

# PURLEY PARISH NEWS

**OCTOBER 2007**



Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy.

Psalm 126:5 (NLT)

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**35P**

For the Church & Community of  
**PURLEY ON THAMES**



# ST. MARY THE VIRGIN PURLEY ON THAMES

[www.stmaryspurley.org.uk](http://www.stmaryspurley.org.uk)

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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.

We welcome all contributions to this magazine, particularly on local issues and events. Copy can be delivered either in writing or by email. Please note however, we reserve the right to edit contributions to suit space availability and to maintain consistency of style (font etc).

Most common computer file formats are accepted, with the notable exception of Microsoft Publisher – sorry! When sending articles containing images, you may need to send the images separately, to avoid file size limits.

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## FROM THE LOCAL MINISTER

Just like me, Jack is a Reverend. There are differences, though.

I have seen that there are young people who often gather at the church gate in the evening. I don't know much about what they do there, but the lych gate is sometimes in need of unexpected repair, some of the church's own craft materials have been taken from the shed and strewn about its inside, and sometimes before weddings there are cigarette ends to be swept up and empty cans disposed of.

Jack saw that there were a group of boys who gathered near his church with nothing to do. He started a football team and persuaded one of his congregation to act as the coach. At the peak there were over 40 young people coming every weekend to Daniel's Young Lions, with two teams playing in local leagues. They came on Saturday to play football, on Sunday to church. Where Jack lives, they noticed that there was a lot less trouble with young people.

**Jack knew that some of  
the children...  
...didn't have any family.**

I'm aware that the food I eat comes from lots more places than the food of some people in Purley. Once a month I buy at the Farmer's Market. The rest of the time there's a good mix of fruit from one supermarket, cans of vegetables from another and meat from a third. When I notice and remember, I buy Fairtrade products in preference to others, even though it's sometimes a bit more expensive.

Jack saw that there were widows in his congregation whose children came home not to find out what was for tea, but to find out if there was anything for tea. He bought some land and encouraged them to start growing some food. He went off, visited another church, and came back with the idea that they could grow food to sell. He obtained the machinery that enabled these women to process the food and put it in jars so that they could sell it. Where Jack lives, they soon noticed that there were a lot fewer hungry children.

Jack knew that some of the children who came to his church didn't have any family, so he and his wife opened their home to as many of them as they could. They fed them, and clothed them, they got them a pair of shoes and they sent them to school.

You might have guessed by now that Jack doesn't live in Berkshire. He lives in Zimbabwe. I've *known* Jack since he met my son David in Mozambique, and they became firm friends. As a family, we bought shirts to be worn by Daniel's Young Lions. As a church, we paid for one of the machines, which produce peanut butter from the crop grown by the widows. As a town, many in Reading have contributed to Jack's orphans, and now also to Jack's medication to treat his AIDS.

A couple of months ago, like many in Purley, I was worried about the effect that flood waters might have on my house, and whether the authorities would provide enough sandbags to protect my property. A couple of years ago, Jack shared the experience of thousands of others when the authorities came along with a

bulldozer and flattened the house that he lived in with his family and his community of orphans.

As I write this, the Archbishop of York has been writing of it being time to do something about the situation in Zimbabwe – empty shelves in the shops, inflation raging at 8000% and a life expectancy in their mid-30s. But I am struck by something he said in his inauguration sermon. He spoke then about Jesus being *life changing*, not merely *life enhancing*.

Jesus is *life changing*. The challenge for us in the church is to show it to the people around us in Purley, as well as Jack has shown it to the people around him in Zimbabwe. Come and challenge us to make a difference in this community!

Andrew

## PARISH REGISTERS

### BAPTISM

2 September George Peter Hurneyman

### FUNERALS

31 August Patricia Bloom age 77 cremation

1 October Muriel Haime (Cremation) Aged 82 years

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## A LADIES' DAY

### THANKFULNESS TO GOD

St Mary's Church, Purley  
Saturday 3 November  
10am to 2.30pm

#### Programme

**10.00am** Coffee/Tea

**10.20am** Welcome and introduction

Praise singing

Puppets: Peter and Diane Hellyer (Horsham)

Talk: Prue Bedwell (Chorleywood)

**12.15pm** Lunch provided

**1.00pm** A practice of one method of praying to obtain God's guidance:  
Jean Howell (Purley)

Prayer Ministry

**2.30pm** Finish

The day costs £7. To register contact Jean Howell at the Rectory (941 7727)

## READING

# Single Homeless

## PROJECT

Reading Single Homeless Project is a **local, independent charity** that strives to provide **affordable supported housing to vulnerable people** at risk of, or with a history of, homelessness. The people helped by RSHP are from a range of backgrounds, but **all have experienced social exclusion and rejection**.

Most of the people helped by RSHP have lacked a strong, sustainable support network and have been unable to cope on their own. Some have fled domestic violence, but have nowhere to run; others have left institutional care, but **need support if they are to be able to live on their own**; some are ex-offenders whose release into the community is dependent upon them having an address with one-to-one support; and others have complex problems that make it difficult for them to sustain a tenancy without **help, advice, guidance and consistent support**.

Reading's booming economy has forced house prices to rise and has contributed towards **the town becoming a homeless hotspot**. Reading has become a magnet for new business and 'luxury housing' that creates additional pressure on existing accommodation and inflates prices even higher although Reading prices even higher although Reading holds some of the most deprived wards in the country. The crime rate in Reading has risen significantly in recent years and there has been a sharp increase in the amount of drug-related crime in the town.

These developments have contributed significantly to the **higher than average homeless problem in Reading** and have created an even more vital role for RSHP. RSHP's client group comprises **vulnerable and socially excluded people who need additional support** in order to maximise their ability to live independently. RSHP's clients include people with substance misuse problems, people with mental ill health, care leavers, ex offenders, people on probation, people fleeing domestic violence, single homeless and the elderly.

