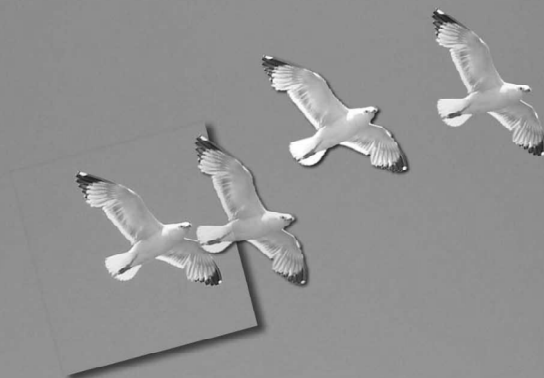


PURLEY PARISH NEWS

MARCH 2007



*Where the spirit of the Lord is,
there is* **FREEDOM.**

2 Corinthians 3:17b

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35P

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES

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CURATE

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Oaklea, Tidmarsh Road
Tidmarsh
Tel: 0118 984 3625

CHURCHWARDENS

John Rothery
Tel: 0118 984 3625

Debbie Corrigan
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BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

All enquiries should be made to the Rector

www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

FROM THE CURATE

Dear Friends

Have you ever considered how free you are? You may disagree that you are free if you feel forced to live, work, or behave in a particular way that is alien to you, but in general most Westerners have enormous freedoms compared with some other parts of the world. No one is going to arrest you for speaking your mind on a subject, imprison you for your religious beliefs and you can move from town to town without being stopped by the police for no reason. Most of all, you are not owned by another person. People cannot dispose of you as if you were their own personal property. Yet that was exactly what did happen in Britain 200 years ago.

On the 25th of this month it will be 200 years to the day, that the 1807 Parliamentary Bill was passed to abolish the slave trade in the then British Empire. That act was a significant milestone in the long road to the abolition of slavery and it is right that it should be commemorated, but it should also make us think what we can do to tackle injustice and inequality today.

We might think that slavery is a thing of the past, but that is wrong. Modern day slavery still exists. Around 2.4 million people across the world are trafficked

CHURCH SERVICES INCLUDING HOLY WEEK & EASTER

4 March	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
11 March	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
18 March	9.30am	Family Communion
	11.15am	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
25 March	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
1 April	9.30am	Family Worship
Palm Sunday	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
Wed 4 April	8.00pm	Closing gathering for ACT Lent groups at St Bernadette's Church, Pangbourne
Thu 5 April	7.30pm	A remembrance of the Last Supper (Supper and Holy Communion) We need to know how many are coming for catering purposes – please call 984 3625
Fri 6 April	10.00am	Procession of Witness (meet in car park outside St. Mary's Church Purley)
Good Friday	2.00pm	The Last Hour A reflection on the last moments of Jesus' earthly life
8 April	10.30am	Family Communion
Easter Sunday	6.00pm	Easter Praise

RENEWAL OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

In order to avoid a conflict with the elections for new Deanery Synod members in 2008, the process of completely renewing the parish Church Electoral Roll has been brought forward to this year. Therefore, **all** church members that wish to be on the roll will need to apply this year.

Application forms for the new Electoral Roll can be obtained from any of the following people: Matthew Slingsby (961 5585); Sheila Adnett (962 5760); Roger Howell (941 7727.) The last date for application is Sunday 1 April.

TALKS BY THE BISHOP OF READING

Mission: Our personal responsibility – Tue 6 March at 8pm, St Stephen's Church Upper Basildon

Christ in the wilderness – Saturday 10 March at 2pm

In 1939, Sir Stanley Spencer painted a series of pictures of Christ imagining His time in the wilderness. He intended to paint 40 pictures, one for each day of Lent. Only nine were completed. Bishop Stephen will give a personal response to some of the paintings in this series as part of the Stanley Spencer Painting Paradise exhibition at the Museum of Reading. Free admission but advance booking essential – Tel. 939 9880.

Pray for Purley

Mon 23 April

Tue 24 July

Tue 30 October

Mon 19 March

Mon 11 June

Mon 10 September

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

VILLA MAY - OLIVA NOVA - COSTA BLANCA - SPAIN



Set in the foothills above the orange groves on San Pere (private) hill, a superb, old style detached large Spanish villa with fantastic views and a lovely big pool. It offers very comfortable accommodation in a prestigious and tranquil location – Sleeps 10.



