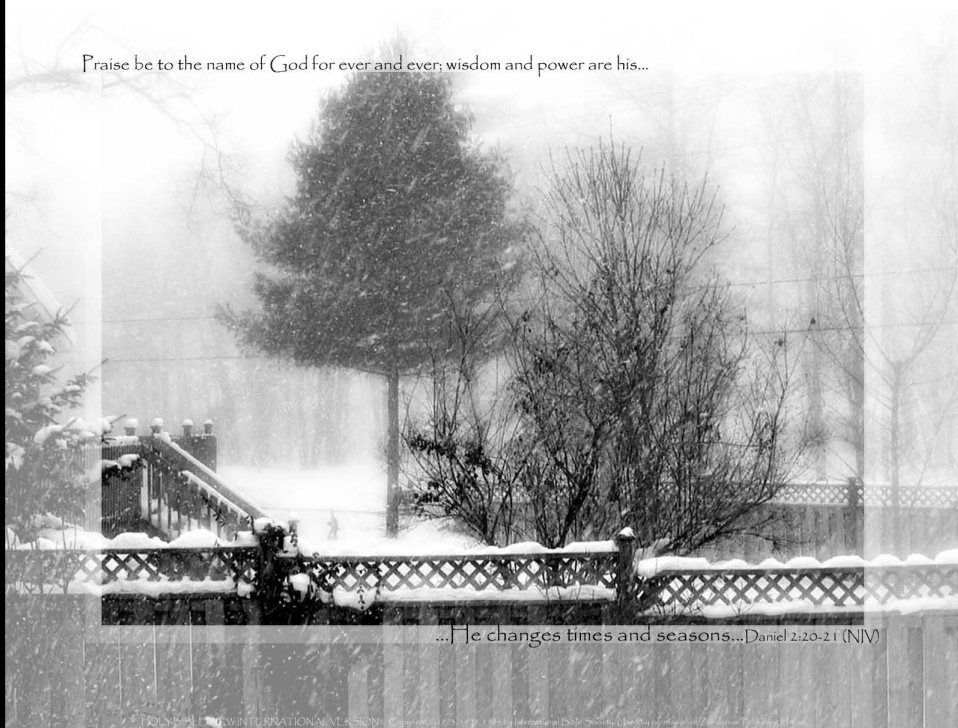


PURLEY PARISH NEWS

JANUARY 2007

Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his...



35P

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES

RECTOR

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

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER

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

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Lorna Herring
Tel: 0118 942 1547

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

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends

I wish you all a happy new year!

I wonder how far you travelled for your Christmas dinner. You may have been at home, in which case there was no travelling involved. Or you may have gone to family or friends, which may have involved a short journey, and perhaps even a longer journey to another part of the country. But how about having to travel around 49,000 miles for a Christmas dinner! I was shocked to read that a typical Christmas dinner can require 49,000 miles of travelling in order to get the food on the table! That is equivalent to two trips around the world! Apparently, the average person in this country consumes 7000 calories on Christmas Day and it would take 13 hours of running to burn off that much energy!

Such statistics ought to raise some questions in our minds about our food:

- How many food miles are involved in what we eat each day?
- What is the effect of these distances on the problems of climate change, energy use and pollution?

- Could we buy food produced more locally?

I am not a great one for encouraging people to make New Year Resolutions, because all too often we are not resolute enough to keep them for very long, and then they become rather meaningless. In the matter of the food we eat and where it comes from in order for us to buy it, we may not always have the choice of purchasing locally, but we could and should seek to be more mindful of the distances involved.

Time was, when we accepted the fact that some foods were seasonal and therefore not available all year round. But today we can buy such things as strawberries, asparagus, salad foods and, come to think of it, just about anything! But at what cost? To have all year round supplies of such things inevitably means that vast distances are involved in getting food on the shelves.

