

# PURLEY PARISH NEWS

*That you may walk worthy of the Lord*

*Fully pleasing Him*

*Being fruitful in every good work*

*Increasing in the knowledge of God.*

**Colossians 1:10**



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



# St Mary the Virgin

## Purley on Thames

www.stmaryspurley.org.uk

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

**Comments and opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the PCC of St Mary's Church, Purley on Thames – publishers of Purley Parish News – nor is any endorsement of the products and services of our advertisers implied by their inclusion.**

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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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<b>NEXT EDITION COPY DEADLINE</b>	19 APRIL
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## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is time to say farewell, as at the end of this month my wife and I will be moving away from Purley to our new home in Witney, Oxfordshire, following my retirement. Over the last seventeen years, I have got to know a lot of different people from the many organisations in the community.

I was first ordained in 1967 at Southwark Cathedral and then began a curacy at St Saviour's Church, Battersea Park in South London. In 1971, we moved down to Crawley New Town, near Gatwick Airport where we stayed until 1976. One morning there was a letter on the doormat asking if I would be interested in taking on a parish in West Cornwall. We duly paid a visit to Pendeen (7 miles from Land's End) in June – to be greeted by a dense sea fog and the booming sound of the foghorn at the lighthouse emitting its warning every twenty seconds! We asked someone about the Vicarage there and they said it had been modernised – "It has running water!"

When we eventually saw the house, we needed a wide-angle lens to take in the view – from the front door to the kitchen door it was 50 feet down a long dark corridor! The house had great potential provided you had a great deal of money to put it into good order. The recent gales reminded us of the annual storms we experienced there. One year we were awakened in the middle of the night by the tremendous noise of the wind. We could hear the slates being ripped off the roof and could see bright blue flashes outside as the torrential rain and hurricane-force winds battered the village. In the morning, we went outside to survey the damage and saw what looked like a bombsite. About 25 feet of our roof was missing and it stayed like that (covered by a temporary sheet) for 11 weeks! The locals used the cut turf from the front garden and put over plastic bags on the broken roof ("riffles") to keep the water out. Sometimes they would stay there for weeks and then people would talk about mowing the roof as well as the front lawn!

In 1981, we left Cornwall and moved up to Aylesbury where we stayed for ten years – working with a modern church on what was then the largest private housing estate in Europe, we were told. In 1991, it was time to move on and the Bishop of Reading asked me to look at the parish of Purley – the only Purley I was aware of was the one in Surrey, but we found our way here and settled down – just the two of us as we left our two children behind in Aylesbury to continue their studies and work.

It is now nearly 41 years since I processed around Southwark Cathedral and it is time to be "put out to grass".

No doubt I shall miss the work, but we look forward to a good rest to begin with, and then there will probably be calls to help out in some of the churches of West Oxfordshire. As I look back, all sorts of thoughts are in mind:

- the rapid passage of time
- many things that have not been accomplished, or not completed

- the utter faithfulness of God in supplying our needs over the years
- thankfulness for the privilege of being involved with people – often at difficult times – and seeing how the Lord has changed their lives

Many other thoughts are there too but time and space are running out. Our last Sunday is 20 April and I shall look forward to meeting as many as can be present at one of the services then.

*Roger Howell*

## PARISH REGISTERS

### BAPTISM

24 February Sarah Katherine Annabel Hewett

### FUNERAL

20 March Roland Dent (aged 88 years)

## CHURCH SERVICES

6 April	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion
13 April	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
20 April	10.30am	Family Communion
	6.00pm	Evening Worship
27 April	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
4 May	9.30am	Family Worship
	11.15am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Holy Communion

## VILLAGE WALK – SUNDAY 27 APRIL

### AN EVENT FOR ALL THE COMMUNITY

Savour the beauty of our village in honour of St George

WALK ONE: 2 hours (slight hill) starts 2pm (meet by 1.45pm)

WALK TWO: 1 hour (level) starts 3pm (meet by 2.45pm)

From St Mary's Church, Purley

Afterwards meet together for Soup & Cake  
(nominal charge for refreshments)

Register your interest with Nicki Woodward 9842112

# PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



## TALKS

On Wednesday, 19 March Mr Bob Aggiss gave a very interesting talk and slide show on Hanging Baskets and containers. The wonderful display of flowers in his garden must give a great deal of pleasure to his neighbours as well as himself. We were all saddened to hear later in the evening that David Penny has died. David has given us some very interesting talks in the past and in recent times has judged our Spring Show.

## SPRING SHOW

This will take place on Saturday, 5 April in Purley Memorial Hall and will be open to the public from 2.30pm until 4pm. Tea and biscuits will be available. Even if you are unable to enter, please try and come along to support the participants.

## TRADING STORE

The Store is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 11am. Membership of the Society is only £1.50. We stock peat free compost, bird food, tables and feeders, including most of your garden requirements. Savings can also be made on purchases at various garden centres (see list in trading store.) Please come along to the store and see what we stock.

We now have a web page on the Purley on Thames Parish Council site: [www.purleyonthames.net](http://www.purleyonthames.net). Look at the online notice board or Purley Groups. The minutes of the A.G.M. are also on this website.

## PLANT SALE

This will be held on Saturday, 10 May in the Purley Memorial Hall Car Park starting at 9.30am until 11am (approx,). Bedding plants and various other plants will be available. Please try and come along and support the Society as this helps us financially. Your friends are also welcome to visit the sale.

I hope you have a successful gardening season.

