

PURLEY PARISH NEWS



*Make every effort to keep the unity of
the Spirit through the bond of peace*

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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.

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All contributions to this magazine are welcome, 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).

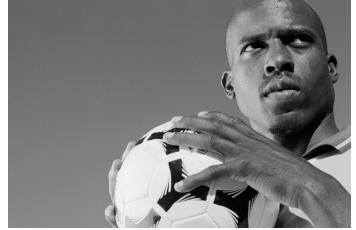
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FROM A CHURCHWARDEN

Dear friends,

I am writing this while the European Football championships are well underway and after having been to the Purley Jubilee Annual Awards Presentation. Strangely enough, I have often thought that supporting a football team is very much like belonging to God's great big family... indeed supporting certain football teams is a religion in itself!



Visiting a football match for the first time, you really do wonder at first what everyone is getting so excited about. Quite often, you find yourself there because your parents (or your children!) have dragged you along, or someone has invited you to go. Alternatively, you may just feel drawn to go.

There is a lot of bustle, some noise, chat and strangers surrounding you. People from all walks of life come together to watch the match; most with a common bond. Often, you get to sing a song or two or even a hymn, albeit with different words, and chant one or two mantras about your favourite player! But amazingly, a foundation has been laid which you will become aware of later.

The actual football can be quite boring (well it was when I used to go and watch Arsenal in the early 1980s, with a single goal if you were lucky) and lets face it, church can be the same for some. Never the less, something happens during the match to some, not all, who go. Something grips you, grabs your attention and before you know where you are, you want to go again. The next time is not so unfamiliar – you even see some of the faces you saw last time.

Supporting a football team can become an important aspect of your life. Becoming a Christian can be more so. Taking the football analogy perhaps a bit too far - Christians view Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit in something like football terms too – Jesus is the Superstar, our Heavenly Father is the divine Head Coach and the Holy Spirit is constantly communicating the desires of the Head Coach to the players.

Here in Purley, we are listening for the instructions from the Head Coach. As you probably know, after 17 years with Roger Howell as Rector, we are currently seeking a new Rector. We are praying for that person already. God knows who they are – He will prompt them to apply, He will hint for us to meet with them – and we must continue to pray and continue to listen so that we choose them. Whoever it is, the vision they will help us work towards is chosen too.

Our vision as a church is:

- to focus on Jesus in all we do, both within our church and our community
- to consistently grow in numbers and in our relationship with God
- to be united in our need for and support of each other
- to be open to all, welcoming and valuing each person

I invite you to come join us at St Mary's soon – and I pray that God meets with you, administers to your needs, that you receive a warm welcome and that you want to come again.

With love, Debbie

AUGUST SERVICES

In previous years, during August, St Mary's has had one combined morning service instead of its more usual two. This year we shall be staying with two services, one at 9.30am and one at 11.15am.

THE 9.30AM SERVICE

This service will last approximately three quarters of an hour to allow for families to join us before enjoying the rest of their school holiday Sundays together.

Each service will be informal and have a different style as follows:

- 3 Aug Family Worship Praise Session
Join us in praising God through music and song.
- 10 Aug Family Worship Holiday Club
An introduction to a fun filled week of children's activities.
- 17 Aug Informal Family Communion
Share Holy Communion around the family table.
- 24 Aug Family Worship Café service
Relax, chat and worship in St Mary's café.
- 31 Aug Family Baptism
Come and help us welcome a new member into God's family.

THE 11.15AM SERVICE

We shall be replacing the monthly Morning Worship service with a traditional service of Holy Communion, on an ongoing basis. Therefore, every Sunday is now a service of Holy Communion starting at 11.15am.

THE 6.00PM SERVICE

The times and format of this service remain unchanged as follows:

- 3 Aug Holy Communion
- 17 Aug Evening Worship

We look forward to seeing you at one of these services.

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERALS

- 30 May Eileen Goddard (Age 86, cremation)
- 9 June Mary Dear (Age 86, Cremation)
- 11 June Christopher Rattingan (Age 57, cremation)

PURLEY PUPPETS

You may have heard of us, you may not! We are a group of adults and children who meet each Friday during term time between 7pm and 8pm at St Mary's church. We are open to all aged between 8 and 108 who want to practice their puppet and performance skills.



We have fun, share food and work towards sharing the Christian message in different ways, through sketches, songs and mime. We perform in some church services and at community events.

If you like to perform but don't want to be centre stage – then Purley Puppets is for you. Come and try it. We are practicing for 2 events in July, but we would love to see some new faces when we start our new term in September – on Friday 12 September.

If you would like some more information, please contact Sally Robertson on 962 5978.



PRAISE HIM ON THE TRUMPET!

Worship is about giving glory to the God of our salvation. It is an opportunity to meet with Him. There are many different ways of worshipping. At St Mary's, music is an integral part of our worship. God has blessed our church family and community with the many gifted musicians over the years. Each of our three services has different needs but all would value a stronger base of musicians and singers.

Each member of the Music in Worship team commits to rehearsals and services as they are able. Every member of the team has felt (or still feels) that being 'up the front' is tough but through prayer and practice, it becomes easier. As a team we would welcome new faces, hands and voices to praise God.

Have you ever thought about sharing your musical skill in a new way? Are you free to worship with us?

If you'd like to know more about what is involved, please talk to any member of the team or contact me on 961 5585 or by email pam.slingsby@ntlworld.com.

