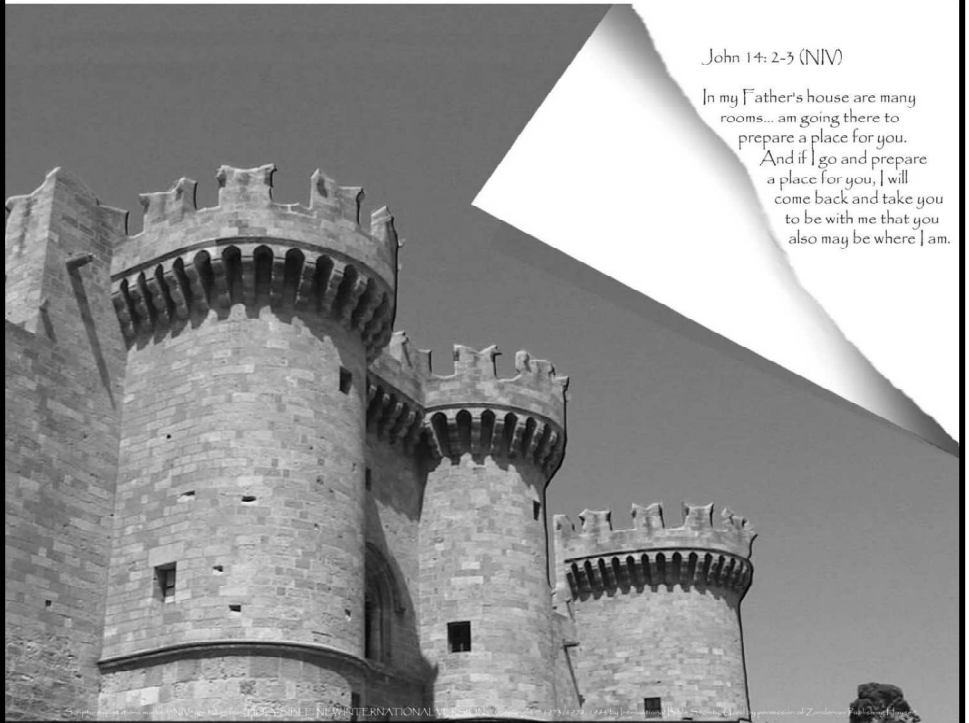


PURLEY PARISH NEWS

OCTOBER 2006



John 14: 2-3 (NIV)

In my Father's house are many rooms... am going there to prepare a place for you.
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

35P

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES

RECTOR

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CURATE

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Tidmarsh
Tel: 0118 984 3625

CHURCHWARDENS

John Rothery
Tel: 0118 984 3625

Debbie Corrigan
Tel: 0118 967 6061

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

All enquiries should be made to the Rector

www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

8 Oct	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Annual Community Memorial Service
15 Oct	9.30am	Family Communion
	11.15am	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
22 Oct	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
29 Oct	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Deanery Youth Service at Sulhamstead
5 Nov	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion

www.christianity.org.uk

PARISH REGISTER

(up to 11 September)

FUNERAL

6 Sept Edith Rose Edmonds aged 78 years (Cremation)

FROM THE CURATE

Dear Friends

I recall many years ago someone going into space and declaring that they could not find God or heaven there. Not surprising really, for anyone looking there will be disappointed.

However, it is not only some of those engaged in space travel that may be looking in the wrong place. There are many pursuing peace, happiness and satisfaction in all sorts of ways and places.

Recently when flying back from a holiday, as the plane soared up beyond the dark clouds, the sun was shining so brightly that I had to close the window blinds. I began to think about how God is never shut out by dark clouds of doubt or fear, because he shines and is above all things. Like a plane challenging the rules of gravity with its powerful engines and the skill of the pilot, we need a power that is beyond ourselves, and a pilot who is in control and skilful in taking us to our final destination.

One of the lovely things about travelling is reaching our destination, especially if friends or family have gone on before and are waiting to greet us because we can enjoy the exciting times of adventure with them. So it is with Jesus and his friends who have died and gone from these shores, having reached their final destination beyond our world. Jesus is waiting to greet us because He has 'gone to prepare a place for us'

But do we know where we are going? I do not know of anyone who would plan a journey and not know their final destination. Going on holiday we knew where we were flying from and to. We knew the names of the airports and countries. Oh yes we could have got diverted, but our final destination was known, and so it is with our Christian journey through life.

Jesus is described as the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end and it is with him that we can start our spiritual flight, not of fancy, but of reality through life towards human death and eternal life.

We may already have begun our Christian journey but have got delayed or diverted along the way. Events and people can hinder our journey, but if we travel with Jesus, our Alpha (our beginning), He will help us to complete it. When the word describes Jesus as Omega (the end) it does not mean he is the end of everything, on the contrary it means that everything begins and ends with Him. In other words, He is the person we trust to start with, and we continue to

trust His power and His love for us to see us through this life and into the next life.

What a wonderful thing that will be.

So what do I know about heaven? Have I ever been there?

No! But I do have a very good friend who has. He came here and told us about it and is preparing a place for me and for you. He is the only powerful pilot who can accompany us through life and beyond. His name is Jesus.

If my letter has got you thinking about those close to you who have died, whether recently or some years ago, I do warmly invite you to join us for our Annual Community Memorial Service that will be held at St Mary's Church on Sunday 8 October at 3pm.

With Best Wishes

Jean

DEANERY YOUTH SERVICE

The young people of the Bradfield Deanery are organising a special service on Sunday 29 October at 6pm at Sulhamstead Church. They would be very pleased to see you and have your support.

CLERGY PENSIONS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

In common with private companies and public bodies, the Church of England is reviewing its pension policy. No decisions have been taken and none will be taken until the General Synod debates them and that will not be before next year.

Like all other defined benefit pension schemes, the Church's pension schemes are under pressure. They are being squeezed because of the long-term reduction in returns from investments, and the increasing life expectancy of members. On top of that, new Government regulations designed to make pension schemes more secure for their members are also likely to increase the cost of the Church's schemes.

The new regulations and code of practice result from the Pensions Act 2004 and substantially change the way in which schemes have to assess their assets and liabilities. They require pension funds to take a more cautious view of likely investment returns and to adopt an investment policy that attempts to reduce risk still further. They also stipulate that deficits in pension funds should be made good more quickly than before.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York set up a task group to look at the impact on pensions. Its report sets out the issues facing the Church and starts a wide consultation ahead of any decisions. The report is published in full on the Church of England's website, www.cofe.anglican.org, with a link, Pensions update, to all the relevant documents.