## RSHP TEAM

RSHP's Team of 24 individuals, all working hard to help keep affordable and appropriate supported housing available for the vulnerable people of Reading. The team members include **Support Caseworkers, Maintenance Officers, Administration Officers, Drugs and Alcohol Caseworkers and a qualified CPN** (Community Psychiatric Nurse).

Early in 2005, RSHP's Team underwent a review of its services by Reading Borough Council's *Supporting People* Team. **RSHP received excellent marks with very promising comments made** about the charity. RSHP is pleased that the quality of its services has been acknowledged, however we **continue to work to improve the services provided** to people who have experienced homelessness of who suffer social exclusion.

## CHURCH SERVICES

7 October	10.30am 6.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Harvest Communion
14 October	9.30am 11.15am 3.00pm	Family Worship Holy Communion Community Memorial Service
21 October	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Family Communion with prayer for healing Morning Worship Evening Worship
28 October	9.30am 11.15am	Family Worship Holy Communion
4 November	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Family Worship Holy Communion Holy Communion

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## HAVE YOU VENTURED BEYOND THE LYCH GATE?

Well, have you? Perhaps you came on Back to Church Sunday, or maybe you chose a different week. Whichever, we're glad you came, and would love to have you with us again.

What did you think of what you saw and heard? Would you like to come again? Or did you find anything about the service that put you off? Was the form of worship right for you? Was there anything you would have preferred to be done in a different way – if so we'd love to hear what and how! We certainly don't want to put you off, so we genuinely welcome any home truths you tell us!

You may be wondering whether the service you came to was really the same as what happens every Sunday, or was it different for the benefit of "first timers". Well, yes and no! The morning services ran along exactly the same lines as every Sunday (though on the third in the month Communion moves to 9.30 and is a family affair). The evening service was different, as we have *Songs of Praise* only 2 or 3 times a year. More frequently, the evening service is a quieter, meditative service, alternating between Evening Worship and Holy Communion on first and third Sundays of the month.

Asking the current congregations has shown that this pattern of services suits those who come regularly. Would these services also answer the needs you have? Maybe there are people in our village who have found these are not what they want! If you currently don't worship at St Mary's, what would entice you to do so? What form of worship would appeal to you? How can the family of St Mary's open its arms to you? Do let us know.

*Jacky Brown*

# Pray for Purley

Tue 30 Oct - Mon 10 Dec

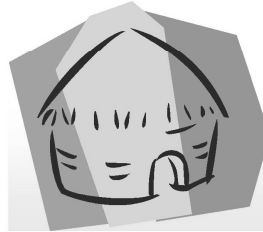
Over the last few years, Christians from many churches, living in Purley, have come together regularly to give thanks to God for our village, and to pray - for individuals, families, schools, groups, activities, places and even the parish council and the councillors!

Do feel welcome to come along to St Mary's on the above 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  
Chris Rayers  
942 1880  
c.rayers@talk21.com

**SLUM SURVIVOR**  
27-28 October, Church Car Park!

▶ A number of youth and leaders from St Mary the Virgin, Purley will be joining in a national church challenge by *sleeping rough*, with minimal food, equipment and shelter! Why? Are they mad? Possibly! But their aim is to raise awareness and money for those who live in similar (in fact worse) conditions **ALL** their lives. Please support them by sponsoring/visiting them.



The group will be *Slum Dwellers* from the morning of Saturday 27 October until they join the 9.30am service on Sunday 28 October. They will face several challenges during that time!

## Victorian Village Fayre



Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November

St Mary the Virgin, Purley

11.30am - 2.30pm

Lunch and Beverages available

.....and much more!!!

Please come and support us -  
make a note in your diary.





This past month some of the crimes I have been investigating include criminal damages, thefts and assaults. I have also attended court on two occasions with both defendants being found guilty. One was regarding an unpleasant incident outside a local school and the other was concerning a person swearing in public.

On 20 September the Pangbourne Neighbourhood Police Team assisted by our Roads Policing Dept. and the Safer Roads Partnership spent 2 hours in the morning on the Reading Road, Pangbourne checking that occupants of vehicles had their seat belts on and drivers were not using mobile phones. I am sad to say that fifty five people were caught not wearing their seatbelts correctly and four drivers were caught using their mobile phones.

For those of you who like to walk in Sulham Woods I am pleased to say that I recently held a meeting with the Forestry Commission, Sulham Estates, West Berks Council and David Betts, NAG Chairman about the antisocial use of motorbikes in the area and some real progress was made towards solving this problem.

Following public consultations with the residents of Pangbourne it has been decided that parking will become a priority for the Neighbourhood Action Group. This has been a problem for many years and will not be solved overnight but hopefully we will be able to make some progress on this difficult issue.

*P.C. 5110 ALLEN, Pangbourne Police Station  
matthew.allen@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk  
08458 505 505 (24 hour non-emergency)*

An Afternoon of

## **COMEDY & CAKE!**

You are all invited to spend a fun afternoon

St Mary's Church Hall

2-4pm Friday 2 November

Our local *Pam Ayres sound-alike*, Marjy,  
will entertain you with some of her amusing poems

Be prepared to laugh out loud!

There will be an interval for Tea & Cake and a chance to chat.

Just turn up! Bring your friends! Good endorphins guaranteed!

May we suggest a donation of £2.50 towards the £11,000 needed for work on the sewage pump, boiler and gas pipe at St Mary's Church

Nicki Woodward – 984 2112

## **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.

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## **PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL**

The next Farmers Market will be held at the Barn on the 13 October. Future agreed dates for the market in 2007 are 10 November & 8 December. If you live locally, please assist with the limited parking by walking to the venue if at all possible.



At the August Parish Council meeting, the accounts and annual return for 2006/7 were agreed for submission to the external auditors. Copies of these are available from the office on request. When the audit has been completed, I will provide further information both here and on our website.

Following a number of complaints, West Berkshire Council has agreed that their dog warden should visit the area to take action over a small number of selfish owners who allow their dogs to foul footpaths, pavements and even parts of our recreation grounds. We provide over a dozen dog litterbins throughout the Parish, so there is no excuse for owners not clearing up after dog walking. Remember this is an offence and could result in a fine.