<http://www.ownersrentals.com/property/1071.html>

Laurie and Maggie May - Home 945 3223 - Mobile 07778 847635

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



The next Farmers' Market will be held at the Barn on the 10 March. Future agreed dates in 2007 are 14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July & 11 August

West Berkshire Council has notified us of changes to the mobile library schedule with visits due on the following Friday dates: 9 & 30 March, 20 April, 11 May, 1 & 22 June

Local timings are as follows:

Orchard Close	1.10 to 1.30
Memorial Hall	1.35 to 1.50
Hazel Road	2.00 to 2.30
Purley Church	2.50 to 4.00

Any enquiries should be made to their office on 01635 519827 or 01635 519900.

At the January Parish Council meeting, the funding bids by the service committees, for the forthcoming financial year, were reviewed and agreed as follows after taking anticipated income into account:

Recreation Committee	31,720 gross (less income) 17,670 14,050 net
Highways & Footpaths Committee	13,785 gross (less income) 8,300 5,485 net
Barn Management Committee	18,600 gross (less income) 16,115 2,485 net

Operating and capital expenses not devolved to service committees, and under central control, were also reviewed and the budgeted amounts are summarised below:

Employment costs (clerk, caretaker, internal auditor, admin. support)	28,087
Audit fee	650
Website provision	1,200
Office/emergency control room costs/maintenance	5,310
Members/officers meetings/training/costs	1,000
Insurance	9,000
Machinery replacement/maintenance	2,000
Sundry site costs (Goosecroft)	4,950
Fees, subscriptions & legal costs	2,100
Neighbourhood warden scheme	10,000
Contingency	3,000
Grants to local organisations	5,000
Election expenses	1,500
Total	gross 73,797

In addition to the anticipated committee reductions above an additional amount of £21,517 is expected from interest, other income and by way of balance transfers which enables the required total gross expenditure of £137,902 to be reduced to £74,300 to be obtained by a precept on West Berkshire Council for collection with the 2007/2008 District Council tax.

A calculation on the estimated tax base of £1,926.77 indicates the likely cost for band D properties to be £38.56 per annum, which equates to an individual increase of less than 3%.

Copies of the Annual Return, and the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006, are still available from the office on request and information is also posted on the website.

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



Pretty garden apartment in SIESTA MAR 1, CALAN PORTER, MENORCA. Well equipped for 5 people. This is the apartment featured in the brochures because it's in the best position .Overlooking mature gardens, pools and children's playground.

See it at www.daltonsholidays.com - Ad No 004356.

Winter GOLF or summer bliss! This new town house is situated adjacent to the PIENSA GOLF COMPLEX. This is a stunning area only 15 mins from LA MANGA in beautiful Mar Menor, South-Eastern SPAIN. A 2-bedroom townhouse that sleeps 6 comfortably. Shared pool, roof terrace, own garden, overlooking orange groves, the sea and golf course.

See it at www.daltonsholiday.com - Ad No 013265.



Elizabeth Grosvenor - 984 4564 or 07974 019198 - lizzygrosvenor@aol.com



THAMES VALE SINGERS

invite you to come, enjoy some beautiful music,
and support very worthwhile causes at the same time!

SCHUBERT MASS IN G

TALLIS : IF YE LOVE ME
CHILCOTT : BE THOU MY VISION
WESLEY : LEAD ME LORD
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS : O TASTE AND SEE
JENKINS : ADIEMUS
HANDEL : ZADOK THE PRIEST

*Friday 30 March 8pm St Catherine's Church,
Wittenham Avenue, off Warborough Avenue, Tilehurst*

*Saturday 31 March 8pm St Mary's Church,
St Mary's Avenue, Purley-on-Thames*

Free entrance, with a retiring collection after each concert.

Friday's collection will go towards **St Catherine's Garden Room Project**
to provide a Day Centre for the Elderly

Saturday's collection will go to **Tear Fund**,
a charity that works to reduce poverty and relieve suffering in the developing world

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

TRADING STORE

The Trading Store is now open from 10am until 11am every Saturday and Sunday until the end of October. Subscriptions for 2007 are now due and can be renewed at the Store when open. Membership of the Society is only £1.50. New members are always welcome. We stock peat-free compost (New Horizon and John Innes) at the Store.

SPRING SHOW

Schedules for the Show to be held on Saturday, 14 April in Purley Memorial Hall are now available at the Trading Store.



HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS - WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH 8PM

John Graham of Steventon Road Nurseries, Wantage, trained in Agricultural Botany and has specialised in Herbaceous Perennials. His Nursery has over 2000 different varieties of perennial plants including a good number of tender perennials. John is very concerned in ensuring plants are growing in the most suitable conditions for the type of plant and the way that plants are grouped with other plants in the flower beds.

John will be bringing a number of plants – as illustrations for his talk – and many other varieties all of which will be for sale at the end of the evening, so bring along some money.