*Pam Slingsby
On behalf of the Music in Worship team*

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

Registration OPEN

For a registration form please contact:
Anna Saverton (942 8351) or Sally Robertson (962 5978)

THE YOUTH OF TODAY, EH?

Newspapers have the knack of picking up on any wrongdoing by young people, with little coverage to the majority of young people who cause no problems and, in fact, perform good deeds.

At St Mary's we have some wonderful young people who are kind, thoughtful, and a pleasure to be with. It is my privilege to work with WAM – youngsters of Secondary School age and beyond. At the 9.30am Family Service they may be found helping with the music, preparing morning coffee, helping with the crèche, or perhaps helping the Minister to get a certain message across with one of their famous dramas! Some of our older members are *making a difference* in their universities or workplaces. Many give up their free time and holidays to spread God's word, like Natalie who we have just welcomed back from Canada where she spent time helping and teaching children in a church there. By the time you read this, we will have sent David off with our blessing as he travels to Mozambique for a second time to spend a month volunteering his skills in a Christian ministry. Fiona is planning another trip to India for September; during her first visit, she spent time improving the lives of orphans and disabled children. Gareth is soon off to Egypt to help with preaching at youth services. Matt will spend his summer holiday working as a youth leader in Kings College Church in Norwich. August will see most of WAM adding their special fun and valuable help as Young Leaders at St Mary's Holiday Club.

The Youth of Today, eh – FABULOUS! As well as the 9.30am service, WAM meet up fortnightly on Sunday evenings for Social events. This term we have had fun at a Chocolate Fondue evening; a DVD & Pizza event; a birthday celebration meal at TGI's, and tried our hand at Archery with a Barbeque. (As you can see – food still features strongly in the programme!)

If you are passing Bucknells Meadow on Sunday 13 July from 4pm, do come and join in with our end of term event – an All-Age Rounders Match with Barbeque. All welcome! We'd love to see you!

Nicki Woodward

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



COACH TRIP TO BOWOOD HOUSE

On 17 May, the Society had a most enjoyable coach trip to this House, but it would have been good to have a few more people participating in this outing. We were very lucky with the weather although cloudy, but no rain. I would like to thank John Murphy for organizing this trip.

LATE SUMMER SHOW

This will be held in Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road on Saturday, 6 September 2008. Schedules are available from the Trading Shed and we look forward to a good number of entries. Sections A, B, C, D, and E are open to amateurs resident in the areas covered by Purley Horticultural Society. Entry forms must be handed into the Trading Shed or to Mr J. Armstrong, 169 Long Lane, Tilehurst by Wednesday, 3 September. The Show opens to the public at 2.30pm to 4pm with presentation of trophies at 3.45pm. Entry to the Show is free. Tea and biscuits will be available.

TRADING

The Shed in the Memorial Hall car park is open from 10am to 11am on Saturdays and Sundays until the end of October. Membership of the Society is only £1.50 and garden supplies can be purchased at discounted prices. If you have not renewed your membership we would be grateful if you could do so as soon as possible.

I hope you all have a lovely summer.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

LETTERS

Dear Villagers

On 1 June, the 142 bus service changed ownership from Thames Travel to Reading Buses.

The 142 along with the 132 buses give us, mostly, an hourly service throughout the day. However, now that the 142 route is run by Reading Buses, which is wholly owned by Reading Borough Council, the fares have increased astronomically. A Reading return fare now costs me £4.40 compared to £2.10 for a return prior to the takeover.

Also, along with the fare increase, the two operating bus companies are not accepting each other's return tickets. So, if you travel to Reading on a 142, with that return ticket you can only travel back on a 142 bus.

I do not believe in future I will keep my car in the garage in preference to taking the two-hourly 142 bus service.

Elizabeth Burn

Pray for Purley

The next prayer time is over coffee on Wednesday 16 July 10:30am at 12 Church Mews. All are welcome, whether or not you've been before.

We then don't meet together until September (see below) – but that shouldn't stop you talking to God throughout the summer, telling him what makes you happy, what makes you sad, and listening for his reply.

Tue 16 Sep	8.00pm at St Mary's
Sat 18 Oct	8.00am at St Mary's (breakfast – NB: Not 16 Oct!)
Sun 16 Nov	7.15pm at St Mary's

For more information, please contact either of us below:

Nan Craig	Tel: 942 8266	4 St Mary's Avenue	nan.craig@hotmail.co.uk
Chris Rayers	Tel: 942 1880	9 Allison Gardens	c.rayers@talk21.com

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We understand that the photograph below featuring all the pupils at Purley C of E Infants School was taken in either 1958 or 1959. As the photo is coming up to its 50th anniversary its owner Steve Critchell would be interested to hear from anyone who knows of the current whereabouts of any of the pupils pictured or can identify any of the missing names. Steve can be contacted via email on stephen.critchell1@btopenworld.com or by telephone on 01635 45308.



Back Row: Mrs McLaughlin, Linda Wright, Theresa Bielanski, Julie Weller, Christina Patterson, ?, ?, Nina Gibbons, Denise Twigg, Joy Woodman, Mrs Shaw.

2nd Row: ?, Janet Duck, Stuart Crook, ?, Grenville Annetts, Vivien Walsingham, Peter Clark, Kathleen Horseman, Patrick Williams, ?, ?, ?, Derek Wall, ?