The key questions tabled by the task group were:

- Is the Church's commitment to the clergy pension scheme in its present form such that it is willing and able to find the additional money to fund it, however high the future contribution rate might have to be, or is there an overall cost beyond which it would not be practicable or desirable to go?
- What changes in pension entitlement for the future service of existing members of the clergy should be contemplated if some cost reduction proves unavoidable?
- Should the present clergy scheme be closed to new entrants and less expensive pension arrangements introduced for them?
- Should increases in pensions be linked in future to increases in prices rather than in stipends (as they are at present)? Without recreating unacceptable commitments for the Church Commissioners, is there any way in which their assets could help to ease the situation, particularly over the period in which past service deficit has to be cleared?

The report, which has been circulated to a wide range of church bodies, foresees a six-month consultation process within dioceses starting some time after Easter and a report to General Synod on options in February 2007. The consultation comes in advance of the statutory three-yearly valuation of the clergy pension scheme as at December 2006.

- Parochial clergy are currently paid an annual stipend of around £19,000 and have the use of a house provided by the Church. The current pension, payable at 65 to those with 37 years' full-time service, is £11,686, plus a lump sum of three times the pension on retirement. Retired clergy provide their own accommodation, while the Pensions Board provides some assistance for those with limited resources.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

All the churches in the Berkshire Archdeaconry are taking part in Back to Church Sunday on 26 November. All are welcome to come to St. Mary's Church for any of the services on that Sunday:

9.30am	Family Worship
11.15am	Holy Communion
6.00pm	Songs of Praise

A large number of Purley residents have attended services at St. Mary's at one time or other and we are inviting you to make that connection once again. Special invitations are being prepared for those we know of who have had worshipping links with us, but we would like to include as many as possible. If you would like an invitation card, just let us know. We look forward to meeting friends old and new once again.

ST MARY'S CHARITY INFORMATION

When the members of St Mary's are raising funds, it's not just to keep the building standing or support Roger Howell's pension fund (see elsewhere!) The following describes two of the main charities that the church supports through prayer and financial means.

BARNABAS FUND

WWW.BARNABASFUND.ORG

Barnabas Fund was founded in 1993 at the request of several Christian leaders in countries where Christians face persecution, discrimination or disadvantage because of their faith. Its mission is threefold; to inform people about the plight of Christians in many of these countries, to raise prayer, and to channel practical assistance to Christians in need. Barnabas Fund also undertakes advocacy on behalf of people and groups at their request.

In many countries Christians are denied educational opportunities, employment, representation and equal justice. They can experience major persecution. Converts to Christianity often suffer greatly. In twelve years Barnabas Fund has helped nearly 600 projects in over 40 countries. Projects originate from and are run by local Christians in the country concerned. These projects include such programmes as emergency relief work, food parcels for the needy, Bibles and other Christian literature, support for pastors and evangelists, health clinics, Christian education, training for church leaders, convert care, small business start-ups, building projects, equipment and many others. The guiding principle of projects is to strengthen the Body of Christ by practical means.

Barnabas Fund now has offices in New Zealand, Australia, United States as well as its headquarters in U.K. As well as the bi-monthly magazine Barnabas Aid and Barnabas Prayer notes, every autumn there is a catalogue called 'Gifts of Love' with a cross section of the projects that people can support. Here you can read about how to support a Pakistani family, help feed poor Iraqi Christians, support schooling for Christian children in various countries, train church leaders, assist with medical expenses, care for converts, start up small businesses, provide Bibles and other literature. Christians in many countries are bearing a faithful witness to Christ under persecution. They want you to be informed, to pray for them, and to offer practical help where possible.

Right to Justice Campaign – seeks to secure freedom of worship for Christians who live in mainly-Muslim countries – i.e. to provide for them the same treatment that Muslims who live in the UK receive in terms of freedom of worship. So far 54,493 people have signed in support of this effort.

THE MARYLEBONE PROJECT

WWW.MARYLEBONEPROJECT.ORG.UK

Church Army has pioneered work with homeless women since 1891. Since HRH Princess Margaret opened the Marylebone Project in 1996 we have placed most of our resources in London to work with this vulnerable group, as very few specialist services for homeless women were found to be available.

This highly professional yet compassionate project is comprised of the following initiatives: Cosway St. Residential Unit providing a lifeline for women in need of immediate help and emergency accommodation and can support 72 women at any one time; Elgood/Portman House is a 40 bed Residential Unit supporting refugees and those fleeing domestic violence; The Emergency Bed Unit providing free accommodation to street homeless women for a maximum of five nights whilst assessment of needs is made and further accommodation sought; The Mental Health Unit providing for homeless women in need of professional mental health support; The Women's Day Centre is the first day centre run by women for homeless women in London, providing the basic essentials of life, advice and support with a wide range of training and formal education.

The Marylebone Project, which is reliant on donations from churches, individuals and trusts, provides this truly holistic professional service to the most marginalised and vulnerable women by a needs led service through its Christian Ethos.

Over 700 women each year access the services of the project. Many women come with complex and multiple needs not only related to homelessness, but often inter-linked with experiences of abuse and exploitation which lead to a fragmented and chaotic lifestyle.

TRICK OR TREAT?

"Trick or treat" is normally a harmless pastime for children but it can also be both frightening & intimidating.

Thames Valley Police is talking to children & young people to raise their awareness of the distress which can be caused by unexpected knocks on the door or loud noises. Officers will be encouraging children to respect the wishes of anyone who has a flyer on display in their window or on their door.

If you do get an unexpected caller, make sure the chain or door bar is on before you open the door. Do not let anyone in your house unless you are happy with their identity.

If you do need to talk to the police call 0845 8 505 505 or dial 999 in an emergency. Locally, a limited supply of these flyers will be available from the Parish [Council] Office or the Post Office.

SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across

7 ESTHER, 8 JOSEPH, 10 PHILLIP, 11 ISAAC, 12 IDES, 13 JESUS, 17 NADIR, 18 SAUL, 22 MANNA, 23 NEMESIS, 24 CHORUS, 25 ALCOVE

Down

1 DESPAIR, 2 STRIKES, 3 BELLS, 4 DOMINUM, 5 MEDAL, 6 THICK, 9 EPHESIANS, 14 LAZARUS, 15 PASSION, 16 BLESSED, 19 AMICE, 20 UNION, 21 SMILE

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

So we have a plague of Tipulidae. No, I didn't know that's their proper name until I looked it up. Gussed? Well I am sure if you have left a light on and a window open then you will have been invaded by crane-flies or 'daddy long legs'. Our grass fields at present are alive with them as the warm autumn following a wet spell has created near perfect conditions for them to breed. As farmers we are not worried by the mature insect, but by their tough skinned grubs named 'leather-jackets' which are so destructive to the roots of grass and other plants. Golf greens often suffer severely and crops sown on broken up grassland are frequently destroyed by this pest. If you have some brown patches appearing on your lawns, consider leather-jackets as a cause before you kick the neighbour's cat!