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

WEST WOODHAY HOUSE GARDEN SHOW - SUNDAY 17 JUNE

In conjunction with the Newbury Agricultural Society, these rarely opened secret gardens will be the setting for the biggest Charity Gardening Event in 2007. The gardens will be open from 10am to 5pm.

West Woodhay House, Nr Newbury, Berks is a magnificent Inigo Jones Mansion, lovingly restored, and the gardens are as magnificent with 5 lakes, a walled garden and arboretum. The rose garden is also quite spectacular.

The show will also feature:

- 12 *Chelsea-style* show gardens
- An art show
- A hanging basket competition
- Schools container garden competition
- 100 trade stands



There is a special club entry price of £4 per person and special boxed salad lunch is available to all group members at £4 each. Hot lunches and afternoon teas will be available throughout the day.

PHS members who would like to visit this show please fill out an application form (available at the trading store) and return with full payment to John Murphy (941 9185) by 2 April – a minimum of 20 members are required.

No coach transportation will be arranged, members visiting will travel independently; there is ample car parking facility.

SUMMER VISIT TO THE RHS GARDEN, WISLEY - 1 JULY 2007

"A unique and enchanting place throughout the seasons"

Wisley has, for more than 100 years, been Britain's best-loved garden, with 249 acres offering a fascinating blend of the beautiful with practical and innovative design and cultivation techniques.

For many, it is the beauty and tranquillity of the garden that captures the imagination, with its richly planted borders, luscious rose gardens and the exotica of the glasshouses.

In the trial fields, the finest of the new flowers and vegetables are identified from countless introductions. Elsewhere in the garden, cultivation techniques are tried and tested and a series of model gardens provides answers to the needs of plants in a variety of conditions and circumstances.

The new Bicentenary Glasshouse and Learning Centre will be newly opened in June; it will be fascinating to see the glasshouse in its formative year and how it will develop in the future. Wisley is a garden that never stands still, with many other new additions complementing its existing horticultural attractions.

This day out will offer countless opportunities to gather new ideas and inspiration.

A few of the other highlights:-

- Chinese Pavilion
- Model Gardens
- Alpine Meadows and Rock Garden
- Wild Garden, Pinetum and Arboretum

The Wisley Plant Centre offers the opportunity to buy a little treasure to enhance your garden. The Wisley shop offers the finest choice of horticultural books and gifts.

The cost of this trip will be £12 per PHS member. Full details and application form are available in the PHS Trading store beside the Memorial Hall, latest date for applications, Sunday 14 May.

GUIDED WALK EXPLORING THE HIDDEN GARDENS OF THE CITY OF LONDON WITH JOHN GARROD - TUESDAY 10 JULY

A guided walk has been arranged with John Garrod. John, who spoke to the Society last October, is a City of London Guide and a London Blue Badge guide. London has held a lifelong fascination for John and he has acquired a specialised knowledge of the City of London's gardens.

This walk would be gentle, with lots of stops for John to point out things of interest and there will be several opportunities to sit for short periods. In the whole day, we would cover approximately 2 miles.

The walk will start at 11am Blackfriars station there will be an hour's lunch break, probably at The Waterside Café at the Barbican. If it is a fine day, people can sit outside on the lakeside terrace. Those who bring their own lunch can eat them there.

John aims to finish the walk at St Paul's at approximately 3.30pm, where a cup of tea or coffee could be purchased in the Crypt Café.

Full details and application forms are in the PHS Trading store, latest date for application is Sunday 20 May.

TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Christian Aid/Elaine Duijgenan



Our planet is warming at an unprecedented rate. Drought, flooding and disease directly attributable to climate change are already having devastating effects on the world's poorest communities

Christian Aid Week is a huge outpouring of generosity. It is a vital time for Christian Aid's work, and it relies on the donations of thousands of people around the UK and Ireland.

Aid and development are essential to Christian Aid's work, but in themselves are not enough to end poverty. Christian Aid believes that we must tackle the underlying causes of poverty – in particular, the decisions that are made by those in influential positions in the rich world, whose actions can affect those who have no voice. Christian Aid believes that the Christian gospel demands that we do all we can to challenge injustice and inequality and work for a world where everyone is included in the feast of life.

Climate change is a social justice issue that we have to address if we are serious about ending poverty. Scientists are now certain that our planet is warming at an unprecedented rate, and human activities that emit carbon, such as driving our cars and heating our homes, are the cause of the change. This is already having a devastating effect on developing countries.

As cooler regions warm, disease is spreading. For example, the highlands of Tanzania and Rwanda, previously unaffected by malaria, have seen the rate of infection rise in recent years. Prolonged periods of drought are wrecking harvests and ruining lives. Unprecedented temperature rises reduce crop yields and lead to the extinction of plant and animal species, destroying the delicate balance of ecosystems on which people struggling to earn a living depend.