3rd Row: ?, ?, ?, ?, Marilyn James, Susan Sunderland, Mr Alexander, ?, Fiona Guest, ? Sally North, Lynda Skerrit,

Front Row: Colin Schofield, Steven Watts, Martin Curbishley, Keith Goodchild, Michael Gillingham, Graham North, Alex James, Stephen Critchell, ? Mervyn Griffiths, Victor Gillingham.,

PURLEY WI

Flaming June! Well not quite but the higher than average rainfall did not dampen the spirits of the Purley W.I. ladies who took a step back in time on a group outing to Kintbury. A delightful dry afternoon was spent following the riverbank on a horse drawn barge. A part of England's heritage, the barge was powered by the towing action of the horse, a most environmentally friendly method of transport. A great time was had by all on this fully booked event and the cream tea definitely went down a treat.

This month we were entertained by Rita Lenney who provided us with a lighthearted view of art through painting and drawing which she titled *Love and Marriage in Art*. Rita opened with the controversial sculpture by Rodin called *The Kiss*, originally titled *Francesca da Rimini*, followed by a mix of some well known and some not so well known paintings depicting love, courtship, marriage, childbirth and domesticity of the period depicted. Members were encouraged to speak openly about their interpretations and possible reasons behind the commissioning of these paintings. From the responses, it was quite clear there were quite a lot of knowledgeable W.I. members in that night.

The yearly ACWW (Association of Country Women of the World) coffee morning hosted by Sybil Prior in her garden and supported by the W.I. members was an amazing success. This year, along with the normal bring and buy stall, an extra stall was manned by Lisa daughter of Sylvia Conquest who provided items of her mothers for sale. Together with the raffle an all time record of £157 was raised. A big 'THANK YOU' to everyone for their support.

COMPETITIONS

Flower of the month: Daphne Howard

Old Wedding Photo: 1st Joan Pierce

2nd Pam Fisher

Our next meeting is on 9 July at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley. Our speaker will be talking about *Mapledurham Mill* and the competition will be *A Seed Collage*.

Next date for The Farmers' Market: Saturday 12 July.

New to the area? Visitors and new members always welcome.

Marion Maybank

ANY OFFERS?

Free to good home - small pre-cast flower trough, internal dimensions 8¼"x17"x6" deep... can deliver if necessary.

Apply 49 Beech Road or phone 9844421.

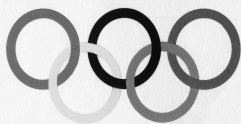


PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

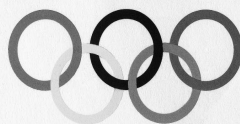
If you need help with transport, or know of anyone else who does, please call us. Volunteer drivers always needed! Do you have a few spare hours? Car drivers are needed to transport clients to hospitals, also for local journeys to doctors, etc. Help in the office is also required. Office opening hours: 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.

Come and join the fun at this year's Purley Infant School Summer Fair



12 July 2008
3.00 – 5.30



**auction * raffle * tombola * lucky dip * coconut shy
duck game * football * making table * BBQ
pocket money stall * bar * marbles game
card game * face painting**

Entry fee: 50p per adult, free entrance for children

FOUNDATION LEARNING AT NEWBURY COLLEGE

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

Newbury College Foundation Learning department offers a wide range of courses for adults with learning disabilities, giving the chance to learn a variety of skills and study towards different qualifications, offering progression through to work and work experience.

As well as courses during term-time, we run courses and events over the summer break, both in college and in the community.

We are always trying to improve our service and we need to hear from you. If you, someone in your family or someone you know has a learning disability and would like to tell us what courses they would like to see in West Berkshire, then contact Kate Brennan or Chris Copeland on 01635 845367 or email c-copeland@newbury-college.ac.uk and make sure that your views are heard.



PURLEY PATHFINDERS - A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

In the nine years we have been walking as a group, we have had very few wet days. Unfortunately, the day of our walk in Whitchurch-on-Thames was one of them. However, a sturdy group set off along the main street, enjoying seeing the lovely cottages so easily missed when driving. Out of the village we climbed beside the Memorial and up through a field to reach Whitchurch Hill. We passed the church with its porch dedicated to a member of the Palmer family, and, once across the village green, we noted *Palmer House* and wondered if this is the Palmer family of Huntley & Palmer fame. Soon we were walking through fields with lovely views. We spotted the River Thames along which we had recently sailed for our Birthday trip, and the woods above Mapledurham through which we had walked. At Path Hill, we admired the pretty cottages, then, further on, we passed The Baulk with its church-like roofline. We dropped down to Hardwick Road and were amused by a notice requesting alpaca shearers. As we paused to gaze across at a large flock of neatly shorn alpacas, we realised we had missed the date of the shearing, but perhaps something to consider next year! To end our walk we explored further the village of Whitchurch: the Jubilee Walk named in honour of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, the Maze created to commemorate the Millennium, and more pretty dwellings set in rose-strewn gardens. As the rain stopped for a while, we were treated to a tour of the meadow that lies beside the Thames, opposite the large houses of Pangbourne known as The Seven Sisters. It was a novelty to walk on this side of the river, and the meadow was lovely, rich in wild flowers and a wide variety of grasses.

