


PURLEY PARISH NEWS



*Come on to me, all who are weak, weary heavy laden.
Gentle am I, humble in heart, and you shall find rest for your soul.*

taken from Matthew 11-Come Unto Me. song by Wes Terasaki © 1978 CCLI #373279

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES



St Mary the Virgin

Purley on Thames

www.stmaryspurley.org.uk

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Currently in interregnum

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BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

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COVER IMAGE

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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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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).

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 email size restrictions.

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NEXT EDITION COPY DEADLINE	22 NOVEMBER
NEXT EDITION PUBLISHED	6 DECEMBER

FROM THE CHURCHWARDEN

Dear Parishioners

Today I received an email from a young man from the parish who is at university. He writes:

"Isn't it a privilege to be a Christian? It's great to know that Jesus is God and in control. I met a man yesterday morning as I walked between my halls of residence and church, who took all my money. The whole experience was a lot less traumatic than I would have expected. It's at times like these – actually, at all times and in all places! – that we can rejoice, even if we're sorrowful, at how much bigger than a mugging or a mugger God is. I don't know what difficulties or triumphs you are facing at the moment, but I pray that God will lift your eyes and encourage your spirit with soul-nourishing truth and reminders of who he is and practical evidences of his love and grace."

I wonder if your first response is something like: "all very well when you are at university with few responsibilities... idealistic... a little naïve... it is not like this in the real world of worrying about whether I am going to have a job next month, how am I going to pay the mortgage or fuel bill... and so on."

Last week I read of an experiment on pain control when two groups of people were given electric shocks. It was found that the group of Catholic Christians felt less pain when they were looking at pictures of the Virgin Mary than those who had no faith, while neither group experienced any relief from the pain when looking at a secular picture.

For our student and for the research volunteers there is a dimension in their lives that influences their attitudes and experiences of life. Each has found themselves placed in a testing situation yet have an inner confidence that helps them deal with it. The weeks and months ahead may well bring each of us our own tests whether it is financial, loss of a loved one, health worries or relationships problems. I would like to recommend to you the words of Jesus: "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke it easy and my burden is light."

There are many people in Purley, maybe your neighbour, who can testify to the renewed dimension and hope that Jesus gives to this life and eternity. Many of them are also involved in the life of St Mary's church – we are all on a journey learning and growing in our faith. May I invite you to consider sharing the journey with us? It is a privilege being a Christian.

With warmest Christian greetings

Mary Barrett
Churchwarden

CHURCH SERVICES

2 November	9.30am	Family Worship	
	11.15am	Holy Communion	
	6.00pm	Holy Communion	
9 November	9.30am	Family Worship	{Bishop Stephen will
Remembrance	10.55am	Holy Communion	{ be preaching
16 November	9.30am	Family Communion	
	11.15am	Holy Communion	
	6.00pm	Evening Worship	
23 November	9.30am	Baptism	
	11.15am	Holy Communion	
30 November	10.30am	Advent Communion	
7 December	9.30am	Family Worship	
	11.15am	Holy Communion	
	6.00pm	Holy Communion	
14 December	9.30am	Family Worship	
	11.15am	Holy Communion	



Christmas is coming...

to St Mary's Church on

11am-3pm Saturday 29 November

Start your count down to Christmas at our

Advent Fair

Don't miss it!



PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



TALKS

Gill Franklin from Cross Lanes Fruit Farm gave a very interesting talk to the Society on Wednesday, 15 October on the history of apples and there were plenty of samples available for everyone to taste.

On Wednesday, 19 November we will be having a talk by Elizabeth Farrar on Pansies, Violas & Sweet Violets (please see separate notice). Please try and come along so that we have a good audience for the speaker. As this is our last meeting before Christmas, tea, coffee and mince pies will be available. We shall not be meeting in December and January, but the AGM of the Society will take place on Wednesday, 18 February.

TRADING

The Shed in the Memorial Hall car park is now closed for the winter months and will re-open the first weekend in February.

Marion Dabbs
942 2349

FLORAL ART SETS SAIL

Following the moving and very successful Flower Festival in 2007, the Flower Guild of the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel (FIMC), Pangbourne College, has invited Glenis Smith, a very experienced floral art expert, to give a Floral Art Demonstration on the theme of *We are sailing...* on Friday 7 November 2008, 7.30pm to 10pm, at the Chapel. Tickets cost £8 and are available from Premier Pet Store, Pangbourne. Parking is free. There will be a short musical prelude at the beginning given by pupils at Pangbourne College.

