

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2006

*wish you
were here + + +*

35P

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES

RECTOR

Rev. Roger B. Howell
The Rectory, 1 Westridge Avenue
Purley on Thames
Tel: 0118 941 7727
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ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER

Rev. Andrew Mackie
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Tel: 0118 941 7170

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

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CURATE

Rev. Jean Rothery
Oaklea, Tidmarsh Road
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

5 Nov	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
12 Nov	9.30am	Family Worship
Remembrance	10.55am	Holy Communion
19 Nov	9.30am	Family Communion
	11.15am	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
26 Nov	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Songs of Praise

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERALS

25 Sept Ronald Denman aged 77 years (burial at Beech Road Cemetery)
4 Oct Joy Bingham aged 86 years (cremation)

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.

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends

RESOURCE FOR TODAY, OR RELIC FROM THE PAST?

Just about every community in the country has a parish church somewhere within its bounds. In many cases these buildings have been there for centuries, and have been used for worship, weddings and funerals by countless generations of residents. In our situation, St. Mary's church has been here in one form or another since the twelfth century, and even then it was described as *ancient*.

Our current membership is about 120 adults, and each Sunday there are around 80 present, together with some children and young people. But in common with every other community, we have *lost* people over the course of past years. Some have died and others have moved away. Purley has a very mobile population in this respect. But there are many others who have just drifted away. They have not fallen out with us, and they may not have *lost their faith*. But the fact remains they don't come on Sundays any more – or very rarely.

We may not have chased you up, but that does not mean we don't care. We have missed you. We have missed your contribution (and I don't mean money, for you may well still be giving regularly to our work) to our life and fellowship. We need you. The strength of the local church is not in its beautiful architecture, or even in its financial standing. The strength, vitality and effectiveness of the local church is in its members – all of them, individually and together!

Drifting is a slow process – sometimes imperceptible, and you can find yourself a long way from where you thought you were. Being away from church for any length of time may make people feel they just cannot return – that it is too late. It is never too late! No matter how long it has been since you last came on a Sunday, we would love to see you again. You will be made welcome.

So, if you used to come to church on Sundays here, or for that matter somewhere else, I would like to invite you to make the connection again. Sunday 26 November is Back to Church Sunday – not just in Purley, but throughout Berkshire. We shall be very pleased to see you – at

9.30am (contemporary service), 11.15am (traditional communion service) or 6pm (Songs of Praise).

St. Mary's Church has been here for around 800 years, and it may well be here for many more years. It has a lot of interesting features, but if it is only a relic from a past age, it has failed in its purpose. The truth is, it is a resource for today – providing an opportunity for people to meet with God.

I think I can hear someone say, "I don't need to go to church to meet with God." Absolutely right! You may not feel you need the church, but my message to you is this:

We need you.

We want you.

We would love to see you again.

I look forward to meeting you.

Roger Howell

www.christianity.org.uk

TEA PARTY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

This event will be held after Christmas on Sunday 7 January 2007 at 3.30pm in the church hall. We do have a list of contacts for this event, but it needs annual revision. If you of any senior citizens who would like an invitation, please contact Sheila Adnett Tel. 0118 962 5760

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Each year All Churches Together in Pangbourne and District organise an Advent Carol Service. It will be held at St. James the Less, Pangbourne on Sunday 3 December at 6pm. All are welcome. The singing is led by the choir from Pangbourne College.

PROTECT YOURSELVES

If you have a mobile phone, laptop computer or satellite navigation, you can protect yourselves in the event of these items being stolen by registering free of charge at www.immobilise.com. Mobile phones can be blocked if stolen, and Police forces around the country have access to the database to reunite you with stolen property that they have recovered.

DOES ANYONE HAVE A USE FOR THESE?

Pair of pitch pine doors 23" x 39". You can have them for a donation to St. Mary's Church. If interested contact the Rector – Tel 0118 941 7727.

SAVE YOURSELF A HEADACHE!