Sunshine returned for our next walk, which began in the village of Sandford on Thames. We crossed the lock bridge, watched by several broods of ducklings and goslings. On the other side, we noted the stone set in the ground which horse riders would have used to dismount their horses in the days when a ferry was located here. Our walk along the riverbank was made all the more pleasant by the burgeoning growth of typical waterside flora. Various grasses interspersed with colourful wild flowers such as ox-eye daisies, scabious and cranesbills formed a stage across which dragonflies of the deepest blue performed their dances. Calves fed from their mothers in the field across the river, while boats of different shapes and sizes sailed along the meandering Thames. The whole scene was pure magic! Eventually we reached the Radley College Boat House where we found some shade to take our break. We spotted Harcourt Manor House, built up on the hillside with a grand view over the river – a view gained after the village, which had obstructed its view, had been "moved"! It is rumoured that Queen Victoria and Prince Albert spent some of

their honeymoon in the Manor. We continued by walking into Radley Village where thatched cottages with roses around their doors were in abundance. It was good to see this is a community which pulls together as we noted that the village shop is run by volunteer members of the village in order to keep it going. We paused at the 13th century village church set amongst intricately cut yew trees,



before heading on to pass Radley College. Former pupils include Peter Cook and Desmond Llewelyn, alias Q from James Bond. Back at Sandford we walked to the famous Lasher, famously described by Jerome K Jerome as "a very good place to drown yourself". With its powerful force, it was easy to see why. We wandered back to the King's Arms where we sat beside the river in the sunshine to enjoy lunch.

Away from the river for our next walk, we headed into the depths of the Chilterns to the wonderful Warburg Nature Reserve. We began with a climb beside orchid strewn grassland, encouraged on by the whistling of a Red Kite overhead. At the top of our climb we then descended the hillside via the Chiltern Way. As it passed through the woodland we spotted a *Dormouse Village* – several wooden houses attached to trees a few feet from the ground. The dormice move from one tree to another along a sort of long distance aerial footpath. Our route was alive with birdsong as, suddenly the woodland gave way on one side to fields, one recently, neatly cut, and the other contrasting with the waving seed heads of long grass. Eventually we left the woodland behind to drop down the open hillside with the splendour of Bix Bottom opening up before our eyes. We marvelled at the number of different greens ranging from green tinged with blue to yellow. Beside us, hedgerows were prettily laced with dog roses, pyramidal orchids vied for our attention amongst other wild flowers, and butterflies added their own special beauty. What a heavenly place! Down in the *Bottom* we passed the atmospheric remains of St James' Church, closed in 1874 when the walls began to dangerously bow. A new Church of St James was built a year later in Bix, but the remains of the old one are managed by English Heritage. As we climbed the hillside behind it, we could look back down on its walls clothed in ivy, a scene which has made it popular with film producers.

PURLEY PLAYERS

will be presenting a Murder Mystery Evening

Barbecues 'R' Murder

on Friday 26 & 27 September 2008

at The Barn, Purley on Thames at 7.00 for 7.30pm

Tickets £15 to include a three course dinner

from Mike Adnett (962 5760)

Come and join us



Celebrate 50 years of the Choir

With a Summer Concert

Singing Through The Decades

A selection of classic moments
from the 50s, 60s, 70s & 80s

Fri. 25 & Sat 26 July 2008

The Barn, Goosecroft Lane off Beech Road, Purley on Thames

Performances start at 8pm

Tickets £7 for Adults/£6 for Senior Citizens & Children
Telephone 986 6947 or 950 4206

We continued our walk, scattering partridges, but the feathers strewn along our route betrayed the presence of many types of game birds. On reaching Soundess House we were lucky to meet the gamekeeper, Steve, at work in the grounds and he came over to share some of his vast knowledge with us. We learnt that past famous inhabitants of the house include Michael Hesselstine, the wife of an Australian Prime Minister, and Nell Gwynne, mistress of King Charles II. Steve told us that a bowyer of yew trees remains in the grounds beneath which Nell would sit with, on a clear day, a view of Windsor Castle. It is rumoured that smoke signals would pass between the two lovers! The son of Lord Alvingham who lives in Bix Hall is the present owner. As a gamekeeper, Steve feels passionate about the wildlife of the area. By maintaining the surroundings to benefit pheasants, partridges etc, he feels he is also maintaining a healthy breeding ground for other birds. Today he was helping out the groundsmen of Soundess House so we left him to continue his work in the lovely surroundings of the walled garden, extensive lawns, and large pond with posh duck house.

We continued to our next village, Crocker End, its picturesque cottages set around a village green. We spotted one that has been used in a recent episode of Midsomer Murders. Back at the Warburg Visitor Centre we picnicked in the sunshine and took time to look through the window of the hide to watch the birds feeding. A Warden had been booked to give us a special tour, so, when we had finished eating, Giles came to give us an insight into the history of the Reserve. We learnt that it is named after Dr Warburg, a celebrated botanist of Oxford who died just before the Reserve was formed. Its 267 acres is a haven for both flora and fauna. Nine hundred species of fungi have been recorded. Many species of butterfly breed here, including the rare Purple Emperor. Red Kites have increased greatly in numbers in the ideal conditions here. Once Extinct in England, Red Kite chicks were brought from Spain and Scandinavia in 1989 and now chicks from here are bred in such numbers as to allow some to be used to reintroduce Kites to other parts of England such as Yorkshire and the Cotswolds. We began our tour, and with the wide knowledge of Giles we were in for a treat.