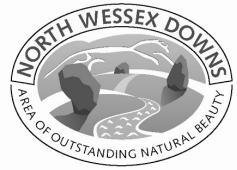
Glenis Smith is a National-Association-of-Flower-Arranging-Societies (NAFAS) Area Demonstrator and the current Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Oxfordshire Area Chairman of NAFAS. At this demonstration she will explain the thought processes involved in and techniques behind each individual exhibit. *We are sailing...* is a very apt theme; the Chapel is the National Memorial to those 258 people who lost their lives in the Falklands War in 1982.

Pangbourne College has a well-respected reputation for music and the Chapel, which is located in the heart of the College community and campus, is used often for services, musical events, and as a place for quiet reflection.

Sadie Clare, Chairman of the FIMC Flower Guild, said, 'This is a unique opportunity to discover and appreciate what research, inspiration, preparation, and hard work are involved in putting together a selection of pieces on the theme of *We are sailing...* The musical prelude by the College will set the scene perfectly. We hope as many people as possible will join us for what will be an enjoyable and interesting evening.'

For more information please contact:
Alex Garnier, 976 7420, alex.garnier@pangcoll.co.uk

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 must be located within the North Wessex Downs, 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.

Editor's note: *Purley on Thames appears to be just off the edge of the North Wessex Downs AONB map, but if the scope of your project extends west of the village, it would be worth considering an application.*

PURLEY BELLRINGERS

Purley Bell Ringers are group of people who meet on a Friday evening at St Mary's Church, Purley on Thames, to practice bell ringing from 7 until 8.30pm. If you have experience, however small, of bell ringing, then why not come and join us. Please contact Simon Robertson (Tower Captain) on 0118 962 5978.

PURLEY ON THAMES CRICKET CLUB



ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 6 February 2009

The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Beech Road, Purley on Thames
From 7pm (Quiz commencing at 7.30pm)

Tickets will be £6 each, and will include a meal of fish/chips, sausage/chips, or a vegetarian option. Cheap bar available...

Maximum of 8 per team – either enter a whole team or join a team on the night!

Send your choice of food, with £6 per person entry by 31 December 2008 to:

CHARLOTTE BISHOP, 10 CORNWALL CLOSE, TILEHURST, RG31 6FS

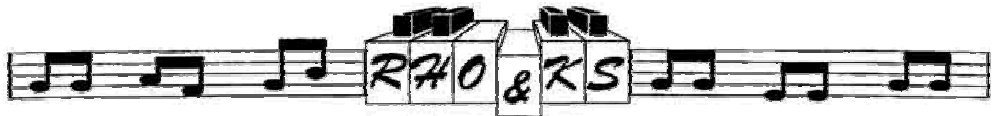
MISSING LETTERS

Things seem to have been even more hectic than normal in the Editor's house recently. As a result I know that I have misplaced at least one reader's letter. Fortunately I did get to read it before it vanished and, so that the author doesn't think I am trying to duck controversy, I'll attempt to recall its contents now...

Jean wrote in September's magazine about Jesus' caution to his followers not to "store up riches for yourself here on earth" and not to "worry about the food and drink you need". Our reader was concerned that these texts may be encouraging us to "spend, spend, spend", and that this attitude had led to the *credit crunch*.

I'm sure this is not what Jesus meant, but also that the current financial crisis has more to do with the banks lending their investors' money to others, on the assumption that the loans would be recovered (with interest) before the investors came back for their cash. On this, Jesus was clear: "Lend to [your enemies] without expecting to be repaid" (Lk 6.v35).

Matt – Editor



READING HOME ORGAN & KEYBOARD SOCIETY

Our next concert is at 8pm on Tuesday 11 November 2008 at
Tidmarsh Village Hall, Pangbourne Road, Reading RG8 8ES.

Mike Hall presents an entertaining show using his Orla GT8000 portable. His music for all approach, and warm friendly manner, ensures a great evening.

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

PANGBOURNE CHORAL SOCIETY AIMS HIGHER

After another groundbreaking season, Pangbourne Choral Society embarks on an ambitious programme designed to push the boundaries further.