The feedback from residents on the parking proposals resulted in a number of meetings and a discussion with West Berkshire Council on the possibilities of a much reduced scheme to deal with many of the points raised. WBC is currently reviewing the outcome and any measures they decide to put in place will be well advertised for further comments before finalisation.

Earlier this year we had the large unexpected expense of replacing a lengthy section of a collapsed sewer at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground. To help finance this we had to utilise the budget set for the annual provision of grants to local organisations. Due to prudent financial housekeeping we have now been able to make a similar sum available again so have recently sent out grant application forms to known recipients. We have set a return date of 31 October so that the applications can be considered with a view of still making a grant in this calendar year. If you have not received a form for your organisation, and wish to be considered, please contact the office without delay.

*Brian J. Smith, Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council*

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

You may have noticed councillors using a mobile Speed Indicator Device (SID) around the village in recent months. This will continue regularly, organised by Alex Stott, as we monitor traffic speeds at various *hotspots* in Purley. This activity is designed to show drivers what speeds are acceptable on our residential roads, and what are not.

We hope that this contributes to road safety programme, which comprises also a number of initiatives we are working through with West Berks Highways department. We have mentioned parking before, and you will see the *minimalist*

### **...the Environment Agency has objected to any form of construction...**

implementation that we propose being put into effect quite soon. We are also planning to improve the traffic calming arrangements in Long Lane, and are pressing for pedestrian safety measures at two dangerous places along the A329 through the village. Finally, a safe cycle path route from Pangbourne through Purley to Tilehurst station, and traffic speed reduction on the A329 are in our programme for the longer term. Tim Whitaker, our chairman of Highways, is managing this, in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Action Group.

We have previously reported a delay in the building of the Cycle Track in Bucknell's Meadow. Basically, the Environment Agency has objected to any form of construction or soil importing into that location. The Parish Council is looking at the options and will report back to residents, when we can confirm how this issue will be resolved. We very much regret the delay, as we are committed to providing more recreation facilities aimed at 9-16 year-olds, and our inability to complete this in 2007 is frustrating.

The promised Day Nursery has opened at Purley Barn. Barn Owl Day Nursery will operate from the Small Hall, which has been improved for all hirers as a result. We hope that the service is useful to Purley people, and wish the nursery good luck as they start up.

In the Parish Office, visitors may note that we have a new member of staff. Janet Field has joined us part time as Assistant Clerk. Hopefully, this will enable us to offer an even better service to the community. Janet has very good experience to bring to the role, and we are looking forward to her contribution to the efficient working of the 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

Neighbourhood Wardens: 945 5286  
westberks.wardens@sovereign.org.uk  
www.sovereign.org.uk/wardens

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Tel/fax: 0118 984 4507  
E-mail: clerk@purleyonpc.wanadoo.co.uk

**[www.purleyonthames.net](http://www.purleyonthames.net)**

## UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

As you may be aware, there are new faces in your local Post Office and Store. We are new to the village, but already have had such a warm welcome. Thank you.

For those of you that do not know yet, there are new opening hours for the Store & Post Office.

<b>Store</b>	Monday-Friday	7am-8pm
	Saturday	7.30am-8pm
	Sunday	7.30am-6pm
<b>Post Office</b>	Monday-Friday	9am-5.30pm
	Saturday	9am-12.30pm
	Sunday	Closed

The Post Office will remain open throughout lunch hours and a full day on Thursday. But not to worry, Charlotte will still be running the Post Office, with a new face on Saturdays.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Charlotte and family for all their help and support, without her we would be totally lost!

There will be some changes to your local store. We will be introducing newspapers, magazines, a newspaper round and new product lines. So, if there is anything you require, or you would like a newspaper delivery, feel free to let us know. We will do our best to help. If you are unable to pop in, please call us on 984 3230. We would be interested in any feedback you may have to improve your local store. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Gurmit, Ruchi and Jasria*

Most of you will probably know by now that we have sold the shop and Post Office and moved in with my mother. It was time to retire her – AGAIN! Huge thanks to her for standing by us for the past 3 years, since Ron died.

Also, very grateful thanks to our dear friend Mandy, who has been a treasure to us over the 22 years we have been here. We would not have managed without her. And many thanks to Annette Bieny and John Edwards for all their help and support.

The new owners are Gurmit and his wife Ruchi. They are both very keen, enthusiastic and helpful and have had the good sense to employ me to work in the Post Office for them! Therefore, we will still be seeing a lot of each other.

Many thanks to you all for your loyalty, continuous support, and friendship over the years. Without each and every one of you, we would not have survived. Please give Gurmit and Ruchi the same support, and hopefully Purley Rise Post Office Stores will continue for many years to come.

*Thank you  
Charlotte Jenkins*

## GERMAN POWs IN PURLEY

The story, as far as we know it from four letters recently handed to Project Purley, is that Purley played host to two German Prisoners of War, Alfred Ubat and Karl Stephan. Both worked on Westbury Farm with Fred Miles and went back to Germany in early 1947. Various Purley inhabitants are mentioned in the letters: Mr Staniland (who also worked on the farm), Violet (who probably was Fred's daughter and about to get married), Mr Theobald (who at that time was intending to buy Westbury Farm), Mrs Smith (who had sent Alfred a very welcome food parcel) and someone referred to as 'old' Frank (another farm worker).

The first letter from Karl, dated 1 March 1948, expresses gratitude for the kind treatment he and Alfred had received at Fred's and his family's hands:

*Well, dear Fred, I am thinking very often of the time I have spent on your farm. [Name withheld] didn't think very much of us, but you always were very kind to us and treated us ever so well. I needn't mention how glad I was and still am, when I remember all the good things, such as the good soup, cake and cocoa, you gave to us.*

He then goes on to contrast this with the conditions he found on his return to Germany, which

*...are indescribably bad, especially for us refugees from the East, as I have lost my home and nearly all our belongings to the Poles, who have taken over my former homeland.*

He also shows that he is still interested in what goes on at Westbury Farm:

*How is Violet? Is she already married? I think we had a good time then and we always got on well together. I would be very pleased if I could get a letter from her. Has Alfred written to you? I wonder where Staniland is now. Is he on another farm? Has Theobald got Westbury Farm? How is old Frank getting on? I suppose he is all right and still working.*

Alfred's first letter, dated 5 September 1947, is along similar lines.