Along our route, he named wild flowers galore, and we were delighted that these included several varieties of orchid, including rare species such as the Greater Butterfly Orchid and the beautiful, Bee Orchid. Giles was excited to point out Ringlet Butterflies, and one obliged by landing with its wings open so we could see its *rings*. All the while Giles identified birdsong for us, Chiff Chaff, Blackcap, Chaffinch, Green Woodpecker etc. At an area recently grazed by sheep, Giles paused to explain that this was typical chalk grassland, which contains around 50 different species of plant per square metre! He identified a few of them for us including the pretty Rock Rose, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Self Heal and Cowslip. Opposite this area is a piece of ground allowed to become scrubland, although managed so as not to get out of hand. This area is good for nesting birds and reptiles. Giles is proud that the last adders in Oxfordshire live at Warburg.

Giles also told us about the trees that we passed. In a tall beech tree, he pointed out a squirrel's drey, and we saw the damage done to some trees by squirrels where they had stripped them of bark. He showed us how hazel is coppiced as it has been for centuries, and we saw how it is laid to make good hedges. As we made our way back, we walked along a path that was once the site of an Army Rifle Range, in use from the 1800's to the 1960's. At the end, beyond the targets, is a trench in which someone had the unenviable task of sitting ready to hoist the targets. A grill has now been placed over this trench and it has become the home to a colony of bats. We finished our informative tour with this interesting fact, which shows just how important the Warburg Reserve is to Nature, and before we left, we were happy to give a donation towards their work.

Our summer Village Walks continue with a walk visiting South and North Stoke, with strawberry picking in honour of Wimbledon fortnight. We will explore the many footpaths in Bucklebury and Chapel Row before a tractor trailer ride to the deer herd of Bucklebury Farm Park. We will cross the spectacular weirs over the Thames when we visit Hambleden and Remenham. This term's walks will end with our Summertime Special, which this year will take us to Winchcombe with a visit to Sudeley Castle. Before the summer break, we will meet up at Mapledurham Lock to watch the arrival of the Swan Uppers. Hopefully there will be cygnets in Purley for them to weigh, check and ring before making their flamboyant way on to Pangbourne.

Wishing you all a happy, restful summer.

Nicki Woodward
nicki@cherryacre.com - www.purleypathfinders.co.uk
984 2112/07768 986799

GOOD NEWS – BAD NEWS

One Sunday the Rector told his congregation that he had some good news and some bad news.

"The good news is that we have the £2000 needed for the urgent roof repairs!"

"The bad news is: the money is still in your pockets!"

ROGER'S LAMENT

In the church of Lower Purley with the crenulated tower
There is silence, sombre silence, just the church clock strikes the hour.
In the school and other places,
Children sit with tear-streaked faces.
From St Mary's down to Colyton
Men now have a black tie on.
Although it's spring, no songbirds sing.
The chaffinch and the nightingale no longer trill the air.
There is gloom and desolation, here and everywhere
And the reason for this grieving
They've heard that Roger's leaving
Going to another land and now the hand
Once raised in blessing
Is on a paintbrush gently pressing.
Instead of kneeling he's painting the ceiling.
And all the panes and window frames
Skirting boards and panelled doors.
No weddings glistening
Or babies christening
No cassock or cloak or collars reverse.
No more funerals and coffins in hearse.
He'll also be gardening
To stop veins from hardening
So if Mormon disciples with American bibles.
Dare to visit his plot,
They'll get no bell book or candle,
But a fork with long handle
And Whoosh! They'll be off like a shot.
But stay! Like this play
Will the new Rector be a her not a Hector
And full of feminine charm
With lipstick and powder, before whom we'll flounder
Until we're used to calling her "M'arm".
A female successor? Bless her!
Or a man, good looking and tall.
To answer the call.
Giving his blessings, goodwill and cheer
Year after year after year.
With a determined chin a pleasant grin.
Will he be charming? Will he be nice?
And never complain at confetti and rice.
Will he visit the poor as well as the wealthy?
Will his prayers help the sick the lame become healthy?
And after all there is a shortfall
And he fails to give satisfaction,
We'll know what to do we'll say "toodle-oo"
And get Roger to come back into action.

Bill Ayling



Residents of Purley
generously gave £2123.21
via door-to-door collections
in Christian Aid Week 2008.

For more than 60 years,
Christian Aid has made a
practical difference to
millions of lives around the
world.

Working with people of
every faith and none, they
are fighting for a world free
of poverty and injustice.

We provide disaster relief,
help build long-term
development, speak up for
the oppressed and
campaign for change
among the powerful.

Thank you for your support.

PROJECT PURLEY

The Society's annual walkabout was planned with military precision by our secretary, Tony Trendle, so that on Friday, 16 May, a party of twenty-six followed Tony's route map towards Mapledurham House, where we were to have a conducted tour.

The majority of the members had also decided to enjoy a pub lunch beforehand, so after some erratic map reading by Edna, Marion and Rita, the four of us eventually arrived at the Sun Inn at Whitchurch. There we enjoyed a convivial meal in a traditional country pub built in 1910 to replace the original building which had been destroyed by fire. There was also the opportunity to meet and play with Salem, the inn's resident three-legged but perfectly content cat, who is so well looked after by the staff and regular customers.

After eating, there was a short drive down a narrow, winding road and into the Mapledurham estate where we met those in our group who had eschewed lunch, as well as Corry, who was to be our guide for the afternoon. Corry was immediately recognisable as the face behind the stall selling flour at Purley Farmers' Market and after greeting us, he led us into the first stage of our visit, the watermill. He explained how the mill works, telling us that the grain is fed through a hopper towards the stones, where only the top runner stone turns, grinding the grain against the bottom bed stone to produce flour. Some of the timbers in the mill date from 1423, and the gear wheels have to be made of wood. Metal wheels could produce a spark which, in turn, could set alight the flour dust which lies on the floor of the mill. The actual waterwheel is made of oak and has to be replaced every twenty-five years. The mill has a private water supply and at the moment the estate has submitted an application to install an Archimedes screw and turbine to improve efficiency. Unfortunately we were not able to see one of Salem's relatives as mills are no longer allowed to keep cats on the premises to keep down the number of rats and mice.