*Marion Dabbs*  
942 2349

# CHAMPION'S CHALLENGE!

## St Mary's Church Holiday Club 11-15 August 2008

9.30am-1.30pm each day  
Cost £30 for the week

Open to all Primary School aged  
children

Further details from:  
Anna Saverton (942 8351) or Sally Robertson (962 5978)

# LETTERS

Dear Council,

I am writing to complain about a certain dog-owner who allows his/her animal to foul the footpath in Brading Way, Purley, on a daily basis. I do not know who it is, or which dog, as I mostly work nights and am therefore not out and about early enough to view the culprit. But I'm sure it must be only 1 dog and owner as most people in Purley keep their pets responsibly. Also most residents drive cars to work and so would be unaware of this daily mess unless walking round to the bus stop in Chestnut Grove (as I do). It occurs fresh daily between The Short (exit) and end of Brading Way all along the footpath (which is quite narrow anyway), and I feel quite sorry for elderly people or anyone coming home in the dark, having to walk through it or step into the road to avoid it.

Could a dog warden do anything?

If you cannot do anything to help, do you know to whom else I should report this nuisance (and health hazard).

*B. Morris*

I am much too young to be labelled a gumpy old man, being in the prime of life mid-seventies, but banging on again about value for money gives me some concern that I may be heading that way.

Value for money. Whilst realising that this will be the last year that the iniquitous TV licence form will drop through my letterbox, and that criticising the BBC is taking on an easy target, why, oh why, do they have to air BBC 3 and BBC 4? Perhaps they'll disband them to help pay for the new Formula 1 franchise that will operate next year.

Looking at the Easter Saturday TV schedules on those two channels, what do we see? On BBC 3, other than a short break after midnight, you'll see that from 9.05pm to 4.15am on Sunday morning, there is a continuing series of *The Mighty Boosh*, whatever that may be BBC 4 is little better. From 9.35pm to 3.55am we have two programmes alternating; "Madmen" which is about advertising, and programmes about the advertising industry. Wow!

Hands up anyone who watched either channel that evening.

*Warren Page*



West Berkshire Capacity Builders

## Supporting Community Groups

A day conference where you can discover and experience the wide range of support and assistance available for voluntary organisations and community groups.

### Already involved in a voluntary or community group?

Come and find out how we can help you do it better and more easily.

### Thinking about starting something new in your community?

Come and find out how easy it can be.

**Keynote addresses** from local and national speakers  
**Workshops** **Question Time**

**Saturday June 7 2008 10am - 3.30pm**

Newbury College, Monks Lane, Newbury, RG14 7TD

Visit [www.ba4all.org.uk](http://www.ba4all.org.uk) for a booking form or contact the CAWB office on 01635 523861



Volunteer Centre



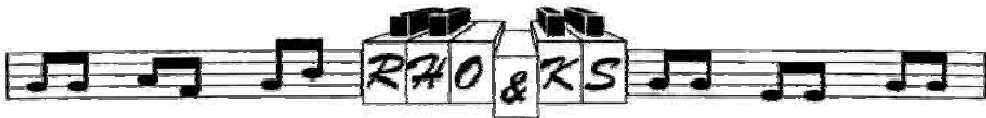
West Berkshire



**CAWB**

West Berkshire Neurological Alliance

WEST BERKSHIRE DISABILITY ALLIANCE



## READING HOME ORGAN & KEYBOARD SOCIETY

Our next concert is on Tuesday 8 April 2008 at Tidmarsh Village Hall, Pangbourne Road, Reading RG8 8ES at 8pm.

Our guest artist this month is the well-known Tony Stace, playing his Yamaha HX1. He is a great performer and always gives a wonderful evening of music and laughter. Our entrance fees are now £6.50 for guests and £4.25 for members. Any further information can be obtained from Secretary Molly West on 942 7062.

## PROJECT PURLEY

Martin Bishop, Chairman of Purley Cricket Club, played one of the longest innings of his career when he spoke to members of Project Purley about *Bats, Balls and Biscuits* at The Barn on Friday, 14 March. He forecast his talk would last only about thirty minutes. Instead, it began at 8pm and did not end until 9.30pm. Not that anyone in the audience of twenty-four members and many more guests minded, because Martin's talk was a classic. It was delivered clearly and precisely in easy to follow chronological detail and beautifully illustrated with some ancient yet clear prints, maps and photographs. Moreover, and in true classical style, our speaker kept us waiting until the very end of his presentation before disclosing the relevance of it all to Purley on Thames.

Martin began by summarising the history of Huntley & Palmers Biscuit factory. In 1822, Joseph Huntley opened a small baker's shop in London Street. By 1826, the shop had extended to employing sixteen staff and his son, Joseph junior, had founded Huntley, Boorne & Stevens, which produced amongst other items, tins for biscuits. Biscuits could be kept much fresher in tins and were sold not only to local residents, but also to those travelling through Reading by coach.

In 1841, George Palmer joined the company, and as Reading became linked to London and the West Country, demand for biscuit production increased. So much so, that the company moved to a new 24 acre site in Kings Road. In keeping with the Quaker ethic of its owners, the company provided educational and recreational opportunities for its employees, the main intention being to keep them out of public houses. There was an Excursion Fund, which paid for river trips and visits to exhibitions, a Reading Room Library was built inside the factory, and the employees received several Royal visits, as the firm held the Royal Warrant for supplying biscuits.

Employment conditions were, however, generally poor despite the company employing, by 1898, over 5000 people, which represented ten per cent of Reading's adult population. Pay was £1 a week, plus one pound weight of

biscuits and working hours from 6am until 6.30pm. There was no canteen and only seven and a half days holiday a year. It was only after World War I that the statutory 48-hour working week was introduced for employees. None of this militated against the success of Huntley & Palmers though, for by the early 1900s their biscuits were being sold to 137 countries and, during the First World War, H & P's biscuits became the staple diet of the British Army.