So how about making this year a greener year in your house? One easy way of doing this is of course to support the monthly Farmers' Market. Judging by the crowds at this event, many people do appreciate what it has to offer. The other month I met some folk from Purley who had not been to it before, and they were pleasantly surprised at what was on offer. If you have not yet visited the market, make a note of the dates and come and have a look.

We all like comfort rather than discomfort, and it is easy to carry on with our lifestyle as we have always done. But clearly, things will have to change. If we are tempted to think that we can't make much of a difference ourselves, remember: if everyone did a bit towards change then life will be different for us and for those who follow us.

With best wishes for 2007

Roger Howell

www.christianity.org.uk

PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

28 Nov	John Patterson Slade aged 87 years (Cremation)
6 Dec	Albert Louis Clark aged 66 years (cremation)
12Dec	Peter John Walker aged 81 years (Burial at Beech Road Cemetery)

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The annual united service organised by Pangbourne and District All Churches Together will be held on Sunday 21 January at 3pm in St. Mary's Church, Purley. All are welcome!

CHURCH SERVICES

7 Jan	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
14 Jan	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
21 Jan	9.30am	Family Communion
	11.15am	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
28 Jan	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
4 Feb	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion



Tue 30 January	Mon 19 March
Tue 24 April	Mon 11 June
Tue 24 July	Mon 10 September
Tue 30 October	Mon 10 December

Over the past couple of years Christians in Purley from many churches have come together regularly to give thanks to God for our village, and to pray - for individuals, families, schools, groups, activities, places and even the parish council and the councillors!

Do feel welcome to come along to St Mary's on the following dates - even if you haven't before, or aren't too sure about prayer. We start at 8pm and are finished by 9pm.

If you can't manage it but want us to pray for you, or a situation you are concerned about, just drop us a note or an email.

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

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

Most organisations close down for an increasingly long period over Christmas and the New Year – farmers being one of the exceptions – and to this end many of the committees that I sit on have organised meetings before the 'holiday season'. For this reason, the past week has suffered from the 'cramming effect'.

"Are you attending the TLC meeting tomorrow?" I was asked the other day. This sent me into a spin. I know that I am unable to attend all the meetings to which I am invited, as many clash, and I also know that my diary – not one of those electronic gadgets that many are able to pull from their pocket and use, but the one hanging on the kitchen wall – is marked up with all meetings as soon as they are arranged.

So, this TLC meeting rather confounded me. *Tender loving care* sprung to mind. Another training meeting for members. I know following elections next May many sessions have already been arranged. Sceptics say they are to indoctrinate new members with views of officers and to make sure that they toe the line, but why organise one just before end of term? Was it a youth meeting? A version of *Hug a Hoodie*? Perhaps it was to be about the elderly, a care in the community meeting. Was it a derivation of the Vision Group that I have chaired, or a Parish Council initiative? Now, any typical man wouldn't care to show his ignorance but would bluff his way through, rather like the way we won't look at maps, or ask the way when we 'get lost', and never turn around as 'there'll be another road soon'!

However, I have learnt to question, find out and chase to get results. In the summer, a select group met at Newbury to decide upon the architects for the new Adventure Dolphin building in Pangbourne. We interviewed four companies and by mid afternoon selected a clear winner. All the council officers had to do was send them the contract and work on the design would commence. If only I had checked. That simple job took three months to do, time which we could ill afford to lose. I am still confident that building work will start next September, making the first of many new projects in this area a reality.

Right. Have you worked it out yet? The other major project, which will form the largest single spend that West Berks has ever made is the building of three new schools on the Denefield School site. This is being called the 'Tilehurst Learning Campus, referred to as TLC! Early days yet, as 2010 is when it should all happen, but this is a truly exciting concept that will bring with it wonderful facilities for all members of the community. A project that I will certainly treat with tender loving care!

We wish you all a very happy New Year...

... from us all at Home Farm.