I wish I could blame the crane-flies for our dismal maize crop. However in fairness it was a combination of hot weather, poor choice of herbicides and it appears a too acidic soil which has left us with a pathetic clamp of silage. Also the dry summer and lack of grass growth has forced us to open the grass silage clamp early so the winter fodder situation is looking critical. Mind you, the hot weather helped us to make plenty of good quality hay so the cattle won't go hungry.

The summer has seen the continuation of three projects which I am involved with at West Berks. Looking at the problems caused in Reading with the alterations to refuse collection/recycling, we will have to be far more aware that not everybody is prepared to change their ways. Consultation is the name of the game which of course was the basis of the 'Kennet & Thames Vision' which is just about to go to print. I hope you will all get a chance to read it and there does seem to be a general consensus that positive action will come out of it rather than leaving it on a shelf to gather dust.

The third project which is gathering momentum is the Denefield School site development. Many folk have asked to see plans and asked what is going where. However at present only proposals have been put forward and there will be many months of consultations and feasibility studies before any plans are created. What is certain is that communication channels will always be open with newsletters/bulletins being published so everyone can keep abroad of the situation.

Anti-social behaviour and petty crime has become more of a problem recently. Personally I am not keen on the 08458 505505 police non-emergency number and again many folk object to the 'non-geographical call' which on most people's contracts is a premium call. Not only do you pay more, but you are then subjected to pushing buttons before you get to speak to someone. The other week a problem arose in Pangbourne and someone rushed to the police station for help, only to be passed a telephone and told to report it to someone in Oxford!

Our dinner was interrupted last Sunday evening as Vicky was literally taking the chicken out of the oven. A phone call asked us to intercept some lads who had stolen a canoe from Pangbourne and were coming in our direction. To cut a long

story short, they never expected as they attempted to escape, to have two of my rugby playing sons execute perfect tackles on them. They were then ordered to pick up the big heavy open canoe and were frog marched the mile back to Pangbourne with my sons walking alongside. Funny, they never tried to run off again!!

Tim Metcalfe

PURLEY PATHFINDERS

A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

After the summer break it was lovely to meet up with everyone again on a beautiful sunny September day. Our first walk back was to be an easy level walk, which left us with plenty of breath to catch up on all the holiday news!

Dodging the resident swans of Caversham Bridge, we joined the south bank of the River Thames for a pleasant walk beside its shimmering water. We passed Fry's Island, now the site for a peaceful game of bowls, but it was not always so. In 1163 Henry 11 chose it as the site for a duel between Henry de Essex and Robert de Montford. The island was later known as de Montford Island after the victor. We passed under Reading Bridge, opened in 1923 as a second Thames crossing, but not until it had been tested by loading it with as many steamrollers as possible! Should talk of a third bridge come to fruition, we wondered how tests of its strength will be made in the 21st century! We arrived at Kennet Mouth, confluence of the Thames and Kennet, and climbed the listed, timber-clad Horseshoe Bridge. We admired the flower-filled borders at the lock which heralds the start/end of the Kennet & Avon Canal. Soon we left the canal to follow the River Kennet, so close to bustling Reading town centre, yet such a pretty, peaceful spot. On *Chocolate Island* we spotted two fishermen – on one side a heron stood motionless, poised ready to strike, while on the other side, a local fisherman stands immortalised in bronze. The Oscar Wilde Gate directed us into the Oscar Wilde Walk, a tribute to this former inmate of Reading gaol. Railings hold the phrase uttered by Wilde upon his release, *Oh beautiful world*. However, life in prison had broken his spirit, and he died three years later in 1900. Besides his *Ode to Reading Gaol*, Wilde has left us with many quotes. As a ladies' walking group we particularly like, "Women are meant to be loved, not understood"! As we entered the adjoining site of the former Reading Abbey, we were stunned by the beauty of the remaining walls outlined against the deep blue sky. We took our break here which gave us time, with the guidance of several information boards, to explore the various areas which would have formed this magnificent Abbey, one of the wealthiest in England. We found the plaque, placed near the position of the High Altar, at the place where the Abbey's founder, Henry I, was buried in 1136. It was amazing to think





that, where we had just walked, the body of the King had been brought along the River Kennet all those years ago. We passed through the old flint arch into Forbury Gardens, looking splendid in their refurbished state. Passing pretty flower borders we headed for the bandstand, and the Maiwand Lion which, at 31 feet long is one of the largest bronze statues in the world, and dominates the park. Back by the Thames, now on the northern bank, we passed through

Christchurch Meadows on our way back to Caversham Bridge. Here we were welcomed into the newly rebuilt Pipers Island. Outside in the sunshine we sat in a splendid position out on the Thames to enjoy a lazy lunch.

For our next walk we headed out into the Chilterns, beginning in the pretty village of Middle Assendon, situated in the stunning Stonor Valley close to Henley. We climbed up through Paradise Wood and black-berried in the lovely autumn sunshine as we walked along the ridge towards Coxlease Farm. Our route took us past Bosmore Farm and up to the road through another lovely Chiltern village, Fawley. Passing through Rowe Wood we spotted some different creatures to our normal sightings – wallabies! On our return route we saw what we think was an oryx. After our lovely undulating walk we enjoyed lunch in the sunny garden of The Golden Ball in Lower Assendon. Apparently Dick Turpin had hidden in the priest-hole in this 400 year old pub!

Cold Ash sits on a sandy ridge 500 feet above sea level, making it the highest village in Berkshire. On our next walk we set out to explore this straggling village. We began at a busy part of the village, the Village Hall and Recreation Ground. A track took us past a few human dwellings as well as some horse's stables. We crossed several meadows linked by stiles to reach the edge of the neighbouring Ashmore Green village. Continuing within Cold Ash we climbed gradually beneath trees to emerge at a spot from where we gained far-reaching views across the green Kennet and Pang Valleys, also spotting Cottington Hill and the adjoining Watership Down. Here the parliamentary army chose to camp, taking advantage of the commanding views over the countryside, before marching on to Newbury for the 2nd Battle of Newbury. Nearing the end of our walk we entered the Wildlife Allotment Garden. We were guided through along wooden walkways which, at wetter times of year, offer protection from damp areas and the occasional stream. A wide range of plants flourish here, in turn offering a diversity of habitats which attract a wide range of wildlife. The area is managed by a group of volunteers and provides a great amenity to the village. Nestling at the bottom of a hill, we found the Castle public house where the garden provided a sunny spot in which to enjoy lunch.