Rapid melting of glaciers is bringing flooding in some areas, and in the long term the disappearance of tropical glaciers, threatens dire water shortages for hundreds of millions of people in South America and Asia. Rising ocean temperatures fuel more intense and destructive extreme weather events, and the expansion of warming oceans, together with melting polar ice and collapsing ice sheets, could raise sea levels by up to six metres. It is estimated that by 2050, 150 million people will be environmental refugees, including around 15 million from Bangladesh.

**Christian
Aid Week**
13–19 May 07

In any natural or man-made disaster, it is the poor who suffer most, and the ongoing effects of climate change are no exception. Rich countries and rich people can afford to rebuild stronger houses and protect their livelihoods; poor countries simply do

not have the means to do this. Even in countries such as El Salvador, people in the capital with access to more resources and education will fare better than the rural poorer communities.

People in rich countries are responsible for emitting around 12 times more carbon into the atmosphere than those in poor countries. This balance needs to be redressed. Those of us in the developed world need to emit less carbon, and pay compensation to developing countries, so that their development may continue in an environmentally friendly way.

Please take action on climate change. Sign the prayer and action card during Christian Aid Week which calls on the prime minister to drastically cut carbon emissions.

To find out more about Christian Aid's campaign to stop climate change, visit www.christianaid.org.uk

UK registered charity number 1105851 – Company number 5171525



MIRAMAR DE MARINA GOLF APARTMENT

New holiday apartment in Southern Spain available for rental £225-395 p/w. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, terrace overlooking golf course and sea, air-con, communal pool, private parking.

Contact Val and Rick Jones Tel: 9623793 for more information or see www.mojacar-miramar.com

WATCH OUT FOR MR TOAD!

Big rubber tyres squash small squiddy amphibians. It is a sad fact of life that thousands of common toads, known as Bufo bufo, are going to face death on our roads in the next few weeks.

The reason is because toads like to breed in certain places, and for some reason, they are almost always on the wrong side of the road when mating season begins. The poor toad can't win. For centuries seen as something evil, now they simply aren't seen fast enough... not on roads in the dark and the rain - which is when they most like to cross them.

Toads may not be beautiful, but they have had their fans. George Orwell wrote of them: "A toad has about the most beautiful eye of any living creature. It is like gold, or more exactly it is like the gold-coloured semi-precious stone which one sometimes sees in signet rings." Watching as one toad emerged from its mud-encased winter sleep, Orwell also observed "...after his long fast the toad has a very spiritual look, like a strict Anglo-Catholic towards the end of Lent."



PURLEY PLAYERS

HE'S IN THE CUPBOARD

A comedy by Mike Sole

Friday 27 April and Saturday 28 April.

Tickets from 13 March contact 941 5244 or 984 2563
cost £9 (£7 concessions) to include a glass of wine.

All proceeds to BIBS Babies in Buscot Special Care.

See you there!

PROJECT PURLEY

FAMILY HEIRLOOMS

The January 19th meeting of Project Purley in The Barn was well attended despite the threat of strong winds and heavy rain, and also the fact that this was the evening when our treasurer, Ben Viljoen, would be collecting members' annual subscriptions. The attraction was that this would be a *Members' Own* evening, when we could bring and show family heirlooms.

Collins' Concise Dictionary defines an heirloom as *an object that has been in a family for generations*. No mention is made of value, and the objects that were shown varied considerably in intrinsic value, though each item was clearly precious to its owner.

The items varied in antiquity too and, by coincidence the first, displayed by David Downs was the most modern. It was a silver cigarette box presented to his uncle, Fred Marcham, by members of the Cornell University U.S.A. boxing team in 1953. Uncle Fred had graduated from Oxford and after service in World War I, had emigrated to the States to teach history at Cornell, eventually becoming professor in the department. On his death in 1992, the memento was sent to David's mother, and when she passed away three years later, it was handed on to David. David had also brought a copy of his uncle's huge 975 page volume "A History of England," which he explained was his favourite book as a young child, not due to its content, but because its thickness enabled him to use it to press out the creases in any old football programmes.

Bernard Venners had a much older relic, a letter dated 3 September 1880 describing the life of a coal miner in the area of Illinois, which had been preserved through many generations. Bernard needed a deep breath before reading it to us, as it contained no punctuation, but we were still able to gain a realistic flavour of the harsh working conditions of the men. Places of worship were closed due to lack of support, but the pubs were full on the Sabbath. Workers were plagued by flies and mosquitoes and, in some areas where accommodation was scarce, the workers simply slept in a hole dug in the ground. Marion Venners had also brought an heirloom from her side of the family, a

willow pattern plate from the hotelware of the Oxford House Hotel at Wallingford. Her great-grandfather, born in 1880, had owned the hotel, which provided amongst other things, accommodation for boating and beanfeast parties as well as hiring out horses, traps and brakes.