The 28 February 2009 concert will contain a mix of the familiar (with a different twist) and the less well known - Janacek's *Otcenas* (a wonderful setting of the Lord's Prayer for Tenor Solo, Chorus, Harp and Organ in the Czech language) is in the latter category. The different twist comes with Duruflé's hauntingly beautiful *Requiem* – sung in a less familiar version (the composer's third draft) with orchestral score for strings, harp, trumpets, timpani, and organ, as opposed to the usually-heard version for solo organ. Vaughan Williams' *Toward the Unknown Region* (which builds from a quiet, tentative start to a glorious finale) and Fauré's wonderfully understated *Cantique de Jean Racine*, together with the *Adagietto* from Mahler's Fifth Symphony (better known as the theme music of the film masterpiece *Death in Venice*) complete a programme which bears the hallmark of great variety and novelty that Music Director Jonathan Brown believes is so important in the development of an excellent choir.

Commenting on PCS's highly acclaimed 2008 season, he said: 'The Choir sang the Bach *St John Passion* with great commitment and skill – and in German! – accompanied by baroque-period instruments. This sacred concert was balanced with a more secular summer concert on the theme of Love, with Brahms' *Liebeslieder Waltzes* as the centrepiece. That varied and demanding programme shows just how far we have all come on during the year. I believe that 2009 will see us take new strides and that audiences will be richly entertained and stimulated'.

Next season will also mark a change in the PCS concert timetable. After the usual February concert, there will be a staging of a 'come-and-sing' *Messiah* in the summer, which will be open to all aspiring singers. But the really big change occurs next November with the staging of an autumn concert when the programme will include Mozart's *Requiem* and the Choir will again seek a wider audience by performing in two different locations.

PCS's outgoing Chairman, Ken Whitehead comments: 'The 2009 programme is a major step forward for us. Three concerts (of great variety) – plus our Christmas Concert in aid of the Berkshire Hospital League of Friends – form an ambitious programme by any standards. That's Jonathan for you – always challenging and encouraging us to new heights. The standard is beyond anything I could dream of when I first became Chairman and it's a tribute to this Choir that we've stuck with it and really enjoyed ourselves'.

The 120-strong Choir is always looking for new recruits. Rehearsals take place every Tuesday evening (7.45pm) in the Falkland Islands Chapel, Pangbourne College.

More information may be obtained from <http://www.pangbournechoral.org.uk> or pchoralsoc@googlemail.com, or by calling Tony Maynard on 01635 200354

WEST BERKSHIRE FUNDING FAIR

NEWBURY RACECOURSE 19 NOVEMBER 2008, 9.30AM-3PM

This is a free event and provides a great opportunity to talk to funders about your projects. There will be workshops and a guest speaker plus a market place of varied information.

It really is an opportunity not to be missed as there is a wealth of funding available at the moment which will help your community develop projects. Please forward to anyone who may be interested.

Full details of the event and booking form are available online from www.cawb.org.uk, please complete the booking form and return to shelly.hambrecht@cawb.org.uk or post to CAWB, 1 Bolton Place, Northbrook Street, Newbury Berkshire RG14 1AJ.

Garden talks in Purley Purley Horticultural Society

Have secured Elizabeth Farrar to give a talk on
Wednesday 19 November at 8pm

"Pansies, Violas and Sweet Violets"

We welcome back Elizabeth Farrar who previously spoke to us on the task of reviving her derelict garden. Elizabeth has been gardening in Berkshire for the last thirty years, initially reviving that garden which is around a 16th century house.

This talk is all about Pansies, Violas and Sweet Violets which became her particular interest as a researcher for the BBC television series *Geoffrey Smith's world of flowers*." Elizabeth has also written a book on this subject.

This illustrated talk will cover the history and cultivation of these much loved but often misunderstood flowers. We look forward to seeing you and Elizabeth for what should be a very enjoyable evening.

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

All residents of Purley and Neighbouring Parishes 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 ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



NOTICE BOARD

Chairman: Rick Jones

Vice Chairman: Rick Farrow

Highways & Footpaths: Paul Coombes

Recreation: Graham Rolfe

Barn Management: Roger Woodward

New Councillor: Mr Bernard Nix

DATES OF MEETINGS

Parish Council: 13 November, 18 December 2008, 22 January, 26 February, 2 April, 7 May 2009.