Tim Metcalfe

PURLEY PATHFINDERS A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

As the year ended, it was good to look back over a happy year of walks as we celebrated with our traditional Winter Wonderland Walk and Shared Lunch. Our theme for 2006 was 'Waterways' and, being blessed with many delightful 'Waterways' settings nearby, we reminisced over walks taken along many miles of the Rivers Thames, Kennet, Pang, Enborne, Blackwater and Thame, as well as the Kennet & Avon Canal, the Holy Brook and the Emm Brook. Twyford, Dinton Pastures, Thatcham and Theale all gave us the opportunity to enjoy the wildfowl activity on their lakes.



Our 'Specials' took on a 'Waterways' theme too, as in spring we relaxed aboard the Kennet horse-drawn Barge along the Kennet & Avon Canal. In the summer, on a splendid hot day, we wandered along the canal again, but this time through the attractive Widcombe Locks in Bath, and also enjoyed Bath's River Avon with its spectacular Horseshoe Falls. Our 'special' transport on this day was an open-topped bus! The Autumn Special found us beside 'Shakespeare's' River Avon in Evesham where we spent a glorious Autumn day immersed in the history of this ancient town before headed off to the Evesham Country Park where a steam train ride gained us panoramic views over some of the finest countryside the Vale of Evesham has to offer.



Incredibly, Purley Pathfinders celebrated its 7th birthday in May. With a constant membership of over 100, it is testament to the power of the Purley Parish News, when one thinks that it was just a small ad in the May 1999 edition that sparked the imagination of the ladies of Purley! For our birthday celebration, we went to Blewbury where, after a lovely walk in and around this 'watery' village, we were taken on an inspiring tour of the 10 acres of the Blewbury Manor House garden with its lakes, streams and moats - very 'Waterways'!



A New Year brings a new, exciting programme of walks, with our theme for 2007 of 'Following Footsteps'. Many famous people have trod the footpaths of Berkshire and surrounding counties, and we intend to follow their lead along as many of them as possible! Already our 'Specials' are planned to take us to Shakespeare's Stratford upon Avon', Sir Winston Churchill's Blenheim Palace and Woodstock, and the beautiful London Parks associated with Lady Diana. Our birthday will be celebrated at The Vyne in Sherbourne St John, a favourite haunt of Jane Austen.

If any ladies out there wish to don their walking boots to join us in the amazing countryside that surrounds us, then please contact me for details of the programme. Lifts are arranged to the start of each walk, which take place on various weekday mornings at varying distances and pace.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year! From all the ladies of Purley Pathfinders.

Nicki Woodward
984 2112
nicki@cherryacre.com
www.purleypathfinders.co.uk

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

AGM

The 29th Annual General Meeting will be held in the Purley Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 21 February 2007 commencing at 7.45pm. It will be followed by an illustrated talk by Nancy Massie on "Birds of Uganda". Members are reminded that any nomination for election as an officer or Committee Member must be made in writing to the Secretary, Mr. J. Murphy, 6 Hazel Road, Purley on Thames, RG8 8BB by 14 February.



TRADING

The Trading Store will reopen at 10am on Saturday, 3 February and thereafter will be open each Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 11am until the last Sunday in October. Membership of the Society for 2007 is £1.50 and subscriptions can be renewed at the Trading Store when it reopens. If anyone is interested in seed potatoes, order forms can be obtained from the Trading Store or Bob Hawkins on 984 2949. If you would like to order Suttons Seeds through the Society, catalogues will be available in the Trading Store. Alternatively, you can get in touch with Margaret Rolfe on 941 7247.

SPRING SHOW

This will take place on Saturday, 14 April in Purley Memorial Hall.

Finally, a very happy New Year to everyone.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

VIRTUALLY STOLEN

Thames Valley Police and West Berkshire Council have launched a *Virtually Stolen* campaign, to make people aware of the risks of leaving valuable items in their cars.

If a police officer, Police Community Support Officers (PCSO), Housing Officer, Neighbourhood Warden or Traffic Warden sees a car with an item of value on show, they will note down the registration details and pass them onto the Crime Reduction team. Then a letter with advice about not leaving items on view in your car and giving information how to secure your Sat Nav, laptops and mobile phones, will be sent to the registered keeper.