Buying presents for Christmas can be a real headache especially if the task is left to the last minute. And everything is so expensive! What could you get for a mere 47p? Not a lot from the shops, but for this small amount you could buy a tree for Christian families living in Iraq. For less than £5 you could buy ten trees.

For further information about this, go to Gifts of Love at www.barnabasfund.org.uk where you can find details of this and other present buying projects.

WAM

As the new autumn term begins, it is an exciting time for the young people in WAM. For some it heralds the start of a new term in a new class, or even a new school. Others have said their farewells to school and have become part of the country's workforce. Some have left our midst to take up University places, and we look forward to joining up with them again during visits home and holidays. We have had to say farewell to Katy who has emigrated to Canada with her family. We wish her well and hope she finds a wealth of good friends there. Our thoughts have also been with Fiona who is using her gap year to work with disabled children in Chennai (formerly Madras) in the south eastern state of Tamil Nadu in India.

For us in Purley on Thames, Sundays continue as normal. As more of our young church members begin secondary education, so they become fully fledged members of WAM. They have brought with them an energy and enthusiasm, and we welcome them. At the 9.30am Family service, during our special group gatherings upstairs in the 'snug', we have been following the curriculum as set out in the Youth Work Magazine, discussing big issues such as Creation, Sin and Hypocrisy.

Club nights every fortnight have been great fun with a Games Night featuring table tennis and board games; Bowling with a trip to McDonalds afterwards; and a Film Night with Pizza, when we invited friends from the Tilehurst Methodist Youth Group to join us. We have been working on building up a relationship with other churches' young people, and have gladly accepted an invitation from the Bradfield group to their Bonfire Party, complete with hot dogs (where there are WAM members, then there is food!)

If you would like to join us at WAM then do get in touch, or make yourself known at any 9.30am service. We have a fun programme planned as we move in to winter, and you will be made very welcome. Perhaps we will see you when we help with the refreshments on *Back to Church Sunday*, 26 November. Or look out for our Christmas tree at the Christmas Tree Festival on 9 & 10 December – we are relying on your votes for the Best Dressed Tree!

*Nicki Woodward 984 2112
Richard MacDonald 942 6056
Andrew Mackie 941 7170*

ST. MARY'S GIFT DAY

We are all aware of rising costs in daily life and these affect the church too. We make every effort to keep the church in a good order for all who use it – not only on Sundays but during the week too. Sunday 19 November is our GIFT DAY – an opportunity to help us in this task. Leaflets giving information on our current financial situation are available.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Hello, I am your new (yes, another one) Neighbourhood Police Officer for the Pangbourne Area. As well as Pangbourne I am also the Neighbourhood Police Officer for Aldworth, Ashampstead, Lower and Upper Basildon, Purley, Streatley, Sulham, and last but not least Tidmarsh.

I have spent the last year as a Response Police Officer based at Newbury Police Station but prior to that I spent a couple of years as a Response Police Officer based at Pangbourne Police Station so I know the areas and their respective issues fairly well already. I decided to become a Neighbourhood Police Officer as I wanted to start to hopefully try and resolve problems instead of dealing with them after they have already arisen.

I am supported in my new role by my Sergeant and five other Police Officers, one Police Community Support Officer (hopefully soon to be more) and your local traffic Warden. The other Police Officers have their own areas to Police but we are always helping each other out if the need arises. I also need the support of you, the public, if I am to be able to serve you effectively, so if you see me out and about don't hesitate to stop me and have a chat and talk about what issues are effecting you personally. You should be able to spot me as I'll be the tall one with the funny hat on!

I will be attending Parish Meetings in all my respective Parishes in the coming months so if you wish you can put any issues or problems you have to your local Parish Councillor who can then inform me. I am also going to be holding public meetings in all my areas and when I have the dates and locations I will be publicising these in local shops, Parish magazines and local media and hope to see you all then.

I am aware that Pangbourne and Purley have problems regards anti-social behaviour and criminal damage and as and when I can I will be patrolling on foot in these areas providing a visible presence and deterrent.