As leaves take on their autumnal hues, and conkers and acorns clothe the woodland floor, we look forward to being out in the countryside as it makes the transition from summer to autumn. We have some lovely walks planned along

the Thames at Shiplake, the River Enborne near Brimpton and out in the Chilterns at Ipstone. It will also be time for our Autumn Special. This year we will be off to The Vale of Evesham, and continuing our 'Waterways' theme, we will be treated to a lovely walk beside the River Avon before exploring the interesting areas around the former site of the Abbey. Afterwards we will have a chance to spend some free time at Evesham Country Park before a specially commissioned steam train takes us on a tour of the old apple orchards, for which the area is famous. Our ride will give us splendid views over some of the finest scenery The Vale has to offer. As usual, our day will end with the traditional cream teas in the Apple Barn Restaurant!

If any ladies would like a copy of our autumn programme, please contact me through the Purley Pathfinders web site or give me a ring.

Nicki Woodward
984 2112
www.purleypathfinders.co.uk

JOIN OUR CHARITY WALK FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Every two years, Purley Pathfinders walk for a charity of our choice. 2006 has seen us losing some of our dear members, and some of our member's husbands, to cancer. It took no effort, therefore, to decide the benefactor of our charity walk this year. On Friday 3 November we will be walking in aid of Cancer Research. Non-members of the group (including men!) are most welcome to join us. The walk will be level, with a variety of lengths. We will be walking beside the pretty Kennet & Avon Canal, starting at Theale Station at 10am. Walkers may choose to walk so far, then return on foot, or take advantage of the various railway stations along the route by catching the train back to Theale (e.g. Aldermaston 3½ miles: Woolhampton 5¼ miles) There are various pubs near the towpath if lunch is required, or bring a picnic with you. Anyone taking part is encouraged to find sponsorship, or to make a donation to the charity. If you unable to walk but would like to sponsor us, please let me know. Thank you! For further details, please ring Nicki Woodward on 984 2112, or just turn up at Theale on the day.

Mon 30 Oct Mon 11 Dec

Pray for Purley
Pray for Purley

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

F.O.P.S. CHAIR'S REPORT

A.G.M. 20 SEPTEMBER 2006



2005/6 has been yet another enjoyable and successful year for F.O.P.S. Our treasurer [can] give the details of the funds we have raised, but I am very pleased and proud to say that it has been a record year. I would like to start by thanking all of the committee for their endless time and commitment in organising all the events throughout the year, and of course all the members of F.O.P.S. – all the parents and staff, for their ongoing and generous support.

I would like to say a little about the various events we have organised and been involved in over the past year.

- Once again we supplied refreshments at the harvest and spring and leavers assemblies.
- We have staffed numerous cake sales throughout the year. These are great events which are really enjoyed by the children!
- In partnership with Purley Pre School, we organised the Christmas Fayre. Yet again this was a hugely successful event. I do need to thank all involved once again, as the amount of work required to organise this event is phenomenal – from the collection, sorting and wrapping of donations to the day itself. As usual the day was great fun though, and raised a lot of money.
- We funded a mini Pantomime for the children in January. It was such a pleasure to be able to do this and to see the real excitement on the faces of the staff – I mean children!
- The Spring Party and Disco was a huge success, with bubbles, dancing, games and a pocket money stall. A very special thank you to Jacko's Diddy Discos who provided the entertainment free of charge.
- This year we organised and staffed a sponsored obstacle course at school. All the children and some staff took part, having great fun and raising money!
- The main event of the year, as usual was the Summer Fair – this year teamed with an Auction. Once again I need to mention the committee, as the organisation of this event was vast! It was so worth it in the end, raising an amazing £1600!
- Some may have noticed that the front garden, by the Foundation/Year 1 classroom, is looking beautiful! Thanks to Marsha and Joanne, who worked on this over the summer. I know my daughter in Foundation loves it!
- We have continued to manage the collection of various tokens from supermarkets and other companies. This has resulted this year in school receiving sports equipment, books and art materials.
- We are selling Trolley Mates – key fobs that are also £1.00 tokens for a supermarket trolley. They have the school logo on them.

There has been a barometer at the entrance to the school building, showing our level of fundraising throughout the year. Much of this is given directly to school as cash donations, the rest keep our account open, buys supplies such as uniform, and pays for various things direct – such as the Pantomime and equipment for the garden.

Whilst most of our time within committee meetings is taken up with the organising of the many 'events' throughout the year, it is also necessary for us to work on administrative tasks too! This year we have developed our own F.O.P.S. logo and headed paper, as well as working on our website, agreeing 'job descriptions', to name a few! These items can be so time consuming, but are vital to the smooth running of F.O.P.S. With our status of a registered charity comes a lot of responsibility!

We are also very keen to involve all the members of F.O.P.S. in what we do, and not just the committee. In order to get the 'work' done, there needs to be a core group of people, to manage the charity and the organisation. This group (committee) needs to be able to commit to attending meetings regularly. However as I have previously mentioned, ALL parents and staff are automatically members of F.O.P.S. and as such can be actively involved. Please do not be put off by the fact that you cannot come to meetings!

So a very successful year has passed, and we now look to the future. We have several plans in progress – Christmas Fayre, Pantomime, School tea towels to name a few. I look forward to working on these and other projects over the coming year.

I would like to thank once again the outgoing committee for all of their hard work and support. I would like to mention Catryn Rowlands and Diane Leigh, my secretary and vice chair, who have both kept me organised and on track! No mean feat at times!

We are losing several members of the committee, whose children have moved on to pastures new – Martin and Claire Ham, Laura Jones - good luck to them and their children in their new schools and thank you.

We have also lost two very longstanding committee members, who have seen both their children come through Purley Infant School. Wendy Ellis, who has been the keeper of our school uniform for many years, and last but by no means least Mary Webster, who has been our treasurer for as long as I can remember. Thank you so much to them for their time and commitment over the years – we will miss them greatly.

And finally, Thank you to the local community for your support over the past year, we look forward to seeing you at our events in the future.

Debbie Mackay (Chair 2005/6)

Purley Infant School is collecting Tesco Sport vouchers and Nestlé Box Top vouchers. If anyone has any they don't need for another school can they please pass them to us?

ROAD SAFETY IS AN ISSUE FOR EVERYONE

Road Safety Counts in West Berkshire is a slogan that we hope all those who live or work in the District, or who travel through it, will recognise and support. The impact of a road crash can vary from traffic delays to the far more personal issue of lives that are changed. It is not always a loss of a life that people need to come to terms with, many people can share the details of life changes that they have had to deal with as a result of a minor road crash.

The belief is "It won't happen to me" and yet each year lives are devastated by the impact of a crash. It was not planned; no one set out to be involved in it and yet it happened. The statistics record that each month, on the roads of Great Britain, an average of close to 300 people die, nine people a day. What isn't reported is that many more will have been involved in a crash where the injuries are life changing.