Highways & Footpaths Committee: 27 November 2008, 12 March 2009.

Recreation Committee: 8 January, 16 April 2009.

Barn Committee: 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.

COUNCIL VACANCIES

There is a vacancy on the Council following the resignation of Sally Robertson.

GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

As advised last month, the Public Enquiry in connection with Footpath 9B (Thames Path) will commence at 10am on Wednesday 14 January 2009 at The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Off Beech Road, Purley on Thames. This relates to that section of the Path that runs behind some properties in Hazel Road and under the Railway Bridge.

FARMERS' MARKET DATES

8 November, 13 December 2008.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As a Parish Council, we are always conscious that our first priority and responsibility is to the residents of Purley – to ensure good services and facilities, and to keep you informed as best we can. Also, in the current economic climate,

to spend money wisely and keep a close monitor on the safety of the financial reserves used for maintenance and projects.

However, every organisation has to look inward occasionally, to make certain that it has the infrastructure and processes to be 'fit for the future' – to be able to cope with increasing responsibilities, higher volume of work, and the changes happening around us, locally and nationally.

We thus seem to have spent a lot of time reviewing and revising how we organise and work, and this continues. I don't believe this has affected our service to the community, (let me know if it has) and it should all benefit our efficiency and effectiveness over the coming years.

Over the next couple of months, we will be examining our financial procedures, audit and security, and Graham Rolfe is starting a fundamental look at Purley's Open Space and Recreation requirements, to update the guidance we took from the Village Plan. These two steps will ensure good guardianship of the money, much of which we think that we need to spend on recreation facilities for all ages, particularly teenage youth.

You will have seen last month some correspondence on the subject of bus services to Purley. Our campaign on this has not ended, and we are grateful for the support of Alok Sharma and David Betts, who have engaged the press on our behalf.

Car Parking at the Farmers' Market during the winter months will be at a premium, as the busy football season also takes hold. We will do our best to keep things flowing and minimise the effect on residents, but we do have limited space. If you can walk, please do! We recognise that there are slightly fewer food stallholders at the moment. The market organisation is trying to redress this with new producers, which will hopefully become apparent in the next months.

Time to wrap up – in more senses than one!

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

Clerk to Parish Council: Janet Field

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

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING ON FOOT



Many thanks to all who joined in with, and supported financially, the Coffee Morning with a Difference! Over 40 people of all ages enjoyed a pleasant walk through Sulham Woods on a misty autumn morning. As we crossed the fields towards Tidmarsh the mist cleared to reveal the lovely valley of the Pang. At Tidmarsh Village Hall a band of volunteers were waiting in readiness for us with mugs of tea and coffee, and trays of cakes, which were gratefully devoured. Refreshed, we began the second half of the walk in lovely sunshine, pausing to talk to a

herd of fine Highland Cattle and a sleepy pot-bellied pig. Making our way along one of the prettiest parts of the Rive Pang a deer shyly bounded away and a green woodpecker flew from its perch. As we began to cross a bridge over the Pang we were delighted when a kingfisher flew from beneath our feet and made its way along the river in a flash of blue. Wonderful! With views across the Thames Valley we followed a footpath back to Purley. Apart from meeting and chatting with lots of fellow local people, a total of £545 was raised for the Macmillan appeal.

Nicki Woodward



BARN DANCE

St Mary's Church – Purley on Thames
Saturday 15 November

7.30 – 10pm

INCLUDES PLOUGHMANS

Please bring own drinks/glass!