We left the mill, watched Corry close the sluice gates to stop the flow of water, and walked towards Mapledurham House itself. As we did so, we noticed pairs of Canada geese waddling across the lawn with their fluffy chicks following resolutely behind, and a pair of great crested grebe meticulously building a nest against a barrier in the stream. Our route took us past the 12th century church, which uniquely serves the Protestant and Catholic religions, across the beautifully manicured lawns and on to the steps of the house. It was built towards the end of the 16th century as an Elizabethan manor house, idyllically situated facing Caversham and the River Thames and sheltered by the Chiltern Hills. Originally built for the Blount family, it has a gable end decorated with oyster shells showing it was a safe refuge for Catholic dissidents, plus a number of priest holes for extra security.

The house has been passed down through generations to the present owners, Mr. John and Lady Anne Eyston, who are continuing with a programme of renovation. The building has seen several periods of disrepair, and was one of the few large country houses not requisitioned by the War Office during World War II due to its lack of facilities. It became derelict during the 1960s, but the

major refurbishment carried out during recent decades meant that we were able to view an attractive building with many distinctive features. Our guide took us through all the state rooms including the library where many original works by Alexander Pope are kept. He spent time at the house whilst enjoying a dalliance with the owner's daughters in the 1740s. We also saw the sunken chapel, originally the servants' quarters, the cantilevered staircase which has an unusual summit, the upstairs bedrooms including one which has a bedspread containing 15,900 pieces of material, and the dining room. The latter contains a selection of family photographs as well as one which shows the Queen Mother as a visitor in 1982.

But perhaps to most people, especially the younger generation, Mapledurham Estate is best known as the location for film and television productions. The most publicised of these is *The Eagle has Landed*, starring Michael Caine and shot at Mapledurham in 1976. (Edna Bint could remember visiting the site at the time of filming and seeing an American jeep which had been deliberately driven into the stream.) In more recent times, television series such as *Class Act*, *Midsomer Murders* and *Sharpe's Regiment* have all been filmed on the estate.

It had been a long but enjoyable afternoon, so we concluded our tour by first visiting the tearooms to take some refreshment and talk over our experiences, and then looking round the small but well-stocked gift shop.

Five o'clock was the time on our watches as we made our way back to the car park and began the drive back through Woodcote, Crays Pond and across Whitchurch toll bridge towards Pangbourne and Purley. The weather had been kind to us which added to a most pleasant occasion. Our thanks to Tony and the staff at Mapledurham for making it all possible.

David Downs

THE PROJECT PURLEY TEA TOWEL

Project Purley has a new tea towel – it is available in three colours, British Racing Green, Navy Blue and Terracotta on a cream background; costs £3 and depicts historical images of Purley on Thames. Anyone interested in purchasing a tea towel, please call 942 2485.

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE BOARD

Chairman: Rick Jones

Vice Chairman: Rick Farrow

Highways & Footpaths: Paul Coombes

Recreation: Graham Rolfe (Vice-Chair – Chairman elected at the first committee)

Barn Management: Roger Woodward

COUNCIL CO-OPTION

Mr David Meredith has been co-opted to the Council to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Mr A Stott.



DATES OF MEETINGS

Parish Council: 17 July, 4 September, 9 October, 13 November,
18 December 2008, 22 January, 26 February, 2 April, 7 May 2009.
Highways & Footpaths Committee: 10 July, 27 November 2008, 12 March 2009.
Recreation Committee: 18 September 2008, 8 January, 16 April 2009.
Barn Committee: 11 September, 11 December 2008, 26 March 2009.

All meetings are held in the Parish Office and are open to the public. Details of appointments to committees, working groups and outside bodies are posted on the Council website or are available from the Clerk.

See the panel below for changes to Parish Office opening hours.

RESURFACING WORKS

Footpath 5 will be closed between 14 and 16 July between its junctions with Oxford Road and Simons Close.

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

(Various Roads, Purley on Thames) (Prohibition of Waiting At Any Time) Order 2008 will come into effect from 20 June 2008 and will affect the following roads:

Brading Way, Chestnut Grove, Colyton Way, Glebe Road, Hazel Road, Highfield Road, Huckleberry Road, Long Lane, Orchard Close, Purley Lane, Purley Rise, Purley Village, St Mary's Avenue and Wintringham Way. Details of the schedules are available to view in the Parish Office.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE FAMILY OPEN DAY

Saturday 9 August 2008 Thames Valley Police Museum, Sulhamstead between 10am and 4pm (includes the Air Support Unit, Specialist Search & Recovery Team and the Mounted section) www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/info/museum/index

FARMERS' MARKET DATES

12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November, 13 December 2008.

Janet Field, Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

My first theme this month concerns young people in the village.

A grouping of local organisations with a common interest in youth have come together over the past few months to concentrate on improving the provision of activities and facilities aimed at children and youths from 10 years and up.