Road Safety is improved when those who use the roads show respect for others and take individual responsibility for their actions. The vast majority of crashes occur as a result of human error – some, a small proportion, will result from an unforeseen mechanical failure.

West Berkshire Council seeks to provide advice on staying safe – from the very youngest, through the advice on child seats and pedestrian skills, to the very oldest, through advice on the failing senses such as sight and hearing. For all individuals the message of road safety is to learn and continue to learn. In many cases it will be by undertaking training and putting that training into practice. Those parents who have supported their children as they learn to drive should consider the merit of the *Pass Plus* scheme. For those who have passed their test why not consider advanced driver training

A major issue for all those who drive on the roads is the speed of traffic. SID is out across the district on most days. The pattern is for the majority of drivers to exceed the speed limit; it may be by only a few miles per hour but that is significant. At 35mph a car will still be doing close to 20mph at the point where it would have stopped had the driver had been travelling at 30mph. As a result of exceeding the speed limit a growing number of people have been invited by the police to attend a *Speed Awareness* course. Most will talk positively about what they learnt on the course and of the importance of sticking to the speed limit. Your Parish Council is asking for your support so that the roads in Purley are safer. Please remember that it is not always your ability that will prevent a crash – it might be the expectation of someone else that you are sticking to the speed limit! In residential roads and amongst parked cars why not try and keep your speed to below 20mph – it may add as much as 30 seconds to your journey. Have you ever thought what a life is worth?

Road Safety Counts in West Berkshire

For more information visit www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=882



PURLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Autumn is beginning and at Purley Pre-School it means that we will soon be holding our A.G.M and electing a new committee for the year ahead. This year our AGM is on 18 October and once again we require a good turnout of our members. I will be resigning as chairperson this October as my youngest child will be going to school in January and I wish the new chair and committee all the best for the year ahead.

During the last year we have launched a very successful website, largely owing to the expertise of Fraser Drew, and this has enabled us to keep in touch with our community in a new and exciting way. If you haven't visited us yet it is www.purleypreschool.co.uk and it is proving to be a great resource.

In May we held our Summer Fun Day which was a great success for the Pre-School, mainly because the children (and parents!) seemed to have lots of fun! The weather stayed dry and there was a lot of excitement about a raffle for a signed Reading football shirt.

Later in the summer we held our first quiz night, which was also great fun. We enjoyed it so much that we are holding another one this October and hope it to be as well attended as the first.

I would like to say thank-you to everyone who has supported Purley Pre-School over the last year but mainly I would like to thank the wonderful Pre-School staff who take such great care of the children and work so hard to ensure that Purley Pre-School is a fantastic place to be.

*Nicky Danbury
Chairperson of Purley Pre-School*

GARDEN TALKS IN PURLEY PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Have secured John Garrod to give a talk on

Wednesday 18 October at 8pm

HIDDEN GARDENS OF THE CITY OF LONDON

John Garrod a City of London Guide and also a London Blue Badge guide has worked in London for the majority of his working life.

London has held a lifelong fascination for John and he has acquired a specialised knowledge of the City of London's gardens, its architecture, churches and the area around Fleet Street. John also has a special interest in Westminster and the surrounding areas. It will be a fascinating evening.

The talk will be held in the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road
doors are open at 7.30pm

All residents of Purley are welcome

1ST PURLEY BROWNIES

I would like to thank all the leaders, Brownies and Parents for the lovely farewell gifts. They gave me a terrific send off and I shall always remember it! My special thanks goes to Lynsey Theobald (Swallow) who organised my last evening and secretly asked the Brownies to make me a beautiful card to go with the Bird Bath, fluffy owl and flowers. She also left our Brownies but continues with her own Brownie unit in Tilehurst.

The good news for the unit is that we have found a new Brown Owl! Her name is Rosalie Topazio and she took over from Tuesday 12 September at Long Lane School. She would like someone to help on a permanent basis; you needn't have been in Guiding, just your enthusiasm is needed!

Brownies start at the age of seven, so if your daughter would like to join please phone Rosalie on Reading 984 5943.

In the meantime, thank you 1st Purley Brownies, after seventeen years I am going to miss you, and good luck to Rosalie!

With kind regards from Brown Owl! (Mary Grant)

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

The next Farmers Market will be held at the Barn on 14 October with future dates planned for 11 November & 9 December. Please continue to support this event.



The Neighbourhood Wardens now operating in the area are upgrading their answer phone facility because a number of messages left were undecipherable and they have asked for anyone who did not get an expected response to ring them again. They can be contacted by telephone on 945 5286 or by e-mail at westberks.wardens@sovereign.org.uk

Non emergency matters for Thames Valley Police should still be reported on their contact number 0845 8 505 505.

Please continue to utilise the Parish Council website for updated local information as regular improvements are being made. It is also hoped in the future to produce an information type e-mail on a regular basis so if you would be interested in receiving a copy of this please let us know your name and e-mail address.

Due to the resignation of Paul Sims a statutory notice has been placed on the notice boards advertising the vacancy for a councillor. If no election has been requested within the required period the Parish Council will be given powers to co-opt until elections are due next year. Anyone who has been interested either in the past, or currently, is invited to contact the Clerk for further information.

Although there is now a waiting list for an allotment plot Alex Stott (Allotment Manager) has asked for anyone interested in future vacancies to contact him on 941 9186 or by e-mail on vastott@aol.com

A reminder that the Barn is available to hire to local parish residents and organisations at reasonable rates. For further information and available dates contact Jean Chudleigh (Barn Manager) on 07917 453 187.

Finally with winter coming ever nearer the Environment Agency has drawn attention to their Floodline 0845 988 1188 and website www.environment-agency.gov.uk. They have also provided the Parish Council with an information pack which is available for inspection during the usual office hours.

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

www.purleyonthames.net

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



From Friday 8 to Sunday 10 December, St Mary's will be hosting a festival of Christmas trees to which everyone is welcome. Local organisations, councils, schools, shops, businesses, clubs and societies will be invited to provide and decorate a tree, either in a Christmas theme or a theme that reflects their own organisation's identity.

If you are interested in providing a tree, and would like more information, please contact Jean or John Rothery on 984 3625. More details will also appear in next month's magazine.

MAGAZINE EMAIL PROBLEMS AND CHANGES

There were major delays with email between some ISPs and ntlworld.com just as the magazine deadline arrived for this edition. Hopefully everything got through in the end; if you sent me something and it's not in this issue, please send it again for next month.

To avoid future delays, please note that the total size of your email, with attachments, must be less than 10MB in size and larger submissions (>200kb) should **only** be sent to my alternative address: matthew.slingsby@yahoo.com. Please do not send large emails to ntlworld as they will fill my inbox and prevent other people's submissions from being received. I will be looking for a simpler, more permanent email solution as soon as possible.