If you wish to contact me you can either send an email to matthew.allen@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk, call into Pangbourne Police Station, or phone 0845 8 505 505 (24-hour non-emergency no.) and leave a message for me. As ever if you see a crime in progress don't hesitate to dial 999 and ask for the Police.

*P.C. 5110 Allen
Pangbourne Police Station*

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

An inch of rain fell last Thursday night forcing us to keep the cows in. Knowing that fields, and especially gateways, soon turn to muddy quagmires, thereby severely restricting next year's growth, it's our only option. We now have 150-200 days of winter routine to look forward to, quite depressing! Three days on and the water that fell has found its way off the hills (Cotswolds) and is passing us by today (hopefully). Today, Sunday, as I write (a day late... sorry Ed) the river is on red boards – navigation through locks is banned – and the Marlow Canoe Marathon has been abandoned (lucky, as Vicky is now at home to type!) With another inch of rain fast approaching, the weir gates have been opened to maximum to allow as much water as possible to flow-by as the river level is rising fast. Some folk seem adamant that building in the flood plains is the main reason for flooding but if you take Home Farm for example, none of our water finds its way directly to the river. This is why Home Farm is not in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ), as laid down by the Environment Agency.

Indeed, the country is marked out in NVZ areas: areas which relate to a risk of nitrate pollution coming off the land into rivers. Land on higher ground, with ditches or underground drainage is included along with the majority of English farmland. At Home Farm we have no ditches or drains running off our land, as all rainfall, even water falling on the drive, buildings and yards soaks into the ground and none finds its way directly into the Thames, even though we run alongside it. In contrast; if you consider the development off Long Lane, on high ground, all the water falling on hard surfaces is channelled into drains (well it would be if the drains were large enough!) and hurried downhill towards the river. It is these rapid drainage systems on higher ground that increase the likelihood of flooding on the lower lying land and aid the addition of nitrates to the waterways through the leaching of the soil.

I usually write these articles on any old piece of paper I can find and then pass it to a family member to translate and type, recycling at its best! At West Berkshire this week, I proposed the adoption of the Kennet and Thames Vision at a full executive meeting. My proposal highlighted a few of the aspects of the Vision. It must have gone down well as I was approached immediately afterwards by a leading council officer for a copy to formulate a press release... You should have seen his face when I passed him the old envelope, which I had written it on! Waste not, want not!

Tim Metcalfe

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

I usually collect the contents of the parish Children's Society Boxes in November, so that all the money is in for Christmas. Watch out for me this month, and if you are new to Purley and have a box you would like collected, please let me know on 984 3589 and I will do my best!

S Pryor

PURLEY PATHFINDERS

A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

Autumn is a beautiful time of year, full of *mists and mellow fruitfulness*. The ladies of Pathfinders have enjoyed the autumn sunshine glowing on the ever-changing scenery during our recent walks. Despite the sunshine, early signs of autumn were evident in the trees and in the air as we made our way to the banks of the Thames, looking beautiful beneath a floating mist. At Shiplake Lock we caught a glimpse of the garden of TV chef, Antony Worrell-Thompson, complete with pigs and hens. We walked beside the atmospheric Thames for a mile or so, enjoying the pretty scenery. Soon the rambling Victorian buildings of Shiplake College came into view, and at the college boathouses we left the river to find the church of St Peter & St Paul at Shiplake. We entered the church, parts of which date from 1140, and admired the medieval stain glass windows of French origin. In 1850, the year he became Poet Laureate, Alfred Tennyson married Emily Sellwood in this church. We continued our walk through woodland copses, and across a wide field with good views. Passing beneath horse chestnut trees, we couldn't resist the shiny conkers at our feet as we made our way to the Baskerville Arms where we soaked up the autumn sunshine in the pretty garden.

With a lovely view across the Enborne Valley to Watership Down on the skyline, we left the towering spire of Brimpton Church to drop down a field path which eventually took us to the banks of the River Enborne. We followed the river as it made its meandering route, cutting through the lush valley floor. Soon it gathered speed as it tumbled over a small weir, and we found the bridge above it a pleasant place to stop a while to watch the frothy white water as it busily continued its journey. We left the river, and climbed up towards the hamlet of Hyde End. Soon we were making our way between fields of horses, with the distinctive church spire guiding us back to end our lovely walk deep in the countryside.