*I found my parents old and sick, not much to eat and four people together in one room...*

He also talks of his very low pay, and of how little there was in the shops that they could afford to buy. Alfred illustrates this by saying that his earnings are 30RM (Reichsmark) a week, while the price of one egg is 10RM on the black market.

*Last week I received a parcel from Mrs Smith and we were very glad about its contents, especially the chocolate for the children.*

*The weather here has been very bad, no rain, very bad for potatoes and Swiss chard. This winter there will be much hunger in Germany. I often think of the good times in Westbury Lane. How is Mr Staniland, and Mr Theobald? When is Violet's wedding day? At Christmas?*

He concludes:

*All the best to you and all [my] friends in Westbury Lane... I hope you will write very soon...*

The address he gives is in Hesse, American Zone. His second letter, dated 12.12.1948, begins with:

*Thank you for your letter and parcel. We were very pleased with its contents and we can use everything. One can buy things here but prices are too high, particularly as we have lost everything and have to start afresh. Now that Christmas is here, I still remember the good time we had with you. You always treated us well and that was not the case with everyone... I would like to come and see you, but it is too far - if only the Channel was not in the way... The children are looking forward to Christmas. They all have large wishes but everything is very expensive. Kindest regards...*

Karl's second letter of 26 April 1948, shows how much he appreciated receiving a reply from Fred:

*...I was so happy to receive [it]. Now just about a year has passed since I was with you. I think back a lot to those times, it was often nice, even if we argued now and again... Yes, Fred, times are bad now, everybody has worries and has to see how best to get through life. You can imagine how my family was happy when I came home, but it is hard for us now, we haven't got anything. You know that we live as refugees here. In our home town are the Poles. I hope that one day we will be able to go back there. Then everything would be better again.*

*I suppose you have a lot of work now and Ginger will be after the work, How is your wife and Violet, we have always understood each other so well and they were always so good to us. How is Violet, is she still on the farm or is she already married? It would be nice to receive a few lines from her. You write that the prisoners walk around free now. Yes, when we were there everything was stricter. I suppose a lot of them will stay there.*

*Dear Fred, you write if you can help me with something. What we would need most at the moment are fats, but I can't expect you to send anything, you don't have much yourself. Of course I would be thankful for anything as we are in need of practically everything at the moment...*

There are no further letters in Project Purley's possession and no other information. It would be quite rewarding to try and complete the picture - and even expand this episode of *Purley at War*. Perhaps some readers have memories or other information that would add to the story.

*Peter Perugia, Project Purley  
perugia@perugia515.fsnet.co.uk  
7 Nursery Gardens, Purley on Thames, RG8 8AS*

# **PURLEY PLAYERS**

## **QUIZ NIGHT**

Saturday 17 November 7.00 pm

at The Barn, Purley-on-Thames

Tickets £5.00

Includes Ploughman's Supper

Wine, Beer and Soft Drinks available from bar

Teams/Tables up to 6 players

Tickets:

Nick Topazio : 0118 984 5943

Gerry Hiscock : 0118 941 8715



### **HEALTH & WELLBEING WORKSHOP**

**Wednesday 7 November, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Shaw House, Newbury**

This is a fantastic event for Parish representatives to meet key people from Health, voluntary and community groups, and the Council – to get together for networking opportunities and project development.

If you would like to find out more, or be involved, contact Jenny Pheby.

### **50+ CONFERENCE – THIS THURSDAY**

West Berkshire Council is hosting a 50 Plus Conference this Thursday (11 Oct) at Newbury Rugby Club, Wash Common from 10.30am to 4pm.

Please call Jenny Pheby to check last minute availability and book your place.

*Jenny Pheby*  
01635 519406  
[jpheby@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:jpheby@westberks.gov.uk)



## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Purley on Thames Cricket Club will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> season with a Cricket Week in 2008.

The club played its first fixtures in 1968 shortly after construction of the Goosecroft Recreation Ground in Beech Road completed. Since then, the club has developed into one of Berkshires leading Cricket Clubs with a successful adult record in competitive cricket and a thriving Junior Section.

The aim of the Cricket Week will be to include as many of our members, our supporters, sponsors and the local community as possible in a celebration of the clubs 40<sup>th</sup> season. The week will comprise of a series of events, cricket matches and social events culminating in a cricket match on the final Sunday around which the club hopes to host a village event in which as many local organisations as possible can participate and raise money to support their own activities.

The Cricket Club will shortly be setting the date for the events and writing to local organisations offering the opportunity to participate.

### REVIEW OF 2007 SEASON

We have had a very successful season for both Adults and Junior sections on and off the pitch in 2007. Our membership has increased allowing us to play 3 teams on a Saturday, 2 on Sundays, and to compete in several midweek cup competitions.

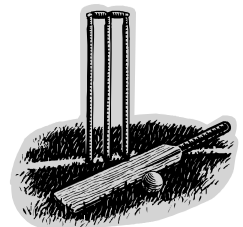
On Saturdays the 1<sup>st</sup> XI finished third in the Berkshire Cricket League Premier Division, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI finished a creditable fifth in Division 2 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI were Champions of Division 6 – a wonderful achievement capping off several years of hard work introducing a 3<sup>rd</sup> XI to offer more opportunities for youngsters to play competitive adult games. After 29 years in the Berkshire Cricket League, 2008 will see the Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs moving up to the Thames Valley League.

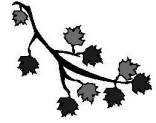
On Sundays, both the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI won their leagues – an outstanding achievement against some very stiff opposition.