From 1870 through to the 1970s, when biscuit production finally ceased, Reading was known as *The Biscuit Town*, and the local football team, Reading F.C., which played in the Football League, was nicknamed *The Biscuit Boys* or *Biscuitmen*. The factory's recreation department was increasing in size too, offering football, cricket, tennis, bowls and quoits to its employees as well as a drama section, and it was the mention of this expansion of activities, which provided Martin with the link to concentrate on the history of cricket at the biscuit factory.

The first record of cricket being played was in 1855 when the Single Men beat the Married Men at Henley following a steamer trip along the Thames. The Reading Biscuit Factory team next played matches against local schools, mostly on Saturday afternoons, and although there was no evidence of formal league cricket, evenings would often be given over to inter-departmental games. By 1883, the factory was running A and B teams, and in 1886, Reading Biscuit Factory C.C. defeated Reading Wanderers C.C. in the final of the Reading Town Cup.

Factory home games were played at King's Meadow, a venue shared with Reading Football Club, and teams included management as well as shop floor workers. A fixture list from 1888 shows cricket on a more formalised basis and in 1891, when George Palmer donated Palmer Park to the town, the factory cricket club played a major part in the celebration event. In 1898 when the Recreation Club was formed, the cricket club became a sub-section, and now ran four men's and one junior team. In addition, there were twenty departmental teams.

The Kensington Road ground had been leased in 1885 by Mr Jesse, a local builder and benefactor, to Berkshire County Cricket Club, but was sold in 1902 to W. H. Palmer, and the venue renamed Reading & District Amateur Sports Club catering for a variety of activities. In 1919, Palmer transferred the lease to the Biscuit Factory Reaction Club, and the ground became the new home, together with its splendid pavilion, for the cricket and football teams. On 21 July 1923, Reading Biscuit Factory C.C. entertained the M.C.C. at Kensington Road and, by 1939, the club was fielding five teams as well as an occasional Ladies XI. The facilities were far superior to those at King's Meadow, which was vulnerable to flooding, though the lower sides still played there occasionally. But following World War Two, Huntley & Palmers Cricket Club, as it was now known, could field only one eleven, and by the 1960s, all activity was centred on Kensington Road. Sunday cricket as well as Saturday was being played, helped by the amalgamation of H & Ps with Huntley Boorne & Stevens to form Associated Biscuits Cricket Club.

By 1976, biscuit production at H & Ps had closed down and this heralded the demise of the ground and facilities at Kensington Road. The ground was sold in

1983 by Nabisco to Reading Town Council, who allowed Reading Cricket Club to play there in the interim whilst they sold their Church Road site before moving to Sonning. H & Ps still maintained a presence at the ground by virtue of their bowls club tucked away in one corner, but a further blow came with the destruction of the pavilion and much of the memorabilia contained therein when the building was gutted by fire.

Throughout Martin's long and fascinating talk, his listeners had been waiting, on alert for a mention of Purley on Thames. In the style of the romantic writer, Stendhal, who in his novel, *The Charterhouse of Parma*, does not disclose the reason for the title until the last sentence of the book, Martin finally explained the connection. In 1984 some members of Associated Biscuits C.C. were playing at Purley, and a year later in 1985, Associated Biscuits C.C. was fully amalgamated with Purley on Thames Cricket Club, playing home games at the beautiful ground in Goosecroft Lane.

Martin has written *Bats, Balls and Biscuits*, the history of cricket at the Reading Biscuit Factory, which will be published in April. I have seen the proofs and can highly recommend it. Copies will be available directly from Martin, whose telephone number is 945 3117, at a cost of £9 to include postage and packing. In addition, Purley on Thames C.C. celebrates its fortieth birthday this year with a special game against a Berkshire XI on Sunday, 27 July at Goosecroft Lane beginning at 2pm.

*David Downs*

The next meeting of Project Purley will take place in The Barn on Friday, 18 April at 8pm. Catherine Butcher will talk about *The Daughter of the Regiment*.

## **PURLEY PLAYERS**

Next production will be a farce  
written by Anne Gawthorpe & Lesley Brown

### **DON'T GET YOUR VICARS IN A TWIST**

at The Barn, Purley on Thames at 7.30pm  
on Friday 25 April and Saturday 26 April 2008  
Tickets £7 & £5 (concession) Tel: 0118 941 5244

See you there

## **HISTORY OF PURLEY PARK TRUST**

At St Mary's Evening Worship service at 6pm on 15 June there will be a talk on the History of Purley Park Trust by Manager Kim Facer. All are welcome.



## **PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE**

If you need help with transport, or know of anyone else who does, please call 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 JUBILEE FOOTBALL CLUB**

The Under-10 team playing in Hicks Division 2 won their league in dramatic style on the last day of the season. They started the day in second place, a point behind the league leaders. The league leaders could only manage a 2-2 draw in their match and Purley seized their opportunity with an emphatic and impressive 7-1 win to take the title.

The Under-8 team playing in Division 3 of the Hicks Development League also clinched promotion after remaining unbeaten throughout the season.

The Under-13 team are through to the South Chiltern Minor League cup final after a 3-1 win over Boyne Hill.

Still in the hunt for promotion are one of the other Under-10 teams playing in Hicks Division 5 and the Under-14 team playing in the East Berkshire division.

The Development Squad sessions for Reception and Year 1 children continue to run on a Sunday morning from 10-11am on the lower field at the recreation ground at Goosecroft Lane (off Beech Road). New players are always very welcome at these sessions.