Romy Freiburghaus, Crime Reduction Adviser for West Berkshire, said "It is very common for people to get out of their car and forget to secure valuable items such as Sat Navs and mobile phones.

"The aim of the scheme is to make people aware that they have left something valuable in their car and give them advice about how to make their car more secure, so that next time they think twice about leaving valuables in their car."

Rachel Craggs, the West Berkshire Council Community Safety Manager, added: "The great thing about this campaign is that it involves officers who are out and about in the community on a daily basis and the impact of receiving the letter is very effective, as it brings home the fact that if one of them had noticed their valuables, so could a thief."

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

The next Farmers' Market will be held at the Barn on 13 January 2007.



West Berkshire Council has provided us with a timetable for the elections due to be held on 3 May 2007. I will be happy to supply a copy, and further information, to anyone interested in standing for election to the Parish Council.

As anticipated, we have arranged for a real Christmas tree recycling facility, for local residents, to be made available as an experiment. A clearly signed drop off point, for real Christmas trees only, will be located at the far end of the Burial Ground Car Park, at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground, Goosecroft Lane, off Beech Road. There will be a limited drop off period as shown below:

Saturday 6 January 2007
Sunday 7 January 2007
Monday 8 January 2007
Tuesday 9 January 2007
Wednesday 10 January 2007

Trees must only be left in the marked area and none will be accepted after the dates above.

Following the public meeting in the Barn on 14 December, we would still encourage residents to utilise the Environment Agency Floodline Warnings Direct service. Volunteer flood wardens are still required for Colyton Way and Mapledurham Drive – see below.

Information leaflets are available from the office or by telephone on 0845 988 1188 or visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline

The latest flood situation position can be viewed on a board in the window of the Village Stores in Colyton Way.

Allotment invoices will be distributed shortly to existing tenants. Anyone interested in being added to the waiting list should contact Alex Stott on 941 9186 or vastott@aol.com

Throughout December, there has been consultation on a cycle track in Bucknells Meadow with information available at the Post Office, Village Stores in Colyton Way and on the website. A meeting was scheduled for Saturday 6 January in Bucknells Meadow at 2pm. If you were unable to attend please still let us have your views by contacting Sally Robertson on 962 5978 or sally.robertson@purleyonthames.net.

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

FLOOD WARDENS NEEDED FOR MAPLEDURHAM DRIVE AND COLYTON WAY

Do you live on Mapledurham Drive or Colyton Way? Do you live close by? Would you be interested in becoming a Flood Warden?

At the Flooding meeting on 14 December at Purley Barn it was highlighted that we need two more wardens.

You would play an important part in any future flooding in Purley, being a key link between the residents of your patch and the command/control centre.

In the first instance, please contact the Parish Office on 984 4507 or Rick Jones on 962 3793 if you are able to assist.

THE BEAT

Hello again! Hopefully you will be pleased that I'm still here and first of all a quick reminder to all road users, as we head into another bleak winter, to make sure that all the lights on your vehicles are working and that there is enough tread on your tyres – especially with the amount of rain we seem to be having – to make sure that you stay on the road. If you are a cyclist or pedestrian, please ensure that you can be seen by having lights on your bike or carrying a torch and wearing reflective clothing.

This past month I have been meeting up with your local Parish Councillors and getting their views on what matters to residents in their relevant Parishes, that means what matters to YOU. The new (the Police like to keep changing things) style of policing that we are committed to is reliant on you telling us what your concerns, problems or issues are. I, Parish Councillors, District Councillors, Housing Associations, West Berkshire Council, and many other organisations then work together to hopefully solve them. It can't be stressed enough that if you don't tell us that there's a problem then we will not be able to solve it.