From our growing number of Juniors (which at over 140, exceeded our wildest expectations) the Under 9s and Under 15s won their Berkshire Youth League divisions and the Under 11s came runners up. Added to this, the Under 15s winning the West Berkshire Serious Cricket Cup, and wins in several other festivals, it was an excellent year all round. We also ran a very successful Starters group (6 to 8 year olds) that was well attended every week.

If you are interested in participating – playing, coaching or helping behind the scenes – please get in touch with Martin Bishop 0118 945 3117.

Also, don't delay, as cricket continues year round with Adult indoor league competitions in the winter, and indoor nets and training for Juniors commencing in February.





# Purley Tots Autumn Fair

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October

2-4pm

St Mary's Church, Purley on Thames



All the usual stalls including a raffle, cake stall, tombola, refreshments, lucky dip and many more!

Please come along and support your local baby and toddler group.



## THE ORDER OF JACOB'S WELL CELTIC HEALING SERVICE

Morlias Room, St Michaels Church, Tilehurst

8pm, Wednesday 21 November

Everyone is welcome, please bring a friend

Refreshments available



## IS THERE A GRANT 4 YOU?

Thousands of pounds in funds are available in West Berkshire to support local voluntary and community groups, from government, lottery and trust funding sources. To find out which grants your group may be eligible to apply for, visit our free search facility.

**Step 1** Go to [www.open4community.info/cawb](http://www.open4community.info/cawb)

**Step 2** Browse for general information or use the quick and simple search facility

**Step 3** For further information and advice, contact CAWB on 01635 523861

## MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

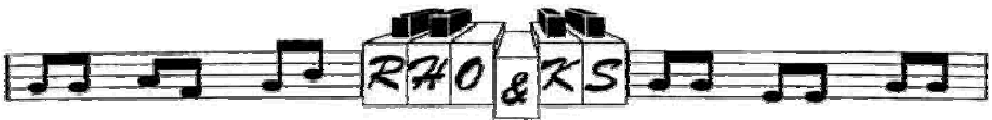
Even though foot and mouth and now blue tongue disease are causing major concern, the farming world seems far more content. A long warm dry spell lifts the morale no end and most have caught up with their work.

Prices for most commodities are rising. The exception of course being meat as a lack of markets fails to give a competitive base rate and no exporting creates a surplus of certain cuts. However at a time when we are busy calving (plenty of calves to be seen at our Autumn round of visits) it is a relief to see the price of milk at last reaching levels which will show a profit. Mind you, the article in the *Torygraph* this week by Harry Wallop their Consumer Affairs Correspondent, in which he lists the price of a pint of milk in different Supermarkets, then states that Marks and Spencer's has raised the amount it is paying to farmers from 24 to 28p. Quite correct, save for the fact that he omitted to say that is per litre, not pint. 28 pence/litre = 16 pence/pint. Needless to say, my phone call to the paper fell on death ears, but I had to make the point!

You would also think that all the arable boys would be happy as most cereals have almost doubled in price. For some it will mean a large increase in profit, but... The older generation of farmers (I wrote that down 4 times and it still doesn't read very p.c.!) would only sell what they have in the barn. However the modern way is to grow and sell on contracts. This year, because of the bad weather, malting barley varieties have failed to meet malting standards, with milling wheat doing the same. The difference between the feed price and the premium price has to be made up by the farmer as the purchaser has to go out onto the open market to fulfil the contract. It has left many farmers actually receiving invoices for the make up – sometimes running into thousands of pounds.

Last winter a forward price for malting barley touched £110/tonne briefly before falling back. Many contracts were taken out below the £100 mark. Today a good sample is trading at £210/tonne. This year it has proven to be a mugs game to sell forward. I wouldn't have been tempted, would I???

*Tim Metcalfe*



## READING HOME ORGAN & KEYBOARD SOCIETY

Our next concert is on 9 October 2007 at 8pm at Tidmarsh Village Hall, Pangbourne Road, Reading RG8 8ES. Our guest artist is Sarah Foley, an up and coming young lady on the circuit, playing her Yamaha EL700. Her programme will be a mixture of light music to be enjoyed by all.

Entrance fee is £5.50 including refreshments for visitors, or £3.50 for members.

Further information from Molly West on Reading 942 7062

# PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## LATE SUMMER SHOW

This was held in Purley Memorial Hall on Saturday, 8 September and was very successful with 255 entries (the most we have ever had). The judges remarked on the high standard of the entries. A large number of visitors came along to view the exhibits and I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to making the Show such a success. Mr. John Devine (Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee and also a Parish Councillor) presented the trophies, etc. to the following winners:



Mr G. Chapman	The Banksian Medal & the Reg Ayers Memorial Trophy
Mr R. Stuart	P.H.S. Perpetual Challenge Cup, Purley Home & Garden Bowl & Fairfoull Trophy
Mrs A. Thomson	Purley Women's Institute Cup & Neil Buckle Trophy
Rev R. Howell	Purley Homecraft Salver
Mrs Fairfoull	Frankston Vase
Ben Cook/Jamie Labrosse	Golden Jubilee Cup

## TALKS

There will be a talk in Purley Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 17 October at 8pm by Sue Robinson of Hillier's on Orchids (see separate notice for more details). This should be a very interesting talk, so please come along and support the Society.

## TRADING

The Shed in the Purley Memorial Hall car park is open from 10am to 11am on Saturdays and Sundays, but will close for the winter months on Sunday, 28 October, re-opening at the beginning of February. We have winter bulbs in stock, bird food, bird boxes and tables, so please make sure you have ample food for the birds during the winter months. Please support the Society and help boost our trading figures.

I hope you have all enjoyed our late summer sunshine and are not too disappointed with your gardening results due to the wet weather in June and July.

*Marion Dabbs*  
942 2349

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## PROJECT PURLEY

The October meeting will take place at the Barn, Goosecroft Lane, off Beech Road on Friday, 19 October commencing at 8pm. The speaker will be Ben Viljoen who will be talking about Purley Hall.

## STORY SACKS ACTIVITIES

Denefield Day Nursery, Denefield School

A story-time books and activities loan scheme, for families with under 5s, 9.15-10.15am every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday starting this month. Simply turn up or call for details!