TICKETS £6 ADULT/£4 CHILD

Contact Jackie Davies

Tel: 0118 941 3641

Proceeds to Church Funds

PURLEY PATHFINDERS - A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

As the year marched on towards autumn we met in the Eastern part of the county at Waltham St Lawrence for our next *village life* themed walk. We wandered down The Street admiring the chocolate-box assortment of herringbone patterned, timber framed, and black & white cottages. We were welcomed to the allotments by a row of cheerful sunflowers, and we passed the rows of productive plots to reach fields of sheep. Emerging from beneath a pleasant woodland strip, which rustled 'autumn-ly' in the slight breeze, we soon caught sight of the buildings of Shottesbrooke, a village described as 'small and idyllic'. Through an unexpected brick archway we arrived at the Church of St John the Baptist. We were treated to a look inside this rare example of medieval architecture, set out in the shape of a cross. As well as a beautiful East window, the church holds some wonderful medieval memorials and several fascinating brasses. The church sits in the grounds of Shottesbrooke Park, a fine 16th century mansion, and as we left the churchyard we found ourselves in its open parkland, neatly tended by a flock of sheep. Our footpath direction was noted within a granite plaque set into the ground and we followed its pointer, passing the Park's lake. On across fields and within narrow woodland strips we eventually arrived at Shurlock Row. Delightful countryside with views all around took us back to Waltham St Lawrence beside the attractive 14th century Bell Inn surrounded by lovely cottages and the church where John Newbery, the 18th century publisher of works such as Dr Johnson, is buried. We made our way to The Star, which welcomed us in for lunch.

We were in Hampshire for our next walk and upon leaving the built-up area of Heath End we were soon enjoying the lovely open Hampshire countryside. We appreciated the glorious autumn day as we walked along grassy paths between fields of horses with good views over towards Watership Down. We paused to admire the beautiful thatched *Snowdrop Cottage* in its wonderful flower-filled garden. Climbing through Smithleys Copse we disturbed a few pheasants on our way to Ashford Hill Meadows – a National Nature Reserve. Here we walked beside the pleasant Baughurst Brook before more woodland copses took us back to the start.

We chose the lovely Chiltern village of Hambleden for our next walk. Set in a valley, it was no surprise to find our walk started with a climb. Beneath a canopy of trees we were rewarded with beautiful autumn colour surrounding us, and within our view across to the other side of the valley. We eventually dropped down to a track along which we joined a procession of pheasants, calling to their friends who were scattered in the fields beside us. We passed a delightful barn which has undergone conversion to a dwelling, then open fields took us back into Hambleden where we spent some time exploring this pretty village with its attractive cottages set in cottage gardens. We noticed the plaque on the Manor House garden wall announcing that this was the birthplace of James Brudenell, the 7th Earl of Cardigan who led the Charge of the Light Brigade in 1854. He was baptised in the village Church of St Mary the Virgin, and inside the church we found the oak chest, which he used at that time. On the north wall we gazed at the impressive D'Oyley monument, the alabaster figures depicting Sir Cope

D'Oyley, his wife, Martha, and their ten children. Poignantly some of the figures of the children hold skulls, which show they died before their parents. There was much more to see in this interesting church, and our visit was all the more enjoyed because of the beautiful flowers and decorations in celebration of the Harvest. A Hambleden custom still observed at Harvest Festival is when sheaves of wheat, barley and oats are carried in procession to the church, escorted from the Lych Gate by the Rector, Churchwardens and choir. The sheaves are then stacked in the middle of the chancel. This ceremony was televised in 1961. We ended our walk with lunch in the welcoming Stag & Huntsman.



Anticipation mounted for our day in the New Forest as from our coach windows we spotted New Forest Ponies grazing on the heathlands and wandering along the road. At The White Buck Hotel on the edge of Burley we alighted to enjoy the morning coffee waiting for us on welcoming candlelit tables! Our walk began along a quiet lane with occasional fabulous properties on one side and autumnal Forest glades on the other. Every now and then we passed New Forest Ponies grazing on grass

verges – a promising start! A leafy canopy, into which pretty finches and tits flew, emerged onto a wide panoramic expanse of New Forest Heathland – Wow! There are few places in England where the ancient landscape has remained so unchanged. We were thankful to the groups of Forest ponies and cows that we passed, for it is their grazing that has maintained the tapestry of colours, which we witnessed. We walked into the heart of this awe inspiring wilderness, enjoying the browns of the changing bracken, the last few yellow flowers on the gorse, the purple of the heathers, and the variety of plants thriving on little tussocks, which have their own special microclimate a few inches above ground level. The Heathland is dotted with mighty oaks and beech trees, which added their own special glory to the colourful autumnal scene.