If you would like to know more about playing football with Purley Jubilee, please ring Andy Perryman on 943 1047 or visit our website at [www.purleyjubilee.co.uk](http://www.purleyjubilee.co.uk).

## ***Pray for Purley***

The next prayer time is on 16 April at 10.30am at St. Mary's (coffee time!). Crèche facilities are available.

All are welcome - you don't have to be a member of St Mary's or even a regular churchgoer. 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; or you can hand prayer requests in at the Farmers' Market (in confidence or anonymously if preferred).

For future reference, the May meeting is on Friday 16 at 8pm (including fish & chips). For more information please contact either of us below:

Nan Craig	Tel: 942 8266	4 St Mary's Avenue	<a href="mailto:nan.craig@btinternet.com">nan.craig@btinternet.com</a>
Chris Rayers	Tel: 942 1880	9 Allison Gardens	<a href="mailto:c.rayers@talk21.com">c.rayers@talk21.com</a>

## PURLEY WI

12 March was our Annual General Meeting, and we welcomed Mrs Judy Palmer from the Berkshire Federation to share our evening, which was well attended. The President and Committee were duly elected; Margaret Martin, Treasurer, presented her accounts, which were accepted and passed; Dorothy Viljoen reminded us of the Institutes happenings throughout the year, and the excellent speakers we had enjoyed thanks to our Programme Secretary Lesley Honnor.

This was followed by the President's address, who was pleased with the general progress of the Institute throughout the year, and although we had lost a few members for various reasons we had also increased our membership, we had good attendances at meetings and events, and had particularly enjoyed the three annual garden events. Sybil Pryor hosting a Coffee Morning for the ACWW in April, in June Marilyn Hoare hosted a Cream Tea with entertainment by four of the "Girls" squeezing into 1960's gear for their version of Lilli Marlene, and in August Kath Hodge again allowed us to raid her garden for a Fish and Chip supper. With trips to Windsor, Denman, and in December Saville Gardens for Christmas crafts, an extremely full and eventful year.

Judy Palmer presented the awards for the Yearly competitions:

Flower of the month	Kath Devine
Monthly Competition	1 <sup>st</sup> Ann Davis
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kath Devine
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dorothy Viljoen and Wendy Chapman
Overall winner for the year	Ann Davis and Kath Devine

The draw for the Denman Bursary was made by Judy Palmer and was won by Jane Pike. The evening then concluded with a quick game of Beetle once you could throw a six...

Next meeting 9 April - *Interpreting Body Language* - visitors welcome. 7.30pm Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley.

Don't forget... next FARMERS' MARKET 12 April 2008.

*Daphne Howard*

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

Morlias Room, St Michael's Church, Tilehurst

8pm, Thursday 15 May

Everyone is welcome, please bring a friend

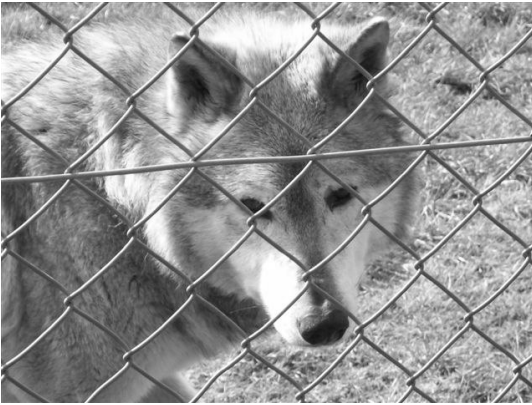
## PURLEY PATHFINDERS - A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

It's been a strange start to the year. Often we wonder which season we are walking in! For our final, official, snowdrop walk we met in Swyncombe to climb out of the hamlet along the Ridgeway, listening to the birdsong and watching the Red Kites. At the top of our climb, we paused to admire the lovely view. Working our way down past Swyncombe Downs we joined the Swanns Way, a modern long distance bridleway which leads from North Buckinghamshire to Goring. A mist attempted to obscure our view to Didcot and the tree-topped iron-age fort of Wittenham Clumps. Our route took us on several ancient tracks, and the next amused us being called Ladies Walk! In and out of woodland, we eventually arrived back at Swyncombe alongside the 13<sup>th</sup> century St Botolph's Church. Swyncombe currently has a population of just eight, but each Sunday the congregation, made up of people from various surrounding villages, numbers around thirty. The churchyard looked wonderful coated in a layer of snowdrops and aconites – a special sight on which to end our lovely walk.

For our first walk in March, we continued our 'Village Life' theme by meeting in Goring. Walking through the village, we joined the Thames Path to emerge alongside the powerful weirs. We crossed the bridge to enter the Streatley side of the Going Gap. We admired the lovely old cottages en route, with names such as Ichnield Cottage reminding us that we were walking on part of the historic Ichnield Way. Soon we were climbing through The Holies, owned by the National Trust, and a wonderland in Springtime as primroses and violets scramble up the banks. As we walked through a dell, the high bank beside us was smothered in bluebell shoots, and, on a day which had seen us admire snowdrops and crocuses in gardens in Goring, we now admired the first bluebells in flower – what is going on! We left the woodland to head for a clearing where we amused ourselves manoeuvring our way around the stone mazes. Leaving The Holies we entered Lardons Chase from where we gained a spectacular view along the Thames Valley and across to the Chiltern Hills. It took our breath away so it was just as well that our route was now downhill into Streatley and back to Goring for lunch in the welcoming Catherine Wheel.