Having lived in a rural area I am aware that probably one of your concerns could be a perceived lack of Police presence in the area that you live. I have started patrolling the more rural areas in Police vehicles, so if you see me driving down your street don't be concerned that a crime has been committed in your village, I'm probably either on patrol or lost. I am supported by Response Police Officers who also patrol your neighbourhood and even if you don't see us, don't think we aren't about; it's just that a lot of crime occurs during the night when most of you are asleep, so that is when we are in your villages.

I have had great fun this past month attending the local schools and speaking to both staff and especially pupils and would like to thank all those children that have sent a drawing of me in.

I arranged for the Pangbourne Neighbourhood Police Team to assist me with speed enforcement in Streatley on 16 November, along with the Speed Reduction Officer and a representative from West Berkshire Highways. Police Officers were there for nearly 1½ hours in the morning and caught 17 people speeding. It must be said that a high proportion of the guilty were from Goring and I believe this highlights the fact that whilst most people don't speed in their own village, they will happily ignore the speed limits elsewhere.

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 08458 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*

UNIVERSITY HELPS LOWER EMISSIONS

The University of Reading is to launch a car-sharing scheme in a bid to cut traffic and congestion on Reading's roads.

As one of the area's largest employers, with around 3,500 staff, as well as some 15,000 students, coming into the three town campuses every day the University recognised its contribution to the town's increasingly clogged roads.

Now it has joined forces with Liftshare.com to provide a car-sharing scheme for both staff and students. Ian Cruickshank, campus services manager at the University is the brains behind the idea. He said, "The University is a responsible employer and a good neighbour, and as such wants to do its best for staff, students and our neighbours here in Reading.

"Every day thousands of people within the area travel to and from the University, many of them by car. This creates congestion, pollution and parking problems on our campuses.

"It's up to us to lead the way, as a large local employer, in providing innovative methods to ease people's commute to work, and to make life slightly better on the roads for local residents. Just a glance at the car parks every morning will show how many staff and students travel by car.

"Car-sharing is just one way of addressing these problems in a cost efficient and easy way."

The scheme should be up and running early in the New Year.

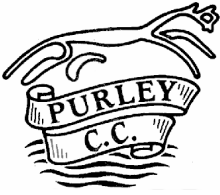
Louise Boom, from Liftshare.com, said "Congestion and pollution are such important issues and it's great that the University is so committed to helping its local area.

"Car sharing is already having a significant impact both locally and across the UK and initiatives like this will help to ensure that awareness of car sharing continues to grow. It is now growing faster than ever before as motorists are increasingly keen to help the environment and reduce their fuel costs."

Liftshare.com is one of the largest car-sharing schemes in the country with more than 140,000 users. It manages more than 8,400 schemes, including one at Sussex University, and seven in the Reading area. It's estimated that its members shared more than 4,000,000 miles last year, giving an approximate saving of 10,000 tonnes of CO₂.

Access to the scheme is completely web based, with a dedicated website, which is accessed via a link on the University's web site. Staff and students will be able to register themselves either as a passenger requiring a lift or as a driver offering a lift. The system then searches for people along a route, matching people who pass close to one another on their journey. Contact between travellers is via email, so no individual information is disclosed.

The scheme will also match people who wish to travel by taxi, cycle or walk the same route.



PURLEY ON THAMES CC

PRE-SEASON TRAINING 2007

Indoor pre season training for all age groups (from 6 years to Adults) for 2007 commences in February.

Starters (aged 6/7/8) are again being offered an "Introduction to cricket" course, based on the principles of long term athlete development and basic introductory cricket skills on Sunday afternoons from 2-3pm at Denefield School from 11 February-15 April, £17.50 in advance.

Under-9 sessions run on Sunday afternoons from 3-4.30pm at Denefield School from 11 February-15 April, £20.00 in advance.

Under-11 sessions run on Sunday afternoons from 4.30-6pm at Denefield School from 11 February-15 April, £20.00 in advance.