Matthew

FIRST CIVILIAN USE OF PENICILLIN IN THE NETHERLANDS

By 20 May 1945, not three weeks since the war end, our small No. II BRC Mobile Hospital team of 24 arrived at Gorinchem, an important river port on the Rhine (here called the Merwede). We had left Arnhem on the 8th, then to the notorious Nazi Kamp Amersfoort for 10 days. Within 48 hours we established a hospital in the High School building, and by the 25th we had admitted our first 40 cases of typhoid, rampant along the riverside about 20km up and downstream due to wartime disruption of drainage.

Cases were notified by bush telegraph (telephones not yet reinstated). The presenting symptom was a severe headache which meant an ambulance went to pick up the case and often one or two others, invariably confirmed by our lab.

One such case was Cornelius Fuyschott, a 17-year-old collected from Zaltbommel. He had not only typhoid, but also a longstanding chronic osteomyelitis of his leg. Like $\pm 80\%$ of our nearly 200 cases his typhoid recovered on the only treatment – nursing. (It is thought that a more nourishing diet could have improved our results.) There were then no appropriate antibiotics. As Cornelius's leg did not improve, we requested the attention of an RAMC Surgeon who attempted surgical drainage under cover of Penicillin, which we had begged from the Canadian Army during July 1945. (Penicillin was available on prescription for civilians in the USA from March 1945, and in the UK only from 1 June 1946)

We were told that this was the first case of its use in a civilian in Holland (August 1945). This is arguably correct^{2,3}. However, Penicillin did not help the leg – but Cornelius went home cured of pneumonia and typhoid.

The news of Penicillin, the miracle drug's use by us got around and we were inundated by requests for supplies which we did not have – really not enough for our one case. Although a junior student but as the only linguist I was deputed to decline the requests and offer M&B 693 instead.

After twenty-two years in 1967 I wondered what became of our first case of Penicillin use, so on a revisit to Holland I sought out the Fuyschott family in Zaltbommel and was told by his mother that sadly Cornelius had died two years previously from amyloid due to years of chronic sepsis.

It was rumoured then that there had been some "home brew" Penicillin made secretly in Holland during the war, despite the Germans. This was confirmed towards the end of 1945 when success was achieved with its use produced under the codename Bacinol, whereas apparently neither Germany nor France had any comparable successes then (see References below).

Dr. J.A. Hofmeyr

1. Marlene Burns (Sept. 2000). Open University MA Dissertation D0165036 A829.
2. Marlene Burns (Sept. 2005). PhD Thesis, Department of History, University of Sheffield. (The foregoing story is quoted naming me, pp. 80–81.) *
3. John Adriaan Hofmeyr (2003). The Testament of a Doctor, pp. 159–160.*

* Should be in RSM Library.

PURLEY W.I.

Thanks were expressed to our W.I. ladies for allowing us to share their gardens; one, Marilyn Hoare, for her pink tea party and another member for giving us the opportunity to relax over fish and chips having walked along the Pang. The raffles provided donations towards the charities with which the hostesses are involved – well done.

A few of our ladies entered this year's Horticultural Show and came away with prizes. It was a lovely and colourful display. Thanks for organising it folks, plus participants for entering. Keep going.

Toys of any description are being made, collected and taken to W.I. House at Mortimer. After children have chosen their favourites, they will be sold and donations will help the Berkshire Federation Fund.

The September speaker was Mrs. G. Franklin of Mapledurham on Apple Farming at her fruit farm.

When I was very small, I could never understand what all the commotion was about concerning Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. One day I realised it was about the "apple" (forget the temptation bit) but, if Mrs. Franklin had been around (very knowledgeable lady), I would have known why there had been all the fuss. A fruit of manageable size that you noisily crunch into giving your gastric juices sheer satisfaction. The Romans brought the apples with them, plus the trees. Have you noticed how often the Romans seem to be at the core of so many ideas and inventions! An apple a day keeps the doctor away – is it any wonder – not surprising when you consider the goodness it provides; Vitamins C and B and minerals calcium and iron. Three apples a day can help to lower the cholesterol and they were good enough for the Pilgrim Fathers to take to America in 1762. Then cider was a good substitute for unsafe water. Two and half thousand varieties of apple have been recorded and Mrs. Franklin has a list of many forgotten ones, many of which she grows and sells (also at the Farmers' Market). Now there's nothing like apple pie and custard – must keep an eye on the custard as it goes lumpy and that really does give me the pip!

COMPETITIONS

Scarecrow 1st Ann Davis 2nd Wendy Chapman

Flower of the Month 1st Wendy Chapman 2nd Margaret Martin

Next month's speaker is Mr. N. L. Stewart on Swimming with Sharks. Competition is a seaside photograph.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 11 October at 7.30 p.m. at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley. Visitors welcome.

*Sylvia Conquest
941 1936*

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

LATE SUMMER SHOW



This was held in Purley Memorial Hall on Saturday, 9th September and was very successful with more entries than last year. The judges congratulated the participants on the high standard of the entries. It was very encouraging to see a good number of visitors viewing the exhibits. We were very pleased to have Mr. Rick Jones (Chairman of Purley Parish Council) to present the trophies to the following winners:

Alan Cargo	Banksian Medal (most points in flowers, vegetable and Fruit Section)
Ray Stuart	P.H.S. Perpetual Challenge Cup (flowers, fruit and vegetables), Fairfoull Cup (Pot Plants), Reg Ayers Memorial Trophy (most points from Spring & Summer Show) & Purley Home & Garden Bowl (best exhibit in Vegetable & Fruit Section)
Sylvia Conquest/ Hazel King	Neil Buckle Trophy (Floral Art Section)
Mrs. Blanchard	Purley Homecraft Salver (Cookery & Handicraft Section)
Pat Brightwell	Purley W.I. Cup (Cookery & Handicraft Section)
Mrs. Fairfoull	Frankston Vase (Knitting,, needlework or crochet section)
Ben Cook & Jamie Labrosse	Golden Jubilee Cup (Children's classes)

TALKS

On Wednesday, 18 October Mr. John Garrod will give a talk on City of London Gardens in Purley Memorial Hall commencing at 8pm. This should be a very interesting talk, so please come along in order that we have a good audience for this speaker.

TRADING

The Shed in the Purley Memorial Hall car park is open from 10am to 11am on Saturdays and Sundays, but will close on Sunday, 29 October, re-opening at the beginning of February. We have a varied stock for most of your gardening needs, including winter bulbs. Please support the Society and help boost our Trading figures. We stock bird food, bird boxes and tables, so please make sure you have ample food for the birds during the winter months.