We crossed the crystal clear water of the Mill Lawn Brook via an attractive wooden bridge, before following the Brook past ponies and cattle towards a wooded enclosure. We stopped to picnic within a group of oaks, avoiding squashing various spectacular fungi. Refreshed, we made our way off the Heathland and, passing more picturesque properties such as Burley Grange, we entered an orange leafy tunnel that led us over three bridges to cross the streams. Across a grassy area grazed by Forest ponies, we headed towards the gorgeous Burley Lawn, a house undergoing renovation set in gardens glowing wonderfully orange, yellow and red. Climbing between woodland copses we eventually reached the golf course from where holly trees decorated with a mass of red berries led us to our awaiting coach. A short drive took us to Burley where free time allowed us to explore this unspoilt village, which epitomises everything expected from a traditional New Forest village. Starting from beside the oldest building – The Queen's Head – we made our way to the church of St John the Baptist. Famous for its stained glass windows, upon entering its solid North

door, the first thing to catch our eye was the stunning Millennium window. Not only is there a magnificent East window dedicated to St John the Baptist, but also an equally splendid West window depicting Faith, Hope and Charity. We admired the window dedicated to a resident who lived to 101, Miss Applebee - the presence of bees and apples playing on her name. She introduced women's hockey to America so it was fitting to see the hockey sticks in the corner of her window.

Another window celebrates the lives of pilots of the Battle of Britain. Three spitfires fly over the peaceful landscape of the New Forest – a poignant reminder that not all returned to this, their home. Passing the grey and white marble font we stepped out into the lovely autumn afternoon under confetti of yellow falling leaves to the peaceful scene of a large herd of deer grazing in front of Burley



Manor. We headed for the thatched Farmhouse restaurant for a welcome cup of tea before browsing in the quaint array of gift shops. Steeped in old customs and legends, Sybil Leeke, the famous White Witch of Burley, inspired the selection of shops displaying witch related goods – spooky! Burley is one of only a few places that retain its commoner's rights, so ponies, cows and the Burley donkeys are a common sight wandering up the street and poking their heads into

shop doorways! Unfortunately one of the donkeys was being treated for croup and, being inseparable, both donkeys had been temporarily removed for treatment to be given, so sadly we did not see them during our visit.

Clutching various purchases, including scrummy Burley Fudge, we gathered by the war memorial to walk to the edge of the village to a smallholding. A large oak barrel hanging in mid-air signified our arrival at the home of New Forest Cider. An orchard on one side produces apples to be made into pure apple juice. On the other side, several barns hold interesting displays of apples, old cider making equipment, and a studio of photographs of Forest life. Cider making has always been part of the New Forest Commoner's way of life and when we met Barry Tubb he described himself as an artisan cider maker who sticks to traditional methods of production using local orchard cider apples. He took us on a tour of the process, first passing a huge pile of cider apples. Scooped up and trailered up the hill to the heart of the family business, they are tipped into tanks of water that separate the bobbing apples from the sinking stones. Travelling up an elevator they reach the *mill*, which grinds the apples. The resulting pulp drops into a hopper and travels along pipes to a squeezebox press. An 8-minute cycle separates out the precious, pure juice. Barry showed us the large vats in which juice is left to ferment for several months until the 100% pure cider (not like watered down well-known brands sold in supermarkets) is lovingly bottled by hand.

On our way back from the tour we passed a splendid *Workman* steam driven press and an 1850's hand screw press. They were poised ready to leap into action during the forthcoming, nostalgic Open Weekend. Inevitably our tour ended with cider tasting! Inside the well-stocked shop we were tempted by all sorts of locally produced goodies from chutneys and preserves to secret recipe cider cake, and as we left there was also much clinking of bottles of cider coming from our bags! A few paces away we entered the New Forest Tea Room where we tucked into one of the best cream teas we have tasted! Our coach drew up outside to collect us and, as we left the tea room, we were delighted to find several New Forest Ponies and cattle exercising their ancient right to roam as they caused chaos on the road leading a patient line of cars through the village! Some ponies remained to see us off as we made our way home after a delightful autumn day in the New Forest.

We continue our walks at this glorious time of year by visiting the three Chiltern villages of Turville, Fingest and Skirmett, and the Oxfordshire village of Marsh Baldon. We will pay our respects on the eleventh day of the eleventh month in the Falkland Chapel during a walk from Pangbourne. We also hope to raise money for the Reading Association for the Blind during our Charity Walk. One of our original walkers is now going blind but still enjoys walking with a *walking partner*. During a walk the partner describes the scenery, flowers, wildlife etc – many things that can often be taken for granted before sight is suddenly lost. We hope to raise money to keep this initiative alive and anyone who would like to sponsor the group is welcome to drop in money or a cheque (Reading Association for the Blind) to Cherry Acre, Purley Village, opposite the infant school. Thank you!