We were fortunate to meet on a beautifully warm, sunny day for our Autumn-time Special. From the tranquil banks of the River Avon to the undulating hills and peaceful wooded slopes of the Cotswolds, The Vale of Evesham offers some of the prettiest countryside in England, and it was to this lovely area which we travelled by coach. Our day at Evesham began with a walk, and it was great to walk beside the sparkling River Avon in our tee-shirts beneath a cloudless sky. We paused opposite Hampton from where, it claims, the last remaining rope-ferry operates. Our riverside path had begun with smooth green sports fields beside us, but next we passed Corporation Meadow, an area of agricultural land which reminded us that, for centuries, the area has been world famous for its fruit and vegetables grown in this rich, fertile soil. We certainly did 'Enjoy the ambience of this place' as instructed on a plaque, as we saw our path ahead enter a fabulous avenue of chestnut trees, giving welcome shade on this hot day.

Ducks and boats bobbed amongst water lilies on the surface of the river, and some ladies were lucky enough to catch the flash of blue of a kingfisher. Across the green of Crown Meadow we enjoyed the russet tones of a bank of autumn grasses, with the Abbey Bell Tower looming beyond. Eventually we arrived in Abbey Park, a wonderful area of parkland complete with play areas, a bandstand,

and floral beds. We left the riverbank to find the area where the Abbey's fishponds would have been. This has been transformed into a beautiful seating area with beds full of glowing autumn plants and flowers. Nearby an area of water has been retained and is now enjoyed by model boat enthusiasts, overlooked by a large horseshoe-shaped seat – the Jubilee Seat. We chose these areas in which to picnic with the grounds of the former Abbey rising up behind us, leading down to the River Avon in front. What a wonderful, peaceful place!



After lunch there was time to explore the site of the Abbey, dominated by the wonderful 16th century Bell Tower: the only remaining building after the Abbey was demolished by order of Henry VIII in 1540. Notice boards gave vivid descriptions and visual impression of what a magnificent building it was. In the grass, stones have been laid out to depict the different areas of the Abbey complex – The Charter House, The Presbytery etc. A rugged archway outlined the entrance to the former Cloisters, now productive allotments. Amongst the flowerbeds stands a plaque to signify where the monks buried Simon de Montfort whose campaigns against autocratic monarchy led to the establishment of our present day House of Commons. Beside the Bell

Tower stand two outstanding Mediaeval Churches. Invited by the notice 'Enter this door as if the floor within were gold, and every wall of jewels... for God is here', we entered All Saints and were stunned by the colourful stained glass windows throughout. In contrast, St Lawrence Church has more muted windows, although the East window is as beautiful as any in All Saints. What historical events these two mighty churches must have stood through!

An archway tempted us through, to pass quaint antique shops, to find the outstanding *Round House*. This former 15th century Merchants House is a remarkable black and white, timber framed building set in the middle of the square. It is, in fact not round at all – the name comes from the fact that one is able to walk 'round' it! In temperatures more fitting of a summer's day, we all gathered beneath the Bell Tower, serenaded by a choir of starlings which appear to have made it their home. We made our way back to the coach, pausing first at the Almonry, 14th century home of the Benedictine Almoner, and a superb example of early English architecture set in a lovely garden complete with floral clock. Its mellow exterior exudes history, and inside it houses the town's museum which takes visitors from the earliest days of the Vale, when hippos roamed through swamps, up to the Second World War.

Back on the coach, we made the ten-minute journey to Evesham Country Park for the next part of our special day. Here we enjoyed 1½ hours of free time. Some strolled through the old orchards where trees laden with their shiny red crop led them down towards the River Avon. Others visited the Vale Animal Sanctuary which welcomes visitors to the often unseen world of British nature. Judging by the bags of goodies loaded later onto the coach, many were tempted

into the small, friendly courtyard of retail outlets where pumpkins were purchased alongside books and items of craft, cookery, fashion and jewellery. We all got lost amongst the amazing treasures to be found in the Garden Centre which is not only a gardener's paradise, but has a comprehensive display of unusual gifts from around the world.