Our next village was Beenham. Remains have been found showing that man has lived and hunted in the area since Neolithic times. Leaving the 16<sup>th</sup> century Butler's Farm we were soon peering over a hedge to share the lovely view over the Kennet Valley with a herd of cows with tiny, suckling calves. Walking through the churchyard of St Mary's Church, we wondered if its lofty position on top of the hillside had been the cause for it to be struck by lightning in 1794! We wandered down through woodland in which daffodils flowered, and little wood anemones peeped out from a mass of bluebell leaves and the odd bluebell flower. Down in the valley black lambs greeted us with their bleating. Back up the hillside, we gazed back over our route, with a good view of the church, before plunging once more into woodland. Our arrival at our next village, Upper Woolhampton, was heralded by the appearance of Douai Abbey. The main entrance and tower were constructed in 1888, and these still remain although the school buildings have given way to a housing development.

More green fields and bluebell-laden woodland eventually returned us to Butler's Farm, now home to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust. Here we were welcomed into the Visitor Centre with steaming mugs of tea. The Trust was started in 1995 by Roger Palmer, who initially owned a wolf as a 'pet'. His wife first encountered wolves as Roger's girlfriend when it was a case of "*love me, love my wolf!*"! Sadly Roger died in 2004, but not before his enthusiasm had rubbed off onto his wife. She has continued to run the Trust, helped by a large, enthusiastic band of volunteers. While we ate our picnics, she gave us an insight into the lives of wolves at the centre and throughout the world. Several slides enhanced the interesting presentation, and we were surprised that, even though the last wolf in the UK was shot in Scotland over 250 years ago, a map of the world showed vast shaded areas, signifying the presence of wolves in the wild throughout many parts of the world.



Childhood fairy tales have led to these wonderfully intelligent animals being much misunderstood. We were told there have been no reported incidences of wolves attacking humans, in fact, it is thought that on the rare occasion when someone sees a wolf in the wild, it has probably seen that person a hundred times first. They are basically afraid of humans and keep their distance. The wolves at the centre have been hand reared

from before their eyes open so they are comfortable with their keepers who regularly take them for walks in the woods! After the presentation, we were taken outside to where the nine wolves at the centre, in three packs, European, North American, and crossbred, enjoy their 2½-acre enclosures. Always on the lookout for an opportunity to prove their position within their pack, we watched with fascination as they interacted with each other. At the final enclosure, the keepers entered to show us how the wolves enjoyed the fuss given to them by the humans. Never taken for granted however, the keepers always remain aware of any signals given to them by the wolves to avoid confrontation – a good idea after being told that the bite of a wolf at 1500 psi is twice as powerful as that of a pit bull terrier, and four times that of a German Shepherd! After our interesting and informative tour, there was time to purchase some souvenirs from the shop before leaving with a better knowledge of these wonderful but much - misunderstood animals.

Our March walks continue the *Village* themed walks with plans to explore the countryside around Woodcote, Stonor, and Bradfield. Further details of the group can be found on the website: [www.purleypathfinders.co.uk](http://www.purleypathfinders.co.uk)

Nicki Woodward  
[nicki@cherryacre.com](mailto:nicki@cherryacre.com) – 984 2112

## GARDEN TRIPS FOR GARDENERS

### **SATURDAY 17 MAY 2008 EARLY SUMMER VISIT TO BOWOOD HOUSE AND GARDENS - RHODODENDRON WALKS**

*A spectacular stroll through breathtaking vistas of colour and beauty*

Bowood House, a Georgian stately house and family home, full of historical treasures which, combined, gives a unique charm felt by everyone who visits. While much has changed over time, the beauty of the house and gardens has not. Lying within Capability Brown's glorious parklands, Bowood House perfectly captures a bygone age.

Enjoy the peace of this very English scene; Bowood boasts parkland that has grown to encompass a woodland cascade, a pinetum and arboretum as well as the formality of flower-filled terraces.

Located 2 miles from Bowood House is a special woodland oasis covering over 60 acres and, at the time of our visit, the rhododendrons and azaleas should be at their spectacular best. Recently the rhododendron walks have been the subject of a most exciting and significant find – the discovery of a long lost Victorian garden that contained hardy hybrids dating back to the 1850s, when the garden was first planted. Many of these species originate direct from the Himalayas but were long believed to have been extinct.

This trip includes entrance to the House, Gardens and Rhododendron walks and a single course lunch in the Bowood Restaurant. Cost £22 per PHS member. Applications by Sunday 13 April.

### **THURSDAY 10 JULY 2008 HAMPTON COURT PALACE FLOWER SHOW**

*A Horticultural catwalk, a feast of grow-your-own delights at this most popular flower show*

At the height of summer, one of the world's most famous royal palaces plays host to the sumptuous Hampton Court Palace Flower Show. The Hampton Court Palace and surrounding parkland provide an idyllic setting for the world's largest horticultural show, where gardeners of Purley can see, smell and touch an abundance of floral delights.

This event features superb landscaped show and water gardens bursting with inspirational ideas for your garden, as well as, a spectacular range of flowers, plants and gardening accessories to browse and buy.

This RHS spectacle is the largest of its kind in the world. Enjoy around 50 inspiring display gardens including the tranquil water gardens, a unique category of this show, and the innovative conceptual gardens showcasing the next big names in garden design. From contemporary to traditional, there are plenty of design ideas to suit any garden lover.

Hundreds of the UK's best nurseries fill the floral marquees, Festival of Roses and Plant Heritage Marquee, and floral art, fruit and vegetables and floristry are also a major part of the show. Cost £36 per PHS member. Applications by Sunday 15 June.

