling

Bill hopes you don't find his tale too macabre! - Editor



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.

FRIENDS' DIARY

Tue 11 April

Footpath Work

Bucklebury

Help improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet Dennis Gower at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10am

Sun 23 April 11am

Walk in an Ancient Landscape

Ashampstead

A five and a half mile (9km) walk to look at the ancient landscape buried in the bluebell woods of Ashampstead Parish. Meet 11am at Childs Court farm (SU575751). There are no pubs on this walk so bring a packed lunch. There are several hills on this walk. Dogs on leads only. Walk leader Dick Greenaway. Please contact the Project Office to book a place.

Tue 2 May 7pm

Evening Walk - Nightingale Walk

Hosehill Lake

Come and join us for a relaxed walk around Hosehill Lake LNR, listening out for nightingales. Meet at the Fox & Hounds Pub, Station Road, Theale.

Thu 4 May 7.30-9.30pm

Friends AGM

Bucklebury Village Hall

The AGM of the 'Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valleys' will be held at Bucklebury Village Hall, Upper Bucklebury. If you have any items for the agenda please contact the Project Office. Followed by a talk from Professor Paul Whitehead of Reading University on 'Recent research on the Rivers Pang, Kennet & Lambourn & potential impacts of climate change'

Sat 6 May 10am-3pm

Water vole survey training

Great Shefford

This course is being run with BBOWT's Water Vole Recovery Project. The course aims to teach people how to survey for water voles with a view to surveying allocated stretches of the Lambourn and Kennet rivers. The first part of the session will be an indoor talk about water voles and how to survey and weather permitting the second part of the session will be to visit a local site with water voles where trainees can see signs in the field. Please bring suitable clothing and lunch. Please meet at 10am at Great Shefford Village Hall, Station Road, Great Shefford, West Berkshire. NGR: SU384754. Please contact the Project Office to book your place.

Tue 9 May

Glade Clearance

Kings Copse Bradfield

Spend the day clearing invasive Himalayan Balsam at Kings Copse to help maintain the native woodland flora. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10am or phone the Project office for details of meeting on site.

Sun 28 May 1pm Downs with Barrows Lambourn
Lambourn Seven Barrows is an internationally important site for both archaeology and botany. Join Dick and Jill Greenaway for a 3.5-mile (5.5km) walk across open down land and along green lanes to look at the barrows and the surrounding downland. Meet at the Nature Reserve car park (SU329828) at 1pm. Back soon after 3pm. Dogs on leads only please. Please phone to book your place.

Tue 16 May Footpath work Paices Wood
Help to make sure the woodland and lakeside footpaths are clear at Paices Wood. Meet 10am at Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Youngs Industrial Estate) Grid ref: SU586638.

Tue 23 May Glade Clearance Kings Copse Bradfield
Tue 6 Jun Glade Clearance Kings Copse Bradfield
Spend the day clearing invasive Himalayan Balsam at Kings Copse to help maintain the native woodland flora. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10am or phone the Project office for details of meeting on site.

Sun 11 Jun 10am-noon River Dipping Riverside Community Centre, Turnpike
Now that the river has been cleaned up, come along and discover what is living in the River Lambourn. Meet outside the Community Centre at 10am NGR SU485678.

Tue 13 Jun Footpath Work Bucklebury
Help improve access in the parish by helping to clear encroaching vegetation on its 45 miles of off-road rights of way – but not all of them! Meet Dennis Gower at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm * at 10am

Thu 15 Jun 5.30 for 6pm Guided tour Englefield House and Gardens
Come and enjoy a delightful guided tour of Englefield House and Gardens by Sir William Benyon, followed by a glass of Champagne in the Long Gallery. Tickets are £25 per couple or £12.50 per person and are strictly limited. To book please contact the Project Office

Tue 20 Jun 6pm Chalk banks and willow coppice Westfield Farm
A unique opportunity to visit a traditionally managed, flower rich, chalk grassland SSSI and find out more about how farms are diversifying into supplying alternative fuels. Meet at Westfield Farm, East Garston NGR: SU357767 at 6pm. Walk will take about 1.5 hours and does include some steep ground. To book onto this farm walk please phone the Project Office

Sun 25 Jun 11am Hill Forts and Green Lanes Hermitage
5¼ miles along sheltered green lanes starting and finishing at Grimsbury Castle (SU511723). No pubs on the route so bring a packed lunch! We will walk along Fence Lane to the edge of Bucklebury Common and back via Boar's Hole. Meet at Grimsbury Castle car park at 11am. To book a place, please contact the Project Office.

Tue 27 Jun Meadow Management Turnpike Meadow
Help to rake up the cuttings from the wildflower meadow in Turnpike, set alongside the River Lambourn. Meet outside the Riverside Community Centre at 10am. Grid ref: SU485 678

For further details or booking of any the events, please contact the Project Office on 930 5336. *The Black Barn at Rushall Manor Farm is situated off Back Lane, between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield. Take the gravel track north off Back Lane to the west of Scratchface Lane. Grid ref. SU583723.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Mon 28 Aug 10am-4pm Nature Walk

Rushall Manor Farm

Organise your own charity sponsorship, sponsor the projects or merely come and walk a course starting from this superb location and enjoy a nature quiz on the way. Start at the Black Barn at any time between 10am and 4pm. Quiz sheets will be provided for a 1 mile and 5 mile course. Tea, coffee, cakes and BBQ will be available. Entry £3 per family; all proceeds will go to The Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Valleys Countryside Projects. Well behaved dogs welcome.

NOTELETS FOR SALE

The 'Friends' Photo competition notelets are available from the Project Office at £2 for a pack of 4 or £5 for 3 packs.

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

SING FOR HEALTH AND FUN

It is generally accepted that singing is a therapeutic and enjoyable activity, beneficial for mental, physical and spiritual health.

Under the auspices of the West Berks Alzheimer's Support Network, we plan to start a 'Singing for the Brain' group in Purley, following a similar pattern to the well-established group in Newbury.

We plan to meet once a week for about an hour and a half. Clients and their carers will be offered a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit with time for a chat. Sitting in a circle, we shall spend few minutes loosening up before joining in a selection of songs (such as folk songs, shanties, rounds, songs from musicals and "pops" of the past) many of which will stir memories.

We aim to bring a little light and fun into the lives of sufferers - with anything from stroke, Parkinson's, MS or MND - and their carers. So if you have a relative, or are a carer for someone, with Alzheimer's or another neurological condition, our group could be for you!

We plan to start on Monday, 8 May, in the hall at St. Mary's Church, from 10.45am till 12.15pm. This pilot scheme is planned to last for six to eight weeks.

If the thought of singing worries you, just come along and listen - you may find yourself joining in!

We also need enthusiastic and caring volunteers to help to run the group by participating in the singing, helping with refreshments or greeting and chatting to people as they arrive.

For further information or to volunteer please contact:

Janet Southall
984 2259

jsouthall@compuserve.com



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

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I welcome all contributions to this magazine, particularly on local issues and events. Contributions can either be delivered in writing or by email. Please note however, I reserve the right to edit contributions to suit space availability and to maintain consistency of style (font etc). Local event adverts can be accommodated but space is limited; landscape format copy is preferred in this case as it allows a ½ page entry to be published. If specially preparing content, please set your page size to A5.

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 or services of our advertisers implied by their inclusion.

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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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