## INTERNET SAFETY

30 October 2007, 7-8pm at Denefield School.

Do you know what your children get up to on the Internet? Many children have PCs in their bedroom and even perfectly innocent activities can leave them exposed to exploitation. Come along to a free talk by Digital Parents to find out more. Booking is essential so please register with Sue Guy now!

## READING ATHLETIC CLUB

Does your child enjoy athletics? Join Reading Athletic Club coaches for free regular multi-skills sessions for the under 11s at Denefield School. One hour on Mondays from 1 October 2007 from 3.45pm. There will be opportunities to join other athletes for events at Palmer Park Stadium in Reading. Register your interest with Sue Guy now.

Forthcoming Inspire4Life events can be found on the Inspire4Life website at [www.inspire4life.org.uk](http://www.inspire4life.org.uk) and often on the Purley Parish Council notice boards. Don't forget to register your attendance to avoid disappointment as places are often limited! If you have any questions or suggestions for future activities, please contact Sue Guy

Sue Guy  
0118 941 3458 x8978  
[sguy@denefield.org.uk](mailto:sguy@denefield.org.uk)



## FREE BEGINNERS COMPUTER SESSIONS!

Anyone over 60 interested in *Silver Surfers* free computer sessions for beginners at Denefield School is invited to register their interest now. These sessions are being offered free, thanks to a grant of almost £10,000 from the Awards for All Lottery Fund.

Several 6-week courses will be running and transport can be provided. A waiting list will be in operation for future sessions.

To book a place on the first course, which starts at 10am on Thursday 1 November, contact Sue Guy now.



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through Awards for All



## DENEFIELD DAY NURSERY OPEN DAY!

Tuesday 9 October from 10am-noon and 2-4pm.

Join in some exciting art and craft activities and see how the nursery operates!

Spaces available for children aged 3 months to 5 years.

Please call for further details.

*Denefield Day Nursery*  
*nursery@denefield.org.uk*  
*0118 972 8970*  
*Ofsted Registration: 955591*

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## PURLEY PATHFINDERS A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

### HURLEY & MARLOW

Continuing our theme of *Following Footsteps*, we began the autumn term with a walk between two of the oldest settlements on the Thames, Hurley and Marlow – plenty of footsteps to follow there!

We took time to look at St Mary's Church, sited where a church has stood in Hurley since 633AD, before heading for the River Thames, led by a green woodpecker. We enjoyed a wonderful walk with the sunshine illuminating the early autumn colours of the trees, reflected in the glassy surface of the water. Soon, across the water we spotted Bisham Abbey where many famous footsteps tread, being now owned by the National Sports Council. As we approached Marlow we had to agree with Jerome K Jerome who, upon staying here, remarked that Marlow was a place where "the river itself is at its best". As we neared the striking bridge, and the church with its prominent steeple, the river became a hive of activity as people enjoyed the surroundings either from the bank, or from the decks of boats. We headed for The George & Dragon where coffee had been prepared in readiness for our break.

Marlow is associated with many *famous footsteps* for it was here that Percy & Mary Shelley lived, as did T S Eliot. However, we continued our walk passing a bronze statue of one of Marlow's present day heroes, Sir Steve Redgrave, who started his rowing career at Great Marlow School. We were grateful of the shady paths on our return route, but eventually we emerged back into the sunshine by the river. We paused on Temple Bridge, the longest hardwood bridge in Britain, and enjoyed the lovely scene of the boats at Temple Lock, and in the marina nearby. We continued to Hurley Lock, another of Jerome's favourite spots along the Thames, and back to Hurley Village with its famous Dovecote which, with 750 nest boxes, would have provided the monks with plenty of meat and eggs in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Our beautiful walk ended with lunch provided by the new owners of the Rising Sun.



## THE BASILDONS

We were back by the Thames for our next walk as we walked beneath the willows from Pangbourne to Lower Basildon, following the footsteps of the creatures in Kenneth Grahame's famous story, *The Wind in the Willows*. Although living in Cookham Dene when his book was first published, he was living in Pangbourne when E H Shepard illustrated the new edition with creatures and scenery, which we associate with the story today. The river looked stunning as it duplicated the beauty of the surrounding trees upon its surface. How we all wished we could paint!! We kept our eyes open for signs of Grahame's characters, and, would you believe it – a little water vole crossed our path and stood politely at the side while we admired this *Ratty*. Farther on we saw evidence of Mole's presence on the riverbank, while more *River-bankers* in the form of ducks, grebes and swans floated by.

On reaching Beale Park we left the river to walk beside the park's lakes to find the newly created Nature Trail. This proved a delight on this September day as thoughtful planting had created avenues of jewel-bright berried and fruited trees and bushes in abundance – fabulous! Beside the wall of Basildon House we climbed to Upper Basildon. Here in the woodland we found Badger's home. It must have been quite a trek for Ratty and Mole on that snowy night when they set out from the riverbank to visit their friend in the wood! After walking through the village, we were met with the strange sight of a young man standing in a field, holding a French Horn. We crossed the field towards him and discovered that he was kindly saving his neighbour's ears by practising for a London orchestra in the field away from the houses. How considerate! Not only that, he gave us a tune to send us on our way down the wooded hillside to reach the river once more.

**...he was kindly saving his neighbour's ears by practising...**

**...in the field away from the houses.**

After a short walk into Pangbourne we headed for Church Cottage, home to Kenneth Grahame from 1924 until his death in 1932. His wife, Elspeth, remained in the cottage for a further 10 years. Present owner, Liz White, had kindly agreed to let us picnic in the



garden. We sat in the sunshine and looked at photos of the cottage at the time Grahame purchased it – little changed except for a rear extension. There was even a picture of him standing by the French Doors looking exactly as they do today. After exploring round the garden, which holds the interesting 16<sup>th</sup> century Lock Up in which drunks would have been *hung over* a rail until they sobered up, we left through the little gate feeling we had well and truly *followed in Kenneth Grahame's footsteps*.