## **TUESDAY 22 JULY 2008 TWO VERY SPECIAL GARDENS**

*The Peto Garden, Iford Manor, Near Bradford on Avon*

This award winning Grade I Italianate garden, famous for its tranquillity and beauty, was the home of Edwardian architect and landscape gardener, Harold Peto, from 1899-1933. Unique and romantic, he created the garden using his vast collection of architectural fragments on this steep sided wooded valley set beside the River Frome. Characterised by pools and terraces, statues, sculptures, evergreen planting and magnificent rural views, the garden also boasts a fine cloister and casita set among many plants of botanical interest. Iford garden was the winner of Historic Houses Association/Christie's Garden of the Year Award in 1998.

Iford Manor is mediaeval in origin, and has been occupied since Roman times; the classical facade being added in the eighteenth century when the hanging woodlands above the garden were planted. In 1899, Harold Ainsworth Peto discovered Iford and the individuality of the garden owes everything to his inspiration and eye for combining architecture and plants.

*Lady Farm Gardens, Chelwood*

"As the early morning mist rolls off a stony slope in the ten-acre Somerset garden of Lady Farm, a patchwork of low-growing, golden grasses is revealed, interspersed with the ghostly heads of thistle-like eryngiums, flat-topped yellow achilleas, silver leaved santolinas and early flowering kniphofias in flashy orange and red. Here and there, irises in purple and butterscotch brown complete the scene. The grasses are soft and romantic, and seem to spring naturally from the bite-sized pieces of South Cerney gravel mulch.

Like the rest of this remarkable garden, the slope has been imaginatively shaped and planted by the owner, Judy Pearce. She calls it her steppe garden and indeed it is characterised by low species that thrive in hot, dry summer temperatures and sub-zero winter ones. A formal garden round the house, a shady hosta walk with birch and hydrangeas, two lakes made from a stream and a new revine waterfall are all generously planted. In winter, the interest is structural; in summer, you are dazzled by the splashes of vibrant colour. "There is nothing quite like it, on this scale, in any other private garden in Britain" (The Times).

Both these gardens will open for our exclusive visit and the owners will give us a guided tour. Applications by Sunday 22 June.

Full details and application forms for all events are available in the PHS Trading store beside the Memorial Hall or you can print via [www.purleyonthames.net](http://www.purleyonthames.net) > Online Notice Board or Purley Groups and follow the links.

## **BED BASE FOR SALE**

Dreams double bed base: brand new, with matching headboard in Cream costing £170.00. For sale at £100 ono. Call 942 3088.

## **CALLING ALL ART & CRAFT SELLERS!**

### **OPEN STUDIOS @ DENEFIELD SCHOOL**

#### **ART & CRAFT SHOW SATURDAY 24 MAY 2008 11AM-5PM**

Be part of this exciting event with Open Studios and Inspire4Life, Tilehurst & Purley cluster!

This is an excellent opportunity to exhibit and sell your work. Activities on offer during the day will include hands-on workshops, displays and art & craft sales, as well as light refreshments.

Publicity includes the Open Studios West Berkshire and North Hampshire Directory of Artists, local press and flyers to more than 2,000 families across the cluster of schools.

To guarantee a place and to find out more, please contact Sue Guy by 21 April.

Don't miss out! Book a stall now!

For more information about Open Studios, visit [www.open-studios.org.uk](http://www.open-studios.org.uk)

### **FREE FAMILY FOODY FUN DAY**

#### **9 APRIL 2008 AT DENEFIELD SCHOOL**

Join in the Family Art & Craft morning event any time from 10am to noon. Come along to this food themed activity. Make a picture using pasta shapes and win a prize! This free drop in session is being run by the Family Information Service (FIS). The activity is suitable for parents and carers with children aged under 11. All materials are provided. It is also an opportunity to find out how your family can benefit from the FIS. They have a wealth of information available! Contact Sue Guy for further details or simply pop in!

Register for the Kids in the Kitchen Family Cookery afternoon activity at 2.30pm-4.30pm. A free one-off cookery session for you and your child! Cook a delicious two-course meal: lamb and apricot burgers, tantalising salsa and filo fruit tarts. Have fun with your kids in the kitchen, learn how to cook healthy, child friendly food and develop new cookery skills. Open to families with children in Year 4 upwards. Ingredients not included. Places are limited for this free workshop, so book a place with Sue Guy now! Childcare available on request.

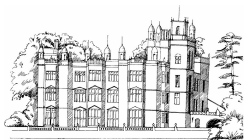
For more information about Inspire4Life, or to register for an activity, please contact Sue Guy.

*Sue Guy, Extended Schools Manager,  
Inspire4Life, Tilehurst & Purley Cluster  
972 8978  
[sguy@denefield.org.uk](mailto:sguy@denefield.org.uk)  
[www.inspire4life.org.uk](http://www.inspire4life.org.uk)*



# Duchess of Kent House Charity

supporting local hospice care



Sunday 11 May  
2pm

**Charity Fun Walk** in the Englefield Estate, near Theale. Register at the Fire Station, The Street in Englefield village from 1.45pm. Gentle 4 mile walks through the estate including farmland, the gardens, deer park and lakeside start at 2, 2.15 and 2.30pm. Sorry no dogs.

Tickets: £3 per adult, or £5 per family  
Rereshments available

## Ladies and Children's Charity Fashion Show

Up to 50% off Shop Prices!

Purley Barn, Purley on Thames

Clothing from leading High Street chain stores starting at £3 for children and £5-£30 for ladies.