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

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

November again, so I should be round to collect the Children's Society Boxes in Purley, and send the contents off, in time for Christmas. If you are new in Purley and have a Children's Society Box you would like included, let me know.

S Pryor 984 3589

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS - DO YOUR KIDS KNOW IT?

Come, join us at St Mary's on Sunday 7 and 14 December from 9.30am where the story of Christmas will be taught in our Sunday School groups. If you would like your children to experience the story for themselves, we would love to have them join one of our four groups and hear about it with us.

Creche/bubbles (under 5) - Splash (5-8 years) - X-stream (8-11) - WAM (11+)

Using teaching materials from Scripture Union, we learn through playing games, making crafts, puppets, group discussion etc. Come and join us!

For more information, please contact Debbie Corrigan (945 1895)

MOTORHOME FOR SALE

1993 Talbot, Pilote, 4 Berth, L Reg., 58,000 miles, 2500cc diesel, power steering, cat.1 alarm, hob, grill, oven, fridge, cassett toilet, shower, gas heating/water, awning, solar panel, storage box, M.O.T. February, taxed June, Very reliable £10,500. Tel 942 4176.

LETTERS

Clearly still a hot-topic, I received the following letters from parishioners concerned about the recent changes to the number 16 bus route.

Dear Editor

Thank you for printing the correspondence between the Purley Parish Council and Reading Buses concerning the alterations to route 16. I have contacted the bus company myself and received an equally unhelpful reply. Jayne Foster, writing to me, cites the traffic in the Oxford Road as a cause of delays to the buses. She fails to explain, however, how avoiding Purley Post Office, not usually a congested area, will improve times. I suggest that Reading Buses set a realistic timetable, taking proper account of the traffic congestion.

Reading Buses may claim that they wish to have a direct service from Purley to Reading – I live in Purley and this so-called *Premier* service does not serve me at all. I wonder that they can claim that the route 16 serves Purley when it bypasses many of the houses.

Their insistence that the 132 and 142 make viable alternative routes is particularly galling. Direct as they are, they do not provide the regular service of the 'Premier' route 16. I believe that Reading Buses have reduced the service to parts of Purley to that which might be expected in a more rural location such as Pangbourne. The final comment in their response to the Council that "Premier route is a commercial service" tells us the real source of their motivation. Commercial? Undoubtedly. Service? I think not.

Yours sincerely
Lucy Gallagher

Dear Mr. Editor

I am one of the elderly passengers who have been inconvenienced by the change in the route 16 bus, and I hope the Parish Council will continue to press for something better.

In my opinion the reason the buses could not keep up with the original timetable was the timetable itself. This is admitted in the first sentence of para.1 of Reading Buses' reply. It is curious logic to pretend that it is better to shorten the route and inconvenience the passengers than to achieve better time keeping by adjusting the timetable to meet the circumstances.

The original allocation of 30 minutes for the journey between Purley and Reading Station and vice versa was a nice round figure and allowed one bus to make the return journey in one hour, thus enabling the time table to provide 3 journeys an

hour by using three buses. But it was too optimistic, and passengers waiting at the Purley P.O. stop know that by mid-morning the buses from Reading were hardly ever on time, because of traffic conditions not just the few minutes between New Hill and the roundabout.

If the neatness of the timetable is the overriding consideration I suggest that Reading Buses consider extending route 16 to the outskirts of Pangbourne and establish a terminus at the present shelter at Bourne Road. I imagine this could be done with a journey time of three-quarters of an hour and enable there to be two journeys an hour by route 16, which if integrated with routes 132 and 142 would provide three journeys an hour in both directions.

*Yours sincerely
George Critchell*

SINGING FOR THE BRAIN IN PURLEY

Our Monday morning singing sessions for people with memory problems - and their carers - are underway again for the autumn term. We started in May 2006 and ever since the beginning we have received enormous support from the village and from the Church.

This support is from individuals in the form of volunteers who give unstintingly of their time and energy and without whom, the group could not function. They include members of the Church, Purley WI, Purley Players and Project Purley as well as those who have joined us from nearby.

In addition, during this past 12 months we