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer months and are not too disappointed with your gardening results due to the high temperatures in July.

Marion Dabbs
9422349

CARERS HEALTHY LIVING DAYS

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2006



For carers in Bracknell, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham

CCB are delighted to announce that we have created a FREE programme of activities that are available to unpaid/family and volunteer carers across Berkshire between October and December. All activities will run in the morning from 10.30-12.00 and the afternoon from 13.00-14.30. Lunch and refreshments will also be provided. You can attend an activity in both morning and afternoon sessions if you wish. Family, friends and neighbours who help with caring responsibilities are also invited to attend.

Activity & Description	Venue(s)	Date
First Aid: Basic introduction to practical ways to help save a life, CPR, controlling a bleed, recovery position	South Hill Park, Bracknell The Warehouse, Reading The Centre, Slough The Racecourse, Newbury	11 Oct 17 Oct 8 Nov 15 Nov
Stress Management: Looking at physical & mental techniques to overcome stress, useful coping strategies and how to build your self esteem	South Hill Park The Warehouse The Racecourse Braywick Heath Nurseries, Maidenhead	11 Oct 17 Oct 15 Nov 23 Nov
Healthy Living and Nutrition: How to make small changes to your lifestyle to enable better health. Some ideas for making simple tasty nutritious meals.	South Hill Park	11 Oct
Healthy Feet: Learn how to ensure you keep your feet healthy and free of discomfort.	The Centre The Racecourse Braywick Heath Nurseries	8 Nov 15 Nov 23 Nov
Introduction to complimentary therapies: Explore the benefits of complimentary therapies. Some practical work.	The Warehouse The Centre The Racecourse Braywick Heath Nurseries	17 Oct 8 Nov 15 Nov 23 Nov
Seated and Standing Exercise – Fall Prevention: Reducing risk of falls, improving posture and increasing mobility, approximately 1 hour of exercises.	South Hill Park	11 Oct
Loss & Bereavement: The practicalities of dealing with a death in the family, including registering a death, funeral arrangements, who to contact first, how to cope with feelings of loss of a loved one.	The Warehouse The Centre Braywick Heath Nurseries	17 Oct 8 Nov 23 Nov

WHAT DO YOU DO NEXT?

Please contact Paula Chandler at CCB on 961 2000 to register that you would like to book a place. She will also be able to provide you with further details on the activities.

Go on, give yourself a treat! It'll be a great opportunity to meet other carers too!

PREVENT THE SMELLS, REDUCE THE FLOODS

The Environment Agency (EA) has submitted a Planning Application to the West Berkshire Council to install an externally-accessed Sewage Collection Facility at the upstream (Western) end of Mapledurham Lock. Apparently the existing Facility at Whitchurch Lock is old and is not in a safe position for the boats, so the EA wants to put one at our Lock instead!

Once the Facility is installed at Mapledurham the EA will 'expect' (not insist) that 'Boaters' will moor and alight at the remote upstream decking (i.e. near the Facility) to empty their sewage containers. However, I believe many Boaters will wait until they are in the actual Lock Cut (i.e. at the centre of things) before alighting to do this (saves an extra stop). A tanker lorry will obtain access via Mapledurham Drive and the 'Causeway' across the field to empty the Facility everyday during the summer.

I envisage the following problems:

1. The Sewage Facility, especially on hot days, is likely to discharge an unpleasant smell (probably tainted with chemicals) which will be carried by the prevailing westerly winds directly over the main area of the Lock where most people will be. Many will be sitting on the benches alongside the path or in the tea garden eating ice cream or cake or drinking tea.
2. The sewage containers carried by the Boaters will also discharge a smell, especially the few that may not have lids (apparently lids are not essential). Of course the smell will be most apparent from the containers carried by Boaters who alight from the Lock Cut and therefore have to walk through all the bystanders.
3. Flies and other insects will be attracted to the Sewage Facility and to the containers and will, thereafter, follow their noses to the nearby exposed food and drink creating a serious health risk. Moreover, the smell will attract a greater number of flies and other insects to the Lock than otherwise.
4. The 'Causeway' that will be used daily by the tanker-lorries, forms a partial barrier to the main floodwater flow after the River has bursts its banks. The proposed regular use by the tanker-lorries will necessitate much more regular maintenance of the 'Causeway' and consequent gradual build up of its level. This, in turn, will increase the possibility of a sudden flood episode like the one we experienced during the 2003 flood -I have significant evidence of this!

Although the EA has submitted its Application the latter has not, at the time of writing, received an Application Number. However, by the time you read this, it is likely that it will have a Number and there will be a short period during which you can object. For details please telephone me on 942 7325, otherwise a neighbour on 942 1984.

Doug Buckley

AN UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

I have been in contact with the Environment Agency and they have provided the following update on the sanitation project at Mapledurham Lock. I took the liberty of forwarding Doug's letter to the EA's project manager, Alice Killeen, but was only able to do this shortly before publication. Therefore, if you have any concerns regarding this project, that Alice has not been able to address in such a short turnaround, please do take up the offer to contact her – Editor.

As part of our ongoing programme to improve recreation facilities on the Thames, the Environment Agency is pleased to include work at Mapledurham Lock. The work will benefit all river users with improved facilities for both boaters and walkers.

We are going to replace the footbridge at the downstream end of the lock, as the current one is in poor condition; we will be replacing it with a bridge with timber handrails, which will be more attractive than the existing structure.

Currently there are no public toilet facilities at Mapledurham Lock, other than a very old Gentlemen's latrine. We are going to replace this ugly concrete building with a brick building that will house a unisex toilet that is fully wheelchair accessible.

We have a legal duty to provide sanitary facilities for people boating on the Thames. We are planning to provide a facility for boaters to pump waste directly from their boats, which will be attached to the existing lay by at the upstream end of the lock. A separate facility will be provided adjacent to the fence for the small minority of boaters who have on board chemical toilets without a direct pump out point to dispose of their waste which will generally be carried in containers with non-spill lids.

We are aware of concerns locally, particularly with regard to the carrying of waste from the on board chemical toilets. We do operate many similar sites along the Thames, and have not had any incidents of spillage. The disposal point is regularly cleaned and disinfected, so there is little or no odour from the unit. We will be managing the use of these new facilities carefully, boaters will be asked to use the upstream moorings when emptying their waste.

Tankers will be used to remove the waste from site; a maximum of one tanker per day will be needed at the peak of the boating season. We will maintain the track to the existing level and standard. The existing level will not be altered so will have no impact on the likelihood of flooding in the area.

We think that these projects will improve the facilities at Mapledurham Lock, and they enable us to meet our legal requirement to provide sanitary facilities for boaters.

If anyone has any questions then please do contact me, Alice Killeen, Environment Agency Project Manager.