Valerie Hutchings showed a small but beautiful watchchain which had belonged to her grandfather. He was killed whilst working on the railway, leaving his wife with eleven children, and the watchchain was passed to Valerie's father and then on to her. Ben Viljoen had a photograph taken of Dorothy's mother and grandmother. Her grandmother could be seen wearing the brooch, which Ben had brought to show. It will be passed on to Ben and Dorothy's granddaughter and so will have travelled through at least five generations.

The great-grandfather of Rita Denman was born in 1831 and after service in the Royal Hussars, became an attendant in a mental asylum, as did his son. Rita displayed photographs of the two men, as well as a contemporary newspaper report describing an outbreak of typhoid, and also showed us the original police-type whistle which attendants could use to summon assistance in an emergency.

A World War I memorial plaque gruesomely nicknamed "The Dead Men's Penny" was Catherine Sampson's contribution. She had completed extensive research into the fate of her great-grandfather, Private Frederick George Sampson, killed on 26 October 1917 whilst on active service with the Border Regiment just two days after returning from leave in England. Catherine also has his British War Medal and, during an informal discussion after the meeting, said that she may now contact the Ministry of Defence to try and claim the medals due to her uncle killed on flying duties with the R.A.F. in World War II, which have apparently never been issued.

Bibles are among the most common of family heirlooms, and the one belonging to Sylvia Conquest dates back to 1634. The first family names were written in it in 1817 under the title *Goldsmith*, but the most recent are those of Sylvia's father and brother. She also let us see a newspaper from 1943 which mentioned that the will of the late Duke of Kent amounted to £157,000; that Adolf Hitler had stopped boasting about how he would conquer the world and that the upbringing of children should be the responsibility of the parents not the schools.

Hazel King recalled a sad journey she had to make in 1977 when she drove her mother to Leeds to go through the effects of her late aunt. Hazel had recovered a book of postcards sent by her grandfather from France and Belgium in World War I and also a memorial plaque. Then Cliff and Jean Debney produced some of their ancestors' belongings, which have been passed down through so many generations. These included a couple of walking canes (specially cleaned for the meeting!); a sampler made by Jean's grandmother in 1880 at the age of 9; various items of jewellery; a bone china plate whose value they did not appreciate until they saw a similar example on the *Antiques Roadshow*; and a superb cabinet maker's shush box, in which many of these objects could be kept.

Finally it was the turn of our Chairman, John Chapman, to tell us about a parchment he possesses which documents the apprenticeship of his great-grandfather to a London printer. John has also kept an autograph book of his late mother, who started it at the age of thirteen in 1915. The opening page is

decorated with the flags of the Allied Forces fighting in World War I and many of the following pages of poems, drawings and paintings reflect the military theme, including a blank page with the humorous title *A Zeppelin that has just gone by*. As with many autograph books, there was keen competition among the writers to make the final entry on the very last page.

Our Chairman closed the formal part of the evening by thanking all those who had taken the trouble to bring so many precious and personal belongings. As members of a history society we are all, I suspect, natural hoarders who enjoy this kind of reminiscence. Our hope for the future is that our younger generations will be similarly inclined.

David Downs

The next meeting of Project Purley will be the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at The Barn, Goosecroft Lane off Beech Road, on Friday, 16 March commencing at 8pm. Following the completion of business, Sandie Mathieson will give a presentation on Dogs for the Disabled. This was the charity that benefited from the profit made as a result of The Rain or Shine Company's performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that took place in The Barn last June.

PURLEY PATHFINDERS A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES



We began our New Year of walks on a high as we met on a glorious sunny morning in Tilehurst. We climbed up through trees to gain access to Arthur Newbery Park for a walk across the lovely parkland, dotted with many fine trees, their outlines silhouetted against a blue sky. (We appreciated, even more, how lucky we were as the rest of the week unfolded into one of rain and gales!) We stood for a while on the high point to gaze across at the view, before dropping down to

walk along a grand avenue of trees to leave the park. We headed for a second oasis within the development which is Tilehurst. Again our access was by way of a climb through trees, and this time we emerged onto the grassy plateau of McIlroy Park with a spectacular view along the Thames Valley. Our theme this year is *Following Footsteps*, and here we followed William McIlroy's steps through a park that he loved. He purchased the park in order that he could see its green meadow from his office above his shop in Reading. We took our time to take in the view – along the full River Thames as it flowed through the valley to Reading town with its office blocks full of workers, hopefully enjoying the view back to this peaceful green spot, just as Mr McIlroy had done! Our walk ended at The Tylers Rest where we enjoyed a New Year Celebration Lunch.