Between now and the next magazine issue we will continue to enjoy the beauty of the approaching autumn as we walk in countryside inspirational to Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber and Richard Adams at Ladle Hill. Then along the Thames at Shiplake to follow footsteps of TV chef, Antony Worrell Thompson, and Lord Tennyson, before passing the home of actor Simon Williams at Bix. Then we will be off on our Autumn-time Special to Blenheim Palace to walk in the footsteps of one of the greatest Britons of all time, Sir Winston Churchill.

If any ladies would like to join us on weekday mornings for our walks of between 4 and 7 miles, then do give me a ring or e-mail via our website, [www.purleypathfinders.co.uk](http://www.purleypathfinders.co.uk).

*Nicki Woodward*  
*nicki@cherryacre.com – 984 2112*

# **GARDEN TALKS IN PURLEY**

## **Purley Horticultural Society**

Have secured Gwen Barton to give a talk on

**Wednesday 21 November at 8pm**

### **THE EXOTIC SIDE OF BRAZIL**

Gwen, who has given talks to the Society before, is returning to give her impressions of her visit to Brazil.

Gwen has travelled to many of the third world countries - Gambia, Jordan, Sierra Leone and Tanzania - to name a few. Her main interests are in the wildlife and natural flora of these countries. Gwen is also involved in volunteer service and has worked in Jordan with the Schools for the Deaf. A thespian at heart – and this will be revealed at her talk – Gwen has performed in front of royalty, the King of Jordan! This promises to be an entertaining talk!

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

**All residents of Purley and Neighbouring Parishes are welcome**

## **PURLEY WI**

Despite a miserable and wet summer, the Horticultural Show was well presented and extremely colourful and our own members were happy with their results.

Looking back over the summer, we don't meet in August but we do gather in a member's garden for a fish and chip supper for which we are always grateful. The more energetic members had a walk along the river to give themselves an appetite.

For some years now, we have also had a garden party and this year's theme was *A Mad Hatter's Tea Party*. Hats were very inventive, to say nothing of the cabaret from four very courageous or daring flaunting *oldies* (or ladies of the night) whose outfits and legs were appreciated, or did they just stun us?? Thanks to Edna Bint (what would we do without her) who accompanied and directed us through this hopeless farce.

This month's speaker was Mrs Julia Freeman on the Life of a Wimbledon Umpire. For the tennis and Wimbledon fanatics this truly was the icing on the cake for us. Being interested in the game, she became aware of a training scheme, and with the approval of her family, made the effort and won through. This lady, who is fairly local, is still an active umpire and gave us a colourful image of behind the courts. Training for her was intense and thorough and, while on court during a match, the linesmen's decisions are monitored and valued and hers are always highly rated. Before Wimbledon starts, they are given a handbook with questions and answers that may come from an enquiring public, such as where are car parks, toilets, food areas and where can they purchase second hand

tennis balls? Would you believe they are also given a booklet on how to wear their uniforms; they are instructed on how high a shirtsleeve can be worn. Last year in woollen blazers they were too hot and this year the blazers were thinner and they were frozen.

Mrs Freeman unfortunately lost her husband as a result of an accident and, after a while, this gap was filled by flying all over the world to continue her umpiring with visits to Helsinki, Stockholm, Barcelona and New Zealand.

At Wimbledon, this lady is held in high esteem, as shown by the high marks and grades she has achieved. Imagine how thrilled she was when a friend in the USA sent her a newspaper cutting of Agassi winning a championship and the photograph showed her in the background – the newspaper was the New York Times and they were on the front page. It has got to be LOVE ALL.

## **COMPETITIONS**

Decorated Tennis Ball    1<sup>st</sup> Sylvia Conquest  
   2<sup>nd</sup> Dorothy Viljoen  
   3<sup>rd</sup> Shirley Lewis

Flower of the Month    1<sup>st</sup> Pamela James

Next month's speaker will be Mr Nigel Glover-Wright with *Talks on the Wild Side*. The competition will be a wildlife photograph and there will be a White Elephant Stall.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10 October at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley on Thames commencing at 7.30pm.

Visitors are always most welcome.

*Sylvia Conquest*  
941 1936

## **SCARECROWS**

Pangbourne Scarecrow Trail will kick off on Friday 12 October at 6pm with children's scarecrow story-time in St James the Less with Rev John Staples followed by the opening of the trail at 6.30pm. There will also be charity stalls on the street along with some of the independent shops staying open late. The scarecrows will all have been made by charity and community groups from within the village will stay in place until 26 October. There will be trail entry forms available at £2 each and prizes to be won for a lucky winner who correctly guesses which cartoon or nursery rhyme character each scarecrow depicts. All proceeds will go to Pangbourne Primary School and the event is being sponsored by Pangbourne Business Forum.

## **COULD YOU BE A SUB-EDITOR?**

My *day job* keeps sending me away from home at the moment, which can make it difficult to prepare the Purley Parish News on time. If anyone is interested in editing this magazine on an occasional basis, please contact me.

*Matt Slingsby*

To Raise Funds, Purley Pre-School and Purley C. of E.  
Infant School are holding a

# Ladies' **SHOPPING** Night



**Jewellery  
Craft Stall**

**Pyjamas**

**Pampered Chef**

**Phoenix Cards**

**Candles, Soaps**

**The Book People**

**Hand Made Cards**

**Girlie Gardening**

**Virgin Vie, Chocoholics**

**Jams and Pickles**

at St Mary's Church

Purley on Thames

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October

7.45 p.m. to 9.45 p.m.

**Refreshments  
and raffle. Tickets  
£2.00 including a  
free raffle ticket.**

**Available from  
Pre-School, Purley  
Infants or by  
calling Joan on  
0118 9433812**

## **CLOSE YOUR EYES AND GO BACK IN TIME...**

Before the internet... Before political correctness...

Before semi automatics, joyriders, and crack...

Before SEGA or Super Nintendo...

Way back...

I'm talking about Hide and Seek in the park. The corner shop.

Hopscotch. Butterscotch. Skipping. Handstands.

Football with an old can. Fingerbob.