The first outcome of this is the running of a Youth Club for three months on a trial basis, which if successful, we hope to make a permanent feature and run frequently and regularly. This first initiative has been taken by our Neighbourhood Wardens, well supported by WBC Youth Service, Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Police and Extended Schools project. The first meeting was on Friday 13 June, and was a tremendous success, with over 30 young people attending. Hopefully, with continued interest, and sufficient local volunteers to

help to run it, this will make an entertaining focal point for our younger population.

A further part of the plan is to address the lack of play facilities for older children, a gap which the cycle track was intended to fill. Whilst that project must be shelved for the time being until we find a suitable site, the Parish Council will still strive to make better provision, probably in Bucknell's Meadow and possibly elsewhere, as soon as we can. We are looking at what could be done in the area around Thames Reach, but stress that no definite plans or proposals exist at this stage, and we will consult widely amongst local residents well before any proposals are made.

Finally, whilst referring to young people, the Council has sponsored a Photo Competition specifically for youngsters, to take pictures of aspects of Purley. The best pictures will be featured as new images of Purley on our Parish Website. Please encourage any young persons that you know to enter. The details are contained on the website.

We held a meeting of residents and Flood Wardens recently to discuss our Flood Plan and give out information from our partner agencies – West Berkshire (WBC) and the Environment Agency(EA). We looked at what had worked well in the last two emergencies in July 2007 and January 2008, and what needed to be improved. As a result, we have an undertaking from the EA to change their telephone warning system to give Purley a better service, and we have requests lodged with them for better defences and website information which we will keep pursuing on behalf of the lower village.

We plan to add to the Flood Wardens scheme to act as a supplementary support system for residents, and would welcome a few more wardens, particularly around Brading Way, Riverside Drive, Oak Tree Walk and The Short. The responsibilities are few, not called upon very often (we hope!) but the benefits to the village are great and the wardens have the advantage of getting good and early information when it is needed. Please contact me if you feel that you could help, for more details.

Rick Jones, Chairman - Purley on Thames Parish Council

The office, located near the tennis courts, opens:
Mondays (not BH): 2pm to 7.30pm
Including an opportunity to meet Councillors
between 6.30 & 7.30pm (or by appointment)
Thursdays: 9am to 2pm

Barn Manager: Jean Chudleigh 07917 453187
Allotment Manager: Alex Stott 941 9186

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@purleyonthames.net

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

www.purleyonthames.net

PANG & KENNET VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS



The Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valley Countryside Project has been set up to represent all of the people who care about the countryside in the two valleys. The events below are co-ordinated by The Friends and give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10am



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

For further information please contact the Project Office 0118 930 5336.

*The Black Barn at Rushall Manor Farm is situated off Back Lane, between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield. Take the gravel track north off Back Lane to the west of Scratchface Lane. Grid ref: SU 583 723

Thu 10 July 8.30-10pm Nightjars & Glow worms at dusk

Bucklebury Cmn.

Join BHCG leader Tim Culley for a late evening walk looking at heath land restoration and some of the specialised wildlife associated with the habitat, including Nightjars and Glow worms. Stout footwear is necessary. Meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common at 8.30pm. Grid ref: SU 550 688.

Sat 12 July 11am

Bombers Giants and Ditches

Ashampstead

Join Dick Greenaway for a longish walk around Ashampstead and Aldworth. Please bring a packed lunch. The walk is approx 5.5 miles. Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome. Meet at Ashampstead Village Hall (Grid ref: SU 564 768). Contact the Project office to book your place on 930 5336.

Tue 15 July

Glade Clearance

Kings Copse Bradfield

Spend the day clearing invasive Himalayan Balsam at Kings Copse to help maintain the native woodland flora. Meet at Black Barn, Rushall Manor Farm* at 10am or phone the Project office on 930 5336 for details of meeting on site.

Sat 19 July 9.30pm-late Moth Night

Westfield Farm, East Garston

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 exciting for any budding young naturalists! Meet in the yard at Westfield farm SU358 768. For further information about this event please contact John Lerpiniere, through the project office on 930 5336. (bring a torch!)

Tue 22 July Wildflower seed collection

Rowdown Farm, Peasmore -

Help to create chalk grassland, a BAP priority habitat, by collecting wildflower seed from an existing meadow and sowing it on the neighbouring field. Enjoy fantastic views of the NWD AONB and watch out for typical chalk grassland butterflies on this unusual task. Meet at Rowdown Farm (Grid ref: SU 445 781), off the B4494, at 10am.

Tue 22 July 7.30pm **Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers AGM**
Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Bucklebury Village -
Come and join the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers for their AGM at the Victory Room Bucklebury Village. The AGM will be followed with a talk by Tim Culley on the history of Bucklebury Common. Please contact the Project office 930 5336 to book your place.

Tue 29 July **Meadow Management** **Pangbourne**
We will be clearing ragwort from Sulham Meadows SSSI, so that this important site can be grazed. Meet at Home Farm off Sulham Lane (Grid ref: SU 643 758) at 10am.

Tue 12 August **Tools Maintenance & BBQ** **Englefield**
All the hard work we put in through the year puts a strain on our tools! We will be working at our tool store to repair those broken handles and sharpen those worn blades. We will also be having a BBQ (please bring your own food) so why not join us to find out more about what we do? Meet at the Old Estate Office, Englefield Road, Theale from 10am onwards.