Under-13 sessions run on Sunday evenings from 6-7.30pm at Pangbourne College Sports Hall from 18 February-15 April, £25.00 in advance.

U15/U17 sessions will run on Sunday evenings from 7.30-9pm at Pangbourne College Sports Hall from 18 February-15 April, £25.00 in advance.

Adults will have 4 weeks indoor training, from early March (more details available from the Club).

For full details please contact Martin Bishop 945 3117 or Chris Allen 961 5974

PURLEY ON THAMES CC QUIZ NIGHT, FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2007

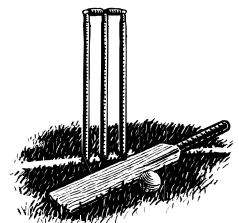
The first *Annual Quiz* will take place on Friday 26 January 2007 from 7pm, at The Barn, Beech Road.

If you are interested in entering a team, or would like to join a team, please send your entries and food selection to Charlotte Bishop by 12 January, at 2 Huckleberry Close, Purley on Thames, RG8 8EH

Tickets will be £5 each, and will include a meal of either fish/chips or sausage/chips.

Maximum of 8 per team.

If you are generally interested in participating: coaching, team administration, or helping behind the scenes with the ground or teas, or just spectating, please contact us and become part of our club. Don't worry if you have no previous experience – we are happy to assist with training...



TAKE CARE ON THE ROADS THIS WINTER

Winter is upon us again and West Berkshire Council is urging all motorists to take extra care when driving in adverse weather conditions. The Council's Highways & Transport Department have released their annual Winter Service advice leaflet entitled 'Safer Driving this winter on West Berkshire Roads' with information on salted routes in the area and road safety advice.



Leaflets are available from the Council offices, local libraries or to download from the road safety pages of the Council's website: www.westberks.gov.uk

ESSENTIAL WINTER DRIVING TIPS

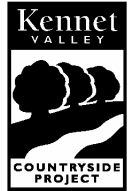
- Keep the following items in your vehicle:
 - Additional warm, high visibility clothing & waterproof footwear
 - A torch, a shovel, a de-icer and a scraper
 - Chocolate or energy bars, in case of emergency
- Plan your route carefully using the Council's Winter Service leaflet, which shows a map of routes that will be salted.
- Check the weather forecast before starting your journey and listen to local travel bulletins
- Take a fully charged mobile phone (for use in an emergency – not to be used while driving)
- Ensure windows, wipers, lights and indicators are clean and in good working order
- Check tyre treads and pressures and keep your car battery charged
- In snow drive slowly and in as high a gear as possible.
- In icy conditions, avoid harsh braking and steering. Increase your stopping distance by 10.
- In rain, fog and snow use dipped headlights for better visibility
- Beware of the road surface on bridges becoming icy before the approach roads to and from them, due to cold air or water underneath.
- Combat low winter sun by using your sun visor. If you cannot see properly slow down!

West Berkshire Council's Winter Service leaflet is now available. For more information contact the Streetcare Team on 01635 519080. For further road safety advice email roadsafety@westberks.gov.uk

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE



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. SU 583 723.

FRIENDS' DIARY

Wed 10 Jan

Scrub Clearance

Paices Wood

Come along and join Reading CROW group in clearing silver birch from the amphibian area, to try and increase the cover of heathland on the site. Meet at Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Young's Industrial Estate) (SU 586 638). Please note this task is on a WEDNESDAY.

Sun 14 Jan

Bucklebury Common

Heathland Management

For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (SU 550 688) at 10am. Contact Tim Culley for more details on 971 4830.

Tue 16 Jan

Glade Clearance

Ashampstead Common

Join Dick Greenaway to clear logs and fallen branches from the newly created glades so that they can be mown by tractor. Meet at The Cottage, Ashampstead Common (SU 5764 7512) at 10am.

Sat 20 Jan 10am-1pm

Scrub Clearance

Hosehill Lake LNR

Come and enjoy the crisp winter air and help to conserve this beautiful site by cutting scrub from an area of meadow. Meet at the Fox & Hounds Pub, Station Road, Theale (SU 650 697).