For the next part of our day, we made our way through the grounds of the Country Park to find the station of the Vale Light Railway. Here we found our very own steam train waiting to transport us through the old apple orchards and around the park to enjoy some of the most picturesque scenery The Vale has to offer. We paused at the picnic area to stand on this high spot while our driver pointed out the landmarks in our stunning 360° view over the Cotswolds and to The Malvern Hills in the distance.



Back at the station, we made our way to the Apple Barn Restaurant where we were served with enormous cream teas and slices of cake washed down with unlimited tea and coffee – a traditional way in which to end another successful and thoroughly enjoyable Pathfinder's Special day out!

Any ladies wanting a copy of the next programme, which takes us through to the end of January, are welcome to give me a ring. Or visit our web site which, hopefully, will soon be updated with more photos taken during our walks.

Nicki Woodward
984 2112

www.purleypathfinders.co.uk

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

WINTER TALKS

On Wednesday 18 October, we all had a very enjoyable evening when Mr. John Garrod showed us some excellent slides of City of London Gardens. We were all surprised to see these lovely gardens right in the City. It was very encouraging to have a good attendance at this meeting and we hope this will be repeated when Dr. M. Keith-Lucas visits the Society on Wednesday 15 November to give a slide show and talk on the "History of Garden Plants". This will take place in Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road commencing at 8pm.



TRADING

The Shed is now closed for the winter months and will re-open the first week in February 2007.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

EDITOR IN TRAINING

As this edition starts to arrive through village letterboxes, I'm off on a training session for Parish Magazine Editors. After nearly four years, it's probably about time I knew what I was doing! So don't be too surprised if you see a *new look* magazine in 2007! – *Editor*

PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the above mentioned Charitable Trust will be held on Wednesday 22 November 2006 in the Memorial Hall Glebe Road Purley on Thames at 7.30pm.

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

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

Both nominations and motions must reach the Honorary Secretary at the address given below not later than Tuesday 14 November 2006 in order that they may be incorporated in the Agenda.

Mrs M Hoare (Honorary Secretary)
16 Beech Road
Purley-on-Thames
Reading, Berks
RG8 8DS

COULD THIS BE FOR YOU?

With November being *Back to Church* month, I would like to tell you about the service I attend with my 4-year old daughter, Emilie. It's called *Noah's Ark*, and takes place from 10.10am on Friday mornings at St James the Less in Pangbourne. It is open to surrounding parishes, with people coming from Purley, Bradfield, Theale, etc.

I started when Emilie was about 6 months old, as an introduction for her to church. The service begins with the children lighting a candle, with the help of Rev John Staples. A song is then sung, welcoming us all in to the Light of God. An interactive, simple Bible story



follows before prayers are said, sometimes with bubbles or cuddly toys! More child-friendly praise takes place, often sung to familiar nursery-rhyme tunes, and accompanied by musical instruments played by the children! It is then time for the children to blow out the candles and say "Goodbye" to the church with their special *Goodbye Song*, stating that God will stay with us when we go (Emilie's favourite song). John gives each of the children a sticker as they settle down to drinks and biscuits, giving the adults chance to chat over a cup of coffee. The morning ends with an Art & Craft session, which relates to the story of the day.

This friendly, informal service is free to all with young children – members of other denominations are also made welcome - and I have found it a great way of 'Getting back to Church' with a young child in tow. I give grateful thanks to Rev Staples and his band of willing helpers (one soon to celebrate her 81st birthday!), who give up their time each week to make this service possible.

Four years ago there were about 10 parents/carers with their pre-school children and babies. Now there are up to 44 adults and 44 children attending each week, enjoying this relaxed service, praising God, having fun, and making friends.

If you feel this could be for you and your child, just come along any Friday and you will be made very welcome. Or, if you would prefer to go with someone, give me a ring, and Emilie and I will be glad to take you along.