Sat 16 August 1.30pm **Ramble** **Donnington**
A Saturday afternoon ramble led by Ray Clayton, visiting attractive sections of the River Lambourn around Bagnor and Woodspeen. We will, hopefully, cross Rack Marsh (water levels permitting) and return via the slopes on the north of the valley. There will be some stiles. Please remember to bring a drink. Park considerately in Grove Road (off the B4494 Newbury to Wantage Road) on the roadside to the west of the entrance to Donnington Grove Country Club (Grid ref: SU 460 683). You may find car sharing useful. Book your place by phoning the office on 930 5336.

Tue 19 August **Grassland management** **Ashampstead Common**
Come and help Dick Greenaway maintain the glades and grassland in this beautiful woodland. Meet at Ashampstead Common car park at 10am. Grid ref: SU 587 751

Sat 30 August **Bring Your Bike** **Compton**
Join us for stunning views of the Downs. An 8 mile, mainly off road, cycle ride to look at the Downland north of Compton. Mountain bikes essential and helmets must be worn. Meet at Compton Downs Sports Centre (SU519 795) at 11am. Ride leader: Karen Davies. Please book your place by phoning the office on 930 5336.

Tue 9 September **Grassland management** **Devils Steps meadow**
Come and help Dick Greenaway maintain a species rich lowland meadow. Park at Grid ref: SU 5520 7268 at 10am.

Sat 13 September **Pond management** **Stratfield Mortimer**
Join the regular volunteers in managing two ponds, home to great crested newts and dragonflies. Come to the Fairground car park opposite the Horse and Groom Pub (Grid ref: SU 655 645) in Mortimer.

Tue 30 September **Meadow Management** **Turnpike**
Join us to help cut and rake the wildflower meadow at Turnpike, set alongside the River Lambourn. Meet outside the Riverside Community Centre at 10am. Grid ref: SU 485 678

POLICE AUTHORITY MEETING 30 MAY 2008

The Authority voted that Christine Weston should remain Chair of Thames Valley Police Authority until she ceases to be a member in September.

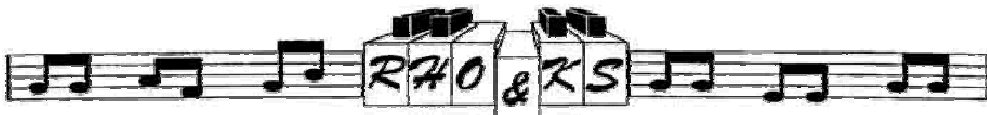
The Authority voted in Khan Juna as Vice Chairman. He will replace Martyn Griffiths, who is currently waiting to hear if he will be reselected as an independent member. Mr Griffiths was forced to resign his current position as a magistrate member after the position of magistrate members was abolished.

Members agreed to act as a link between Thames Valley Police Authority and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). CDRPs are made up of members from NHS trusts, Primary Care Trusts, local authorities, Police Forces, Police Authorities and Fire and Rescue Services, Police Authority members will share information between CDRPs and the Police Authority.

The following members will sit on the CDRPs in our area:

- South Oxfordshire: Hazel Bell
- West Berkshire: Christine Weston
- Wokingham: Cllr Barrie Patman
- Reading: Tony Page

Membership of the BCU Police Committees was also decided. These committees meet on a quarterly basis and act as a watchdog on Thames Valley Police at a local level. For Berkshire West: Khan Juna, Cllr Tony Page, Cllr Barrie Patman, Cllr Anthony Stansfeld, Christine Weston.



READING HOME ORGAN & KEYBOARD SOCIETY

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

Our guest artist is Tony Whittaker playing a wide variety of music from shows, modern songs, piano, jazz and much more easy listening.

Tickets are £6.50 or £4.25 for members including refreshments.
Further information can be obtained from Secretary Molly West on 942 7062.

TAKE A BREAK

Summer comes early at the editor's desk. As there is no August edition, I can take a break this month. I'll be back with the September issue, so please send me your news, views and stories before you head off on your summer holidays in August and remember me working away on my PC whilst you lie on the beach!

LOOKING FOR FUNDING?

A grants scheme operated by The North Wessex Downs AONB is available to help deliver local projects that have a positive impact on the environment of the North Wessex Downs.

Grants up to 75% of the total cost are available from the Sustainable Development Fund.

These grants can fund a range of projects that raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of the unique qualities and sensitivities of the North Wessex Downs, for example:

- Recording, promoting and celebrating local biodiversity
- Training in rural skills
- Restoring local features or viewpoints
- Developing the use of renewable energy in the community or on the farm
- Promoting the consumption of local produce
- Producing parish plans
- Installing village gateways
- Developing markets for woodland products

Who can apply?

- Community and voluntary groups and groups working in partnership
- Charities
- Local authorities and Parish Councils
- The private sector

Larger grants, over £5,000, will require a comprehensive business plan

If you are interested in applying, visit www.northwessexdowns.org.uk for more information or contact John Tabor at the North Wessex Downs office on 01488 685 440.

We're waiting to hear from you! Any project supported by this scheme must be fully completed by 31 March 2009.

LEADERS AND HELPERS NEEDED

Session leaders and helpers are wanted for Bicycle Repair Courses at Denefield school, Long Lane, Tilehurst.

Would you like to run or help out with bicycle repair courses for Westwood Farm Junior School children aged 9+? The 4-6 week courses will run from 6.30pm for one evening during the week, continuing from September 2008 onwards. All equipment provided. CRB check required. This project has been set up thanks to an *Awards for All* Lottery Grant.



Interested? Please contact Sue Guy, Extended Schools Manager on 972 8978 or email sguy@denefield.org.uk