Sun 21 Jan

Hedge planting

The Malt House, West Woodhay

Come, 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 (SU 396 638) or call the Project Office for directions.

Sun 21 Jan 9.30am-noon Local Birdlife Walk

Hosehill Lake LNR

Come along and join Theale Area Bird Conservation Group for a relaxed walk around Hosehill observing birdlife. The walk will go wherever the birds are if anything unusual is about, but most probably along a stretch of Hosehill Lake where there should be good views of goldeneye and pochard then along Back Lane where there is a good chance of marsh tit, redpoll or siskin. Meet 9.30am at the Fox & Hounds Pub, Station Road, Theale (SU 650 697).

Sat 3 Mar 11.30am-3pm Lambourn Water and Conservation Fun Day Lambourn
Drop into Lambourn Centre and learn more about the River Lambourn chalk stream and its wildlife, as well as tips on saving water and there will be entertainment for children. Contact the Project Office for more details.

Wed 7 Mar Coppicing Paices Wood
Come along and work in this beautiful woodland for the day with Reading CROW group. Meet at Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Young's Industrial Estate) (SU 586 638). Please note this task is on a WEDNESDAY.

Sat 10 Mar RESCUE Shaw, Newbury
Come and help clear litter from the River Lambourn in Newbury as part of the national Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clean-Up Event. Ring the Project Office on 930 5336 to find out where to meet. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Tue 13 Mar Scrub Management Easton Meadows SSSI Welford Estate Lambourn
New Site! Come and help manage the special remnant wetlands next to the River Lambourn by coppicing bank-side poplars and scrub clearance. Wellies are recommended. Meet at 10am off Rood Hill (SU 418 723).

Thu 15 Mar Hurdle Making Workshop Paices Wood
Come along and spent the day working in the wood with Dave Rees from Oxfordshire Woodland Group. We shall be learning how to split sweet chestnut coppice into useable rods and have a go at hurdle making. Meet at Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Young's Industrial Estate) (SU 586 638). Booking is essential as places are limited, contact the Project Office to book your place 930 5336.

Sat 17/Sun 18 Mar 11am-6pm Lambing Open Days Rushall Farm
Come and see the first lambs of the season at Rushall Farm, Bradfield. The farm will be open from 11am to 6pm; all proceeds go towards the Reading Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Sat 28 Apr 11am-3pm River Lambourn Fun Day Shaw, Newbury
Come along to enjoy a day out next to the River Lambourn in Newbury and have your say to make this a better place. Guided Walks, Stalls, Storytelling, Environmental Art, Refreshments. Please ring the Project Office 930 5336 if you can help with this event.

PROJECT PURLEY

The history of a Purley railway carriage was an intriguing title for a talk to be given by Kevin McCormack.

The story began in 1969 when Kevin, sailing up the Thames, and passing along by Purley, espied there a railway carriage. Being a member of the Great Western Railway Society Kevin was sufficiently curious to know what the carriage was doing there. He and his friends moored at the Lock, and set off to have a closer look at the carriage situated behind 58 Wintringham Way.

Through this chance sighting, and a word with a local inhabitant, Kevin learned of another well-preserved carriage at 10 River Gardens.

This was a very exciting find, because it was in fact a 3rd Class Saloon Carriage built in 1894.

These types of carriage, built between 1892 and 1898, could be hired at Paddington as a private saloon carriage for party outings to be taken to various

venues along the line, such as Newbury races. Well fitted out with a seating area at each end, and toilet facilities situated between the two saloons, these were very popular for outings. They were however withdrawn from service in 1937, and apparently no 2511 was in situ at 10 River Gardens in 1938.

This particular carriage, no 2511, was in excellent condition, having been protected from the elements by a wooden structure built around it with a veranda, giving it the look of a small bungalow, as was evident from a photograph taken by Kevin in 1971.