Annette Bieny
962 5182

Festival of Christmas Trees

A display of decorated Christmas trees by our church
and village organisations



St Mary the Virgin, Purley

Saturday 9 December

Noon-5.30pm

Sunday 10 December

2pm-5.30pm

Candle lit closing service at 6pm

Christingle making for the children, Refreshments, Carol singing
For further information, phone Jean Rothery 0118 984 3625
or email jeanrothery@aol.com

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



The next two Farmers Markets will be held at the Barn on 11 November and 9 December. Although the attendance at the October market was much improved, we would appreciate your ongoing support for this event.

The Mobile Library has advised us of their next few visits, which are scheduled for Thursday 16 November, 7 & 28 December and 18 January 2007.

The local timings are:

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

Thames Valley Police have asked us to highlight a number of campaigns they are currently running. The first is to alert people who have bought satellite navigation equipment for their cars to be aware that these are attractive to thieves. They also point out that it is illegal for adult fireworks to be sold to anyone under 18 or indeed for that age group to possess adult fireworks in a public place.

With Christmas shortly upon us anyone considering buying a motorised scooter, mini motorbike, or similar should be aware that they should be taxed, insured and licensed. Anti social behaviour may result in vehicle confiscation, ASB behaviour order or even tenant eviction. Reports of nuisance should be made on the Police non-emergency number 0845 8 505 505.

Leaflets on the last item, and indeed many other subjects, are available from the Parish Office.

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

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

A couple of people have asked me where the striking towers from last month's cover picture can be found; the answer: Old City, Rhodes.

PURLEY W.I.

OCTOBER MEETING

I feel we were taken aback when our speaker Mr N. L. Stewart took us by film through his fascinating hobby of *Swimming with Sharks*. According to the story and film *Jaws*, we would all be eaten alive – not so – we mortals are not part of sharks' diet, but should you get in their way, yes, you could lose a limb. To study this fish, participants sign up and are guided along to enjoy such a trip. Some 260 miles of Florida – Rich Man's Paradise – about twelve passengers aboard a two twinned engine craft, with sight-seeing stacking levels. The skipper orders his men to get "kitted up", which means wearing chain-mail gloves and mask. The craft then spins around and at a deafening noise, about fifty curious sharks appear to within six inches of the sightseers. Governments ban hand feeding – this habit causes harassment to other divers. The sharks hearing and smell is highly sensitive and this sorts out their prey. Needless to say the shark brings in a tremendous amount of dollars via the Tourist Board, but of course there is always a sad side to the tale. It comes in the name of shark fin soup – like it is £120 a bowl. The fish has now been over-fished just to satisfy an honoured guest. Various Governments and concerned bodies are trying to ban the problem (i.e. sharks being left to die after their fins have been hacked off). Having shown their concerns, they find their offices burned down. Is this man's greed over stupidity? We need the shark; it cleans up the ocean. Will our own grandchildren ever see the shark? Now I'm all depressed worrying about the sharks, the only solution is a plate of fish and chips. You can't win, can you?

We are planning our Christmas Party, this being our 70th Birthday. Entry to this celebration will be by ticket only as we have to limit the numbers on this occasion.

COMPETITIONS

Flower of the Month	1 st Wendy Chapman 2 nd Margaret Martin/Dorothy Viljeon
Seaside Photograph	1 st Valerie Hutchins 2 nd Leslie Honnor

Next month's meeting will be a craft evening. The competition will be a handmade Christmas card. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8 November at 7.30pm. at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley. Visitors welcome.

PURLEY MAGNA

Should you wish to have a guided tour of the Mansion House, which has now been converted into three apartments, before they are occupied, please ring 0118 945 5197 to arrange an appointment.

Sylvia Conquest
941 1936

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE

WEST BERKS SCRABBLE CLUB

We meet twice weekly in the small hall of The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, (off Beech Road), Purley, on:

Tuesday evenings - 7.15-10pm
Thursday afternoons - 2-5pm

People of all abilities are made most welcome. Thursday afternoons are particularly for *beginners* where we give guidance, if needed.