In contrast to the blue skies of last week's walk, we awoke to snow! How exciting! Luckily, a local walk had been planned for this day, which meant we could enjoy the snow without the worry of driving. We set out from Purley Village to join the bridleway. The view from here is always splendid, and the snowy blanket just enhanced its beauty. Soon we were in Sulham Wood, and what an adventure it was! Apart from snow-filled paths, we found that recent gales had brought down several trees to block our way. Gallantly we clambered over the smaller tree trunks, and found alternative paths to avoid the larger ones! How we pitied the children sitting at their desks at school – they would have loved this! With a glow in our cheeks, we returned to Cherry Acre for welcome hot soup.



On our next walk, we made our way through Moulsoford, passing the sign to the Beetle & Wedge, where H. G. Wells is said to have written *Mr Polly*. Soon we were climbing a tree-lined path giving us better and better views of the surrounding downland. By the time we entered the well-maintained WellBarn Estate our view had opened up to take in this huge expanse of natural beauty. Birds of prey hovered above whilst pheasants and other game birds darted in and out of the hedgerows. Our pleasant path took us alongside an enclosed area of woodland in which pheasants are reared. Here we spotted some black oriental pheasants, obviously good for meat, but not nearly as handsome as our British pheasants, flaunting their colourful plumage for all to see. With far-reaching views, our route took us down towards Starvael Farm with its pond full of ducks, and back into Moulsoford.



In Upper Woolhampton, we enjoyed walking beside woodland carpeted with the white of snowdrops – what a wonderful sight to start our walk! Catching our first glimpse of Douai Abbey on a misty skyline, stiles joined one field path to another as we made our way to Kiff Green with its fields of horses. From here, a pretty woodland path took us to Beenham where we paused at the Wolf Conservation Trust, hoping to catch sight of some of its nine residents. Unfortunately, they were keeping a low profile so we pressed on towards Beenham Church along a path that normally gives lovely views over the Kennet Valley. We could see across fields as far as the A4, but sadly the delights beyond were hidden in a veil of mist. From the church, we rollercoasted down to the valley floor before climbing back up the other side. Soon we had a good view of the remaining part

of Douai Abbey, the turreted front and spire being the main parts to be conserved during the recent development. Through the snowdrop-strewn churchyard, we arrived back at our cars with a last look at the pretty sight of a bank of snowdrops tumbling down towards the pond.

With no walks over half-term, it was the perfect time to plan a Social Event, and where better to meet in February than Welford Park. It is thought that monks once planted snowdrops here to be used at Candlemas when the altar would have been decorated with their pure white bells. Over many years, the snowdrops have spread to produce thousands of plants, which make a dazzling display throughout the woodland in the park, and alongside the banks of the pretty River Lambourne. A beautiful walk took us into the heart of the snowdrop wood - a breathtaking sight! Next, there was time to explore the rose garden and wild garden before enjoying lunch in the Old Laundry tearoom. Afterwards we explored inside the church, and the little gift shop with its snowdrop themed goods, and were given permission to wander in the walled vegetable garden bisected by a man-made canal for irrigation. We couldn't resist one last wander through the snowdrops before tea and cake to end off a lovely day out.

Our walks continue *Following Footsteps* as we head for Echinswell to follow Fiver and his furry friends from *Watership Down*, and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber as we walk through his estate. We move from a 'Sir' to a 'Maharajah' as we seek out the Maharajah's Well at Stoke Row, with other walks planned following Robert Bridges at Yattendon, and thousands of footsteps along the Ridgeway near Streatley.

If any ladies would like to join us on weekday mornings, please contact me for a programme. You'll be made very welcome. Details of the group can be found on www.purleypathfinders.co.uk

Nicki Woodward
nicki@cherryacre.com - 984 2112

PURLEY WI

You can't help but be intrigued by a Welsh 15 year old boy in the 1930s, with no agricultural background and against all parental advice, wanting to own a farm. This is the story of Mr Edward Fox (not the actor) and his life in agriculture. He first worked for a farmer, who if you upset him, would sack you on the spot and if your fellow workers were unhappy with this, he would sack them too. This would mean they were without a job and a cottage. He gained experience milking cows, growing mangoes, clearing four acres of dock leaves and harnessing horses. At the age of 18, he started a help service, which meant a farmer could attend a family wedding or go for hospital treatment knowing his animals would be cared for. Mr Fox didn't let the grass grow under his feet, but was concerned about helping other farmers. He remembered a job of helping to move three litters of pigs. Whilst travelling up hill, the back of the transporter opened, and it took four hours to recover the piglets.