Large selection of styles & sizes available

Stalls selling jewellery, cosmetics & canapés

Admission is by numbered ticket only at £5 which includes the first drink and entry into raffle

Children under 16 are admitted free

Payment of clothing by cheque or cash only



Friday 23 May  
7.00 for 7.30pm

## Barn Dance with the Scamping Rogues

Purley Barn, Purley on Thames

Tickets at £10 include Light Supper  
Children under 16, £5

Licensed Bar



Saturday 5 July  
7.30pm

## Race Night

Holiday Inn, Bath Road, Padworth RG7 5HT

Includes 2 course meal - Ticket price £30.00

Licensed Cash Bar open until midnight

Raffle, Heads and Tails etc

Wonderful Auction Pledges



Friday 19 Sept  
7pm

Tickets and further information available from

Duchess of Kent House Trust, 22 Liebenrood Road, Reading RG30 2DX  
0118 939 4889 enquiries@dokht.org.uk www.dokht.org.uk



The next Farmers Market will be held at the Barn on 12 April and on the second Saturday morning of each month thereafter. If you are able to walk to this, please do so to maximise the number of parking spaces available for those less able. Please also avoid parking on any yellow hatched areas, which should be left open for emergency vehicles, and to allow access by other users of the Goosecroft site.

I trust that residents have been using the revised bus services. Route 16 now provides a more direct route into Reading. Route 28 is a new circular service down Knowsley Road, via Oxford Road to serve the whole length of Long Lane and to provide a link to Tilehurst Triangle, Bath Road, Asda, Reading centre via Dee Park and Tilehurst Road and on to the Royal Berkshire Hospital. This also gives an opportunity of links with many other local services. As this latter service is subsidised by Reading Borough Council, and West Berkshire Council, increased usage will ensure retention and perhaps even an increased service. Some timetables for this are now available from this office and the Post Office. Further details are available from Reading Buses direct. Thames Travel continues to provide a service through Purley on the A329 and further information can be obtained from them.

There is still a vacancy for a councillor following the resignation of Alex Stott and the statutory notices have been posted on the notice boards and website. If you are interested in helping within your village, please contact the Chairman or me for further information.

By the time this magazine appears this we will have distributed WBC travel tokens to those eligible on 1 & 2 April but if you missed out then there is a final chance on Thursday 10 April (between 10am and 4pm) at the office address below. These tokens are only available to pensioners and others who have not yet taken up the new national free bus pass.

Finally a reminder, as mentioned elsewhere, to make a date in your diary to attend the Annual Parish Assembly in the main hall of the Barn on Monday 28 April at 7.45pm.

Thames Valley Police and the Neighbourhood Wardens have been invited, so should be represented. The Annual Report for 2007/2008 will be made available and details of the nomination procedure for the Villager of the Year award to be presented in September. The agenda will be posted on the notice boards when finalised nearer the date.

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

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Our Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2008 will be presented at the Parish Assembly meeting, which will take place on Monday 28 April at Purley Barn, from 7.45pm. I encourage you to attend, to find out about what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year, and what the plan is for the next twelve months. You can see how money is collected and spent on your behalf,

meet councillors and others who support the community, and ask as many questions, or make requests, as you like.

In April, too, we expect to meet the Environment Agency to discuss our conclusions over flooding in Purley, and seek to gain some further improvement in communications and other areas of response. We will report back at the Assembly, and also to Flood Wardens.

A plea to whoever took down the Council's banners in February: please return them to the office, anonymously if need be! These signs were located on the roundabout near the Post Office, and gave information about the upcoming Farmer's Market. They were taken down the day before the event and have not been seen or heard of since. We regard the Market as a village event, requested in the Village Plan, and greatly valued. We felt justified therefore in placing signs to remind people of when the Market is due – thus ensuring good attendance and the future of the Market in Purley. It is frustrating when these good intentions are thwarted for no good reason.

*Rick Jones, Chairman - 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

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

Purley on Thames Parish Council  
Parish Office  
Goosecroft Lane  
off Beech Road  
Purley on Thames  
Reading  
RG8 8DR  
Tel/fax: 984 4507  
E-mail: clerk@purleypc.wanadoo.co.uk

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

## **JANET FOSKETT SCHOOL OF DANCING**

We held our 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Show at Pangbourne College in December and the children, as always, worked very hard and cheerfully!

Classes are held at Whitchurch and Purley, with all children doing ballet as the main subject with tap and modern dance taken as second subjects.

### **TINY TOT CLASS**

Due to children moving up to the next class, I now have vacancies in the above class for children aged between 2½ and 4.

Please contact me should you be interested in the above, or require any further information.

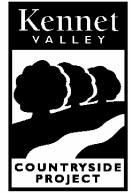
*Janet Foskett  
Dance and Pilates Teacher  
01635 863891*

# PANG & KENNET VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS



The Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valley Countryside Project has been set up to represent all of the people who care about the countryside in the two valleys. The events below are co-ordinated by The Friends and give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around

10am and finish by 4pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools.



Unless otherwise stated, events start at 10am and meet at the Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm. The Project Office can be contacted on 930 5336.

**Thu 17 April 7-9pm Summer guide to butterflies Rushall Manor Farm**  
An introduction into identifying Berkshire butterflies with Grahame Hawker of the Upper Thames Butterfly Conservation Society. This course will be indoors to enable participants get a really good idea of what to look for when identifying butterflies out in the garden, or out in the field. Please call the Project Office to book.