If you play, or have in the past played Scrabble, and like the idea of joining a club – not only to pursue the word game but to meet and socialise with local people - then why not come along and join us.

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

WOMAN ON WHEELS

Following the advert in the September edition of the Parish magazine, WOMEN ON WHEELS a fund raising event for Kidney Research, I applied and on Sunday 24 September, I took up the challenge.

For the first time, I drove a jeep over a very rough muddy course, uphill and downhill, round sharp corners and bends, between markers, then drove the course blindfolded, of course with a trained instructor. By the end of this I was buzzing. Then the ultimate drive was in a six wheel Pinzgauer, left hand drive and no power steering. The course was a very tiring one, but very exhilarating. We were graded for driving skills and I was rather pleased with mine.

I send my thanks to all of those who sponsored me. I raised £162.00 for Kidney Research UK. The organisers have told me that they intend to run the event again next year for men and women and hope that more people will come forward for this worthwhile challenge.

Christine Taylor

Photos from the event can be found in the past events section of the Kidney Research UK web site: <http://www.kidneyresearchuk.org/content/view/238/304>

PROJECT PURLEY

Dick Greenaway's illustrated talk on Woodland Archaeology in West Berkshire in September should surely have inspired members attending that meeting to look with fresh eyes when next walking in woods.

Rural archaeology, such as field systems, has unfortunately been lost over the years to the plough and developments, but woodland archaeology has been relatively undisturbed. With the lack of access to these areas, as well as the tree canopy, it is, therefore, still possible to find evidence of previous woodland management such as enclosures for deer parks, boundary banks, saw pits,

charcoal hearths, chalk and gravel pits. Trees that have been coppiced, or pollarded, can also date a woodland, as well as the growth of flora such as bluebells and dog's mercury. Bluebells indicate an undisturbed area, whereas dog's mercury colonises previously worked land. Chalk and potash were produced for use on the land as fertilizers and the gravel extracted was for road maintenance in the days when each parish was responsible for their upkeep. Apparently, brick kilns were still being used in the West Berkshire woods until World War II.

Woodland surveys are usually conducted during the winter months. If anyone is interested, or wishes to volunteer to help in this historical work, they should contact the local Archaeological Service on 01635 519534 or Email: heritage@westberks.gov.uk.

H. A. King

The next meeting of Project Purley will be held in the Barn, Goosecroft Lane, off Beech Road, Purley on Thames on Friday, 17 November commencing at 8pm. The speaker will be Kevin McCormack on the History of a Purley Railway Carriage.

FARMERS' MARKET 11 NOVEMBER **NOW INCLUDING TABLE TOP SALES**

The first Table Top Sale at the Farmers' Market was a huge success and to book your space for future Farmers' Markets please ring Stuart on 0118 954 3198. Spaces are limited so please book well in advance.

PURLEY PLAYERS *Slay Bells*

Written by Fiona J Robertson & Paul Phillips

8pm Friday 1 December

**At 'THE BARN',
Purley on Thames**



8pm Sat 2 December

**Tickets £8
(£6 concessions)
include a glass of wine
and mince pie**

**Tickets now on sale from:
Mike Adnett 962 5760 or Suzanne Harper 941 5244
Proceeds in aid of THE CHILDREN'S TRUST**

GARDEN TALKS IN PURLEY

Purley Horticultural Society have secured Dr Michael Keith-Lucas to give a talk on Wednesday 15 November at 8.00pm about *The History of Garden Plants*.

Dr Michael Keith-Lucas is a Senior Tutor in Plant Sciences at Reading University, is President of Reading and District Gardener's Association, and Chairman of the Mid-Berkshire region of Wildlife Trust. He has written a number of books on Woodland Ecology and Archaeology, Environmental Change, Studies of Pollen and Plant Biology.

Dr Lucas has given the Society a number of talks over the past years, all of which have been memorable and enjoyable this talk promises to be another fascinating evening.

The talk will be held in the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road and the doors are open at 7.30pm. All residents of Purley and Neighbouring Parishes are welcome!