Beano, Dandy, Buster, Twinkle and Dennis the Menace.

Roly Poly. Hula Hoops, jumping the stream, building dams.

The smell of the sun and fresh cut grass. Bazooka Joe bubble gum.

An ice cream cone on a warm summer night from the van that plays a tune.  
Chocolate or Vanilla or Strawberry, or maybe Neopolitan or perhaps Screwball.

Wait...

Watching Saturday morning cartoons, short commercials or the flicks.

Children's Film Foundation, The Double Deckers, Red Had Gang,

Tomorrow People, Tiswas or Swapshop, and "Why Don't You?" -

or staying up for Doctor Who.

When around the corner seemed far away and going into town seemed like  
going somewhere.

Earwigs, wasps, stinging nettles and bee stings. Sticky fingers.  
Playing marbles. Ball bearings. Big 'uns and Little 'uns.  
Cops and Robbers, Cowboys and Indians, and Zorro.  
Climbing trees. Making igloos out of snow banks.  
Walking to school, no matter what the weather.  
Running till you were out of breath, laughing so hard your stomach hurt.  
Jumping on the bed. Pillow fights.  
Spinning around on roundabouts, getting dizzy and falling down was  
cause for giggles.  
Being tired from playing... remember that?  
The worst embarrassment was being picked last for a team.  
Water balloons were the ultimate weapon.  
Football cards in the spokes transformed any bike into a motorcycle.  
Choppers and Grifters.  
Eating raw jelly. Orange squash ice pops. Vimto and Jubbly lollies.

Remember when...

There were three types of trainers – boys, girls and Dunlop Green Flash.  
The only time you wore them at school was for PE and  
They were called gym shoes, or if you are older – plimsoles!  
You knew everyone in your street – and so did your parents.  
It wasn't odd to have two or three "best" friends.  
You didn't sleep a wink on Christmas Eve.  
When nobody owned a pure-bred dog.  
When 25p was decent pocket money.  
Curly Whirllys. Space Dust. Toffos. Top Trumps.  
When you'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny.  
When any parent could discipline any kid, or feed him or use him to  
carry groceries and nobody, not even the kid, thought a thing about it.  
When being sent to the Head's office was nothing compared to the fate  
that awaited a misbehaving pupil at home.  
Basically, we were in fear for our lives but it wasn't because of  
drive-by shootings, drugs, gangs etc.

Remember when...

Decisions were made by going "Ip, Dip, Dog S\*\*t"  
Race issue meant arguing about who ran the fastest.  
Money issues were handled by whoever was the banker in Monopoly.  
The worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was germs,  
and the worst thing in your day was having to sit next to one.  
It was unbelievable that "British Bulldog 123" wasn't an Olympic event.  
Having a weapon in school meant being caught with a catapult.  
Nobody was prettier than Mum.  
Scrapes and bruises were kissed and made better.  
Taking drugs meant orange-flavoured chewable aspirins.  
Ice cream was considered a basic food group.  
Getting a foot of snow was a dream come true.  
Older siblings were the worst tormentors, but also the fiercest protectors.

If you can remember most or all of these, then you have LIVED.



- Tue 6 Nov Copping Paices Wood**  
Come along and help us to coppice hazel in a new area of the beautiful woodland. Meet 10am at Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Young's Industrial Estate) Grid ref: SU 586 638
- Sun 11 Nov Heathland Management Bucklebury Common**  
For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (Grid ref. SU 550 688) at 10am. Contact Tim Culley for more details on 0118 971 4830.
- Tue 13 Nov Copping Apple Pie Farm Aldworth**  
Come along and help to coppice a hedgerow at Apple Pie Farm Aldworth. Meet at the farm SU:541 795.
- Fri 16 Nov 7pm Quiz Evening Bradfield Southend Village Hall**  
Are you a Brain of Britain? (Well West Berkshire anyway) Come and test your general knowledge and have an enjoyable evening and pit your wits against other teams at the 'Friends' Quiz evening. Quiz Master Mary Platt. Tickets £10 per person to include supper, please bring your own drinks and glasses. There will be a raffle and prizes for the winning team. Supper at 7pm; quiz to start at 8pm. Tickets available from Project Office 0118 930 5336. Please book early, as places are limited.
- Tue 20 Nov 10.30am Exploring Fisherman's Lane Aldermaston Village**  
Meet opposite Aldermaston Church (SU596 650) in Church Road where there is a reasonable amount of parking space alongside the road. Car sharing where possible would be helpful. A 3-mile walk lead by Ray Clayton down to and along Fisherman's Lane towards Padworth, returning up Raghill and past an attractive pond (could be boggy here). Some interesting trees along the way, particularly those with sporting connections. There are some stiles and a small stretch of road. Dogs on leads only please. Book your place by phoning 0118 930 5336
- Tue 27 Nov Scrub Management Welford Estate Lambourn Easton Meadows SSSI**  
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 SU418 723
- Tue 4 Dec Hedge planting The Malt House, West Woodhay**  
Come and enjoy the hospitality of the owners and contribute to your local environment by helping to plant up new hedgerows in this delightful corner of the NWD AONB. Refreshments provided. Meet at 10am The Malt House SU396 638.
- Thu 6 Dec Hedgerow Restoration Marsh Meadows**  
Come along and help to coppice hedgerow trees. Meet outside the Co-op on Hartshill Road at 10am. Grid ref: SU525 680).
- Sat 8 Dec Heathland Management Bucklebury Common**  
For all tasks meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common (Grid ref. SU 550 688) at 10am. Contact Tim Culley for more details on 0118 971 4830.
- Wed 19 Dec Copping Paices Wood**  
Come along and help the Reading CROW group coppice sweet chestnut in a new area of this beautiful woodland. Meet 10am at Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Young's Industrial Estate) Grid ref: SU 586 638
- Tue 8 Jan Copping Paices Wood**  
Come along and help to maintain the character of the amphibian area by coppicing willow and birch scrub in and around the numerous wet ditches and scrapes. Meet 10am at Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Young's Industrial Estate) Grid ref: SU586 638.