It seemed that a lady named Molly had been living there, but had left to take up residence in a Home. In 1972, the place came on the market for £200, and was offered to the Great Western Railway Society. They declined the offer because of the difficulty in removing the carriage from its close proximity to the river, which they considered to be an impossible task.

Not so Kevin! He bought the carriage himself, and as the proud owner, was fully determined to get it moved to Didcot, the home of the Great Western Railway Society.

Having taken down the surrounding wooden structure, and had Rentokil examine and treat the carriage, all was set for the removal.

On 16 April 1972 a low loader lorry and a crane appeared in River Gardens, and with great efforts not to end up in the Thames, the low loader managed to back up to the carriage, and with the crane lifting carefully, Saloon carriage no 2511 was on its way to its new home.

Again, Kevin showed photographs of the carriage on its stately way over the Downs to the Didcot Railway centre.

The next thing was to get it onto a railway wagon on the line. Kevin had asked at Reading for the loan of a 30ft long flat wagon to be brought to Didcot to take the carriage. Misunderstanding ensued and two 15ft wagons were in situ! Not to be deterred Kevin had noticed a 30ft wagon parked up at the depot, asked to borrow it, and so got his precious cargo on the line to be taken into an engine shed, where he could work on it.

Since then Kevin has set about lovingly restoring the Saloon, both inside and out, to its original pristine condition. There was much to do, including restoring the toilet facilities. The GWR Society bought the toilet and hand basin from a railway carriage situated at 22 Brading Way, and Kevin bought a condemned Tool Van for the wheels. This latter purchase meant that the carriage could have a short outing in 1989, back on the lines for the first time after many years.

Kevin is still working on the carriage, and we found this to be a most interesting story, told with humour and with modesty in the light of what Kevin has achieved.

Millie Bordiss

The next meeting of Project Purley will be on Friday 19 January at 8pm in the Barn. It will be a Members Evening when members are invited to bring a family heirloom along and tell something of its history.

A SOBERING MESSAGE FOR PARENTS

Police in West Berkshire have revealed the haul of alcohol that they confiscated on one night, to send a message to parents about the problem of underage drinking.

One Friday evening, two officers, a special constable and a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) confiscated 87 bottles of beer from under 18s while out on patrol in the Pangbourne neighbourhood.

The alcohol was seized as part of the *stop and account process* and letters have been written to the children's parents or guardians to inform them of their behaviour.

Supt Chris Shead, LPA Commander for West Berkshire, said: "This is a staggering amount of alcohol confiscated in a short period in just one area of West Berkshire. It gives an indication of the scale of the problem.

"We want to change this worrying culture of underage drinking in the area, which in turn leads to a disproportionate amount of criminal damage.

"Part of the problem is that the youngsters often present extremely realistic fake ID cards, which are relatively easy to get hold of. We advise all shop owners to request photo ID in the form of a passport or driving licence before selling alcohol to young people, as these are the most reliable proof of age.

"If officers find anyone underage in the possession of alcohol, it will be seized and the parents/guardians of the child will be either visited or written to.

"I would ask parents to ask themselves 'Do I know where my child is and what he/she is doing?' If you don't, then you could be faced with a visit from our officers"



BIG BUZZ CHALLENGE 2007



Do you know of any young person or group of young people aged 8-19 who have a good idea for a project that will make a real difference to their community, school, church or youth group? Get them to take up the Big Buzz Challenge!

We have grants from £50 to £1,000 to help develop those ideas!

Closing date for applications 5 February 2007

Ring Community Action West Berkshire on 01635 523857, email info@cawb.org.uk, or look on www.ba4all.org.uk/bigbuzz for further details



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 be delivered either in writing or by email. Please note however, I reserve the right to edit contributions to suit space availability and to maintain consistency of style (font etc). Local event adverts can be accommodated but space is limited; landscape format copy is preferred in this case as it allows a 1/2-page entry to be published. If specially preparing content, please set your page size to A5.

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

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