**Sat 19 April 11am-4pm Walk in an ancient landscape Ashampstead**  
Join Dick Greenaway on a five mile guided walk around Ashampstead parish. The walk will take in many ancient features of the landscape including coppiced woodland, bluebells, and other wildlife and historical features. Please bring a picnic lunch. Numbers are limited on this walk, so booking is essential by ringing the office. Meet at Childs Court Farm, off the Ashampstead Road between Bradfield and Yattendon. Grid ref: SU 753 575

**Sun 20 April 2-4pm Hunt for the Scarlet Tiger Moth Caterpillar Thatcham Discovery Centre**  
If you think that eating holes in jumpers is all that moths are good for, then think again! Moths are an important food source and vital for pollinating plants. This event will be looking for the larvae of the Scarlet Tiger Moth on comfrey. For further information about this event organised by Berkshire Moth Group please contact John Lerpiniere through the Project office. Meet at the Thatcham Discovery Centre, Lower Way, Thatcham

**Sat 26 April 10am-noon Hunt for Grizzled Skipper Paices Wood**  
Enjoy a morning out at Paices Wood Country Park hunting for the Grizzled Skipper butterfly, an increasingly rare butterfly of woodland edges, with Reading and District Natural History Society. Meet at 10am at Paices Wood Country Parkland (through Young's Industrial Estate). Grid ref: SU586 638.

**26/27 April 11am-6pm Bluebell Weekend Rushall Manor Farm Bradfield**  
Come and enjoy the glorious woods full of bluebells, wood anemones, primroses and violets. The woodland at Rushall Manor Farm, Bradfield will be open to the public for the annual bluebell weekend from 11am-6pm. Self-guided walks will be signposted and refreshments will be available. A donation of £3 per adult and £1 per child is invited in aid of Multiple Sclerosis.



**Fri 13 June 7.30–9pm      What's been going on in the Lambourn Valley?      Great Shefford**

A talk on what the Projects have been doing in the Lambourn valley since it was launched in 2004. This is also an opportunity to get involved as a Friend or as a volunteer, or even put forward project ideas. Meet at Great Shefford Village Hall. Tea and cake will be provided. Please contact the Project Office for more details.

**Tue 24 June      Weed Management      Turnpike Meadow**  
Join us to help control the docks and thistles, to allow the wildflowers to flourish in Turnpike Meadow set alongside the River Lambourn. Meet outside the Riverside Community Centre at 10am. Grid ref: SU485 678

**Thu 26 June 8.30–10pm      Nightjars and Glowworms at dusk Bucklebury Common**  
Join BHCG leader, Tim Culley, for a late evening walk looking at heathland restoration and some of the specialised wildlife associated with this habitat, including Nightjars and Glow worms. Stout footwear is necessary. Meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common at 8:30 p.m. Grid ref: SU 550 688.

**Sun 29 June 10.30am-2pm      Bring your Bike to the Kennet (12 miles)**  
A leisurely bike ride along the Kennet towpath, past water meadows and locks, looking at the different aspects of the river valley farmland and history. Bring lunch or buy it at the Dundas arms. Places will be limited so please ring the Project Office to book your place. Meet at the wharf car park in Newbury. Please note that cycle helmets must be worn to come on this ride, and your bike must be in good working condition.

**Tue 1 July      Meadow Management      Leyfield Meadow**  
Come and help Dick Greenaway cut and clear the bracken invading this flower rich grassland. Meet at Ashampstead Common car park at 10am. Grid ref: SU 587 751.

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## **NIFTY FIFTY BADMINTON**

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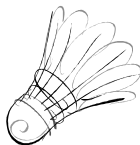
Are you 50 plus? Do you play Badminton to a reasonable standard? Cotswold Sports Centre run *Nifty Fifty* Badminton sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays 1-3.30pm (court fees apply). Interested? Come along and give it a go!

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## **BADMINTON COACHING FOR ADULTS**

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Beginners and Refreshers/Improvers at Downlands Sports Centre Compton



Monday nights: Beginners 7.30-8.30pm  
Refreshers/Improvers 8.30-9.45

Starting Monday 12 May for 6 weeks (not Bank holidays)

Cost of course £30

*Keith Parsons 01635 202925, keith@parsons1954.freeseve.co.uk*  
*Mary Anne Stephens 01635 578314*  
*www.downlands.org*

## *Purley Horticultural Society*

### **Trading Store Assistant**

Required

to help manage our trading store

Approx. 4hrs per week (January – November)

No experience necessary

Some heavy lifting (max.75 litre bags) involved

Honorarium awarded

Please contact: John Murphy

Tel: 0118 9419185

## **THAMES VALLEY POLICE AUTHORITY MEETING**

At the February meeting, the Authority unanimously agreed an increase in the police precept of the council tax of 4 per cent. This will allow the force to continue to develop neighbourhood policing, fight terrorism and improve front line services. Currently, Thames Valley has the highest number of officers in its history, employs more than 500 Police Community Support Officers and is committed to increasing the number of volunteer Special Constables.

The Authority considered the draft three-year strategy 2008/09–2010/12 for policing in Thames Valley. This was drafted following extensive consultation with stakeholders including parish councils.

Key headline targets include:

- To strengthen neighbourhood policing to respond to local need and increase public confidence, including a target of increasing the number of Special Constables to 300.
- To develop our partnerships to reduce crime and disorder
- To improve the service provided to victims, witnesses and the public, including targets to answer 90 per cent of 999 calls within ten seconds and 90 per cent of non emergency calls received within 40 seconds
- To protect communities from terrorism and organised crime, including a target to recover at least £3m of assets
- To use information and intelligence to be more effective
- To develop staff to give the best service
- To improve the use of our resources

A report on the development and use of body worn video cameras in Thames Valley was noted. The force has received a grant of £95,000 to invest in 80 cameras, which can be worn around the head and used to capture evidence. Terms of use and a date for the introduction of these cameras are yet to be set. There will be a publicity campaign once a start date for the use of the new equipment is established.