*Alice Killeen, Project Manager
Swift House, Frimley Business Park, Frimley, Surrey, GU16 7SQ
01276 454355*



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.

For further details or booking of any the events, please contact the Project Office. 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.

FRIENDS' DIARY

From Mon 9 Oct 12.30pm Health Walks

Paices Wood

For a trial period of six weeks West Berkshire's Walking the Way to Health Initiative (WHI) will be running health walks at Paices Wood every Monday lunchtime. Walking is the ideal way to de-stress, boost your energy levels and improve your health and because it requires no specialist equipment or expense all you need to do is turn up and join in! Meet 12.30pm at Paices Wood Country Parkland, through Youngs Industrial Estate (SU586638). For further details about health walks please contact the Nature Discovery Centre on 01635 874381 or naturecentre@westberks.gov.uk.

Tue 10 Oct

Boardwalk Creation

Bucklebury

Come and help Dennis Gower create a boardwalk at Osgoods Gulley; the first task is to move all the materials down to the site. Please meet at the Upper Bucklebury Cemetery Byles Green Rd at 10am (SU546698).

Sat 14 Oct 10am-1pm

Pond clearance

Hosehill Lake

Come along and help us to help Hosehill lake breath more easily by removing reeds from the wildlife pond. Meet 10am at the Fox & Hounds Pub, Station Road, Theale. (SU650697)

Sat 14 Oct

Heathland Management

Bucklebury Common

For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (SU550688) at 10am Contact Tim Culley for more details on 971 4830.

Thu 26 Oct 10am-1pm

Turnpike/Newbury Riverside revival

Come along and help us to clear up litter from in and around the River Lambourn at Rosemoor Gardens. Meet 10.00am outside the Riverside Community Centre. (SU485678)

Sun 29 Oct 1pm

Use them or Lose Them!

Yattendon

Join Dick Greenaway for a about a 3.5 mile walk a round Yattendon village and Burnt Hill. Whether you are interested in local history or wildlife, or whether you simply walk for exercise, there is something to see at every turn of the path. There are no hills or stiles on this walk but surfaces can be uneven and muddy. Grazing cows may be encountered near The Withys, dogs on leads only please. Meet at the Withys (SU554743) at 1pm. Please book your place.

Tue 7 Nov Introduction to Coppicing Rushall Manor Farm
Come and help cut binders and stakes for hedgelaying and maintain Rushall Manor Farms Bluebell Woods. New volunteers are particularly welcome on this event. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm at 10am.

Thu 9 Nov 7.30pm Tackling wildlife crime in the Thames Valley Chieveley Village Hall
Come and join us for an illustrated talk by PC Simon Towers about his role as a Wildlife Liaison Officer for Thames Valley Police. He covers the whole of the Thames Valley region dealing with all types of wildlife crime from uprooting wild plants to illegally trading wild animals. Tea and coffee will be provided. Meet 7.30pm at Chieveley Village Hall, High Street, Chieveley, Newbury, Berkshire RG20 8TE. Please telephone the project office on 930 5336 to book a place.

Sun 12 Nov 1pm Boundaries and Bridleways Ashampstead Common
Join Dick Greenaway for about a 3.5 mile walk to look at new paths and ancient boundaries in Ashampstead Common and Basildon parish. There is a steep hill on this walk meet at Childs Court Farm (SU575752) at 1pm. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Please book your place.

Sat 11 Nov Berkshire Barn Owls – How you can help Great Shefford Village Hall
Come and learn more about this distinctive countryside bird from Jason Ball of the Barn Owl Conservation Network, there will be an hour and a half talk followed by a visit to Sheep Drove Organic Farm for volunteers interested in monitoring barn owl boxes. Tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring appropriate footwear and clothing for the site visit. Please meet at 10am at Great Shefford Village Hall, Station Road, Great Shefford, West Berkshire (SU384754). Please phone 930 5336 to book your place.

Sun 12 Nov Heathland Management Bucklebury Common
For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (SU550688) at 10am. Contact Tim Culley for more details on 971 4830.

Tue 21 Nov Hedge laying Rushall Manor Farm
An ideal opportunity to put into practice the hedgelaying skills learnt on previous years courses. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm at 10am.

Tue 28 Nov Hedge planting The Malt House, West Woodhay
Come and enjoy the hospitality of the owners and contribute to your local environment by helping to plant up new hedgerows in this delightful corner of the NWD AONB. Refreshments provided. Meet at 10am The Malt House (SU396638) or call the Project Office for directions.

Sat 2 Dec 2pm Winter Walk Lower Common Bucklebury
Come for a winter walk on the lower common to see history old and new, to see the heather re-establishment over the last 20 years and win a prize for pulling up 30 Scots Pine and seedlings. Please bring boots and winter coats. Meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (SU550688). Please book your place.

Mon 4 Dec 10am-noon Farmland and Barn owls Sheep Drove Organic Farm
This is an opportunity for farmers and landowners to learn more about conservation of the much loved farmland bird the barn owl. Jason Ball of the Barn Owl Conservation Network will lead a short walk demonstrating habitat management and nest boxes for barn owls at Sheep Drove. Suitable HLS and ELS options for encouraging barn owls will also be discussed. The event will start at 10am at Sheep Drove Organic Farm SU357816 (off Sheepdrove Road) Tea and coffee will be provided. To book call the Project Office on 930 5336

Sat 9 Dec

Heathland Management

Bucklebury Common

For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (SU550688) at 10am Contact Tim Culley for more details on 971 4830.

Sun 10 Dec 1pm

Harvesting Christmas Trees

Yattendon

A two-mile walk to see the Christmas Tree harvest at Yattendon with Dick Greenaway. Yattendon Estate's Farms Director will talk about the harvest. This walk will be muddy, dogs on leads only please. Meet at the Christmas Tree Yard (SU564745). This will be an opportunity to buy your Christmas tree at source. Please book your place.

Sun 14 Jan

Heathland Management

Bucklebury Common

For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (SU550688) at 10am Contact Tim Culley for more details on 971 4830.

HELP WANTED

Do you have a passion for the countryside and enjoy telling others about it. If so please contact the Project office as we need new walk leaders for our very successful walks programme. All necessary training will be provided. So if you have some hidden walks that you would like to share with other members please do not hesitate to contact us at the Project office 930 5336

NOTELETS FOR SALE

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



SUMMER IS NEARLY OVER - CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST UPON US!!

What better way to start the Festive Season than to come and see Purley Players' production of *Slay bells*, a full length Christmas Whodunit.

Friday 1 December and Saturday 2 December 2006 at 8pm
at The Barn, Purley on Thames.

Cost £8/£6 to include a glass of wine and mince pie.

For details please call 962 5760

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE



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 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.

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