At the age of 19, a smallholding became available and for £300, he bought a 20-acre farm, horse and wagon, chicks, two cows and a heifer and, with land, anything he could grow like flowers and vegetables, he sold. As a bus from

Cardiff passed his holding, he became aware of a young lady travelling on it and he wanted to know more about her. He dropped his bike, took a bus journey and the relationship developed – not knowing that the bus passengers had taken bets on this affair. They married 18 months later. (Good story don't you think for Valentines Day –lovely?). He owned a Jersey bull and unknown to Mr Fox, who was in the yard at the time, this bull slipped. The bull then being injured, felt that Mr Fox was responsible so pinned him to the barn and injured him. The vet said the bull now had the better of him and this was not good. It meant it would be better if the bull were to "go".

The winter of 1960 was cruel, and Mr Fox had the foresight to leave a water tap dripping. This action kept him and his neighbouring farmers provided with water for six weeks during the "freeze".

Eight years of milking didn't prove to be profitable, so he and his family emigrated to Winnipeg, Canada. This meant long hours, not many breaks, for seven days a week looking after 300 cows within 670 miles. His wife then read a newspaper advertisement asking for a farm instructor at a local prison. He then became a "floater" lending his many skills to what was required. Tales from the prison made our hair curl, but he remained "on top" of the inmates! Among the prisoners were two lawyers and two doctors. One lawyer was transporting a client's gold bars and the temptation was too great. All went well except, when in the middle of nowhere, he ran out of petrol and it all went pear shaped and resulted in 5 years inside.

Mr Fox then came across a 6'6" German prisoner. Due to unfortunate circumstances, life became somewhat difficult and some amusing encounters followed but eventually a mutual comic understanding grew (thank goodness). The prison was not on the mains, and as a result had an enormous cesspit. A character named Angus lost his false teeth in it but they were found. I won't relate the next move!!!

The family then returned to the U.K. and he worked in Reading at the Berkshire Agricultural College and then at the age of 50, following redundancy, taught himself to be a wheelwright and blacksmith – he even did work for the late Queen Mother.

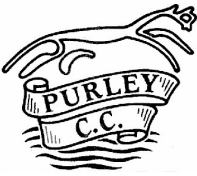
At 73 years of age, when was he going to retire? The family now live in Charvil and his children have inherited his skill, discipline and accuracy. As Mr Fox finished with an appropriate poem, we warmed to this hard working farmer and very much appreciated his company.

Competition:

A Valentine Card	1 st Sylvia Conquest	2 nd Lesley Honnor
Flower of the Month	1 st Wendy Chapman	2 nd Betty Hunter

Next month is our Annual General Meeting followed by a Beetle Drive. The meeting will be held at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley on Thames on Wednesday, 14 March commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

Sylvia Conquest
941 1936



PURLEY ON THAMES CC

PRE-SEASON TRAINING for 2007 HAS STARTED!

Indoor pre season training for all age groups (from 6 years to adults) for 2007 has commenced.

The following sessions run on Sundays until 15 April 2007:

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 2-3pm at Denefield School

Under-9s 3-4.30pm at Denefield School

Under-11s 4.30-6pm at Denefield School

Under-13s 6-7.30pm at Pangbourne College Sports Hall

U15/U17 7.30-9pm at Pangbourne College Sports Hall

Adults will have 4 weeks indoor training from 8.15-10.15pm at Bradfield Sports Centre from 7-28 March.

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

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...

PLEASE HELP REDUCE LIGHT POLLUTION

Have you thought about the effect of lighting on:

Climate change?

Biodiversity with day/night confusion affecting both wildlife and plants?

Your quality of life and that of your neighbours?

The night sky?

Your energy bills?

The DEFRA Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill Clause 102 made Light Pollution a statutory nuisance and came into force last year via the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Adding external lighting is normally a *permitted development right*, but does not confer a right to *illuminate other people's property* (light trespass)!



THE PROBLEM

Light pollution has increased greatly in recent years, as demonstrated by the satellite images published by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and the British Astronomical Association (BAA). This has made it more and more difficult for astronomers, as well as for children to learn of the wonder and majesty of the night sky. There are many aspects to the problem - just look about you, at night, and try to see the night sky. What you can see of the stars will probably be limited by a glow over large towns, but also by nearby lights.