NAMING NO NAMES

This spring one of the new little streets off Long Lane sprouted a name plate: Pryor Close, it said.

Lots of Denefield school children said to me, "Is it called after you miss?" And I said I didn't suppose it was, but it was spelt the same as I am, so I would try to find out. Eventually I discovered that a *list of artists living in Purley* had been submitted to the building contractors, who had picked on Pryor Close for the street in question.

All sorts of other questions now arose: is it an honour? Is it an insult? Would it be much safer to call things after people who are dead, to avoid me, in megalomaniac mood, strutting up and down Pryor Close shouting "Mine, all mine" (obviously a minefield, ah!)

Suddenly I realised it was possible to have a dignified, and much more satisfactory, conclusion: yes, let it be called Pryor Close, but not for me (if indeed it ever was) but possibly my mother Elizabeth Pryor (née Lister). The council of the day wrote and asked her and her surviving brothers and sisters if they could use *Lister*, in honour of Great Uncle Joseph and his antiseptics, when they needed a name for Lister Close. It was 100 years after his discovery of antiseptics and the surviving Listers felt honoured, gratified and proud.

Anyway, my mother was an artist, living in Purley and would have been 100 years old this year. One of her chief claims to fame, in her view, was standing up in court when the local landowners were trying to close the towpath. Two Mr Bucknells, father and son from Home Farm; Mr Theobald from Westbury Farm, who I think was chairman of Newbury District at the time; and his landlord Charles Rose from across the river, all wanted to close the towpath as "Nobody tows anything nowadays". But, as Mum gently pointed out to the judge, the towpath had been a public footpath, unimpeded for 25 years. "Am I on oath?" says Mum. "Yes you are my dear" said the learned judge. "Oh well, perhaps

only 22 years", says Mum (20 years was enough to secure a public right of way and did the trick).

So let us celebrate the Thames Footpath and give thanks to the artist who lived in Purley and ensured the public use of this, perhaps the greatest of Purley's amenities, and let us consider Pryor Close as named after her, and in her honour!

S Pryor

BOATERS SEWAGE COLLECTION AT MAPLEDURHAM LOCK

The date for objection to the Environment Agency's Planning Application for the installation of sewage collection facilities at our Lock has passed. Nevertheless, I feel that I must respond to Alice Killeen's comments in her article on page 22 of the October Issue, which were based on statements I had made in my article on page 21.

Her comments in the early paragraphs of her article are related to two other Applications and not with the one I commented on (viz 06/02030/FUL). I do not believe it was her intention to imply that all three Applications come as **one** package.

At the time I submitted my article, I was only aware of the facility for collecting sewage from portable containers and was not aware of the additional 'pump out' facility she mentions. The latter facility and its location have provoked many more objections of which I will outline to anyone who contacts me.

The references in the fifth paragraph regarding the facility for collecting sewage from portable containers being "regularly cleaned and disinfected" and to "little or no odour" do worry me somewhat, since they suggest that there could be **some** odour and a smell of disinfectant (still unpleasant). But what worries me more is the odour that escapes when the sewage is **actually being poured** into the collection facility. After all, the collecting vessel is open-topped and is housed in a cubicle **without a roof**. Furthermore, I do not understand how the E.A. will be "managing the use of these new facilities carefully" when the poor lock-keeper is fully occupied, during the busy Summer months, overseeing the safe entry and exit of boats into and from the Lock! I believe it is also significant that the boaters are merely being "asked" to use the upstream moorings when emptying their sewage containers. No strong regulation here!

The day after I submitted my previous article I learnt that the E.A. had, just a few weeks earlier, made up the 'causeway' (track), but this time had done a **thorough job**. It had put down a thick layer of tar-macadam dressed on top with small aggregate. Moreover, it even mentioned in its Application that the track had been recently resurfaced. Thus Alice Killeen was able to say in the sixth paragraph of her article that, "the existing level will not be altered". There was no mention that the level had **already** been raised!

Doug Buckley
942 7325



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.

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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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