Significant problems come from bright, unshielded lights around buildings, lights on garage forecourts, public houses, car parks, some sports grounds and many domestic properties. These are often crude modern very bright lamps set almost horizontally, or pointing up rather than down over the face of a building. Where lamps shine out towards a road they can dazzle or distract drivers. Household security lights that only come on when triggered can also be a problem if they are not well sited and may annoy neighbours or ruin the night vision of someone trying to look at the stars, which can take 20 minutes to recover. Even in country villages there are problems. Why should your night vision be limited by a bright, unshielded light across the road, or one mile away on a hillside?

THE SOLUTION

The solution is surely to constrain lighting to fulfil its purpose and not illuminate other areas unnecessarily, cause nuisance, or pollute the environment including the dark night sky. In many cases this can be done easily and cheaply by realigning lighting units and if necessary adding a screening panel. A primary aim should be, as far as is reasonably possible, to arrange that the bright light source is not visible from outside the curtilage of a property - only the resulting much lower intensity reflected and scattered light. Globes and *slab* lights on walls need replacing with modern full-canopy units.

A significant benefit to be had in many cases is that lower power lamps will provide adequate lighting when constrained, leading to lower electricity bills. And reducing energy consumption is now a key element of national sustainability policy, given added impetus because of Climate Change. External lighting forms a significant part of electricity consumption, which is still increasing faster than that generated by new wind farms, so even if the cost does not bother you, please 'do your bit' to conserve energy and reduce light pollution.

See the following websites for examples of the problem:

www.dark-skies.org

www.cpre.org.uk/campaigns/landscape-and-beauty/light-pollution/index.htm

In addition, the Institute of Lighting for advice: www.ile.org.uk

*CPRE Berkshire Branch,
Englefield Estate Office Annex, Englefield, Theale, Berks RG7 5DZ
930 6756 - cpreberkshire@btopenworld.com - Registered Charity 210734*

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE

PURLEY PLAYERS

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 17 March 7.30pm

The Barn, Purley on Thames

Tickets £5

Includes Ploughman's Supper

Wine, Beer and Soft Drinks available from bar

Teams/Tables up to 6 players

Tickets:

Geoff Williams - 941 1788

Jean Chudleigh - 984 2563

OPERATION FASCIA

TARGETS ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



Police in West Berkshire have been carrying out Operation Fascia, which is aimed at targeting anti-social behaviour in the area.

This follows on from the success of Operation Footprint that was carried out over the summer.

Using data from analysts, officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Specials have been targeting anti-social behaviour hotspots with the aim of preventing criminal damage.

Supt Chris Shead, West Berkshire LPA Commander, said: "Anti-social behaviour is a significant concern to the communities that we serve and it is widely accepted that it often leads to criminal damage.

"Criminal damage has increased by over a third this year within West Berkshire and it is one of the key crime issues that we are targeting.

"The aim of the operation has been to have a highly visible presence in areas that have anti-social behaviour, to prevent acts of criminal damage being carried out.

"What may appear to be high jinks or 'fun' to those involved, often causes huge distress to victims. This is exacerbated when the same people are repeatedly

targeted and we intend to deal with offenders robustly and quickly to ensure that we minimise the impact of their wrongdoing.

"Anyone found engaging in criminality or anti-social behaviour will be dealt with accordingly, either by arrest if appropriate or the issue of a fixed penalty notice. My officers will be relentless in their pursuit of those committing damage."

The other aspect of the operation is visiting victims that have been repeatedly targeted and giving them crime reduction advice.

Romy Freiburghaus, Crime Reduction Adviser for West Berkshire, gives the following tips:

- Make sure your home and the surroundings of your home are well lit and well maintained
- Improve natural or other surveillance, cut hedges at front of the house down to one metre
- If your property has been targeted, take a photo of the damage and try to repair the damage as soon as possible
- If possible park your car in your garage
- If you do park on the street, don't leave any valuables in your car; fold in wing mirrors; retract aerials
- Improve lighting if you park outside your home
- Park your car in well lit areas, especially in town centres near pubs and night clubs

If you want to make a real impact on your neighbourhood, you could form a neighbourhood watch group. For more information, contact the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Angela Money via 0845 8 505 505.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Why not apply to join your parish council this year and do something positive for your community?

The elections will be on Thursday 3 May. If you are 18, are on the electoral register (or live within 3 miles) you could be eligible.

Your council meets 11 times a year on Thursday evenings in the Parish Office.

Simply watch out for more information in the local press or, (from mid-March onwards), contact the Elections Officer on 01635 519463 or the parish clerk on 984 4507, for a nomination form.

If you want information about the duties of a councillor, contact BALC on 01296 383154 or balc@buckscc.gov.uk

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 ½-page entry to be published. If specially preparing content, please set your page size to A5.

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

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

This edition published	Next edition copy deadline	Next edition published
3 March	24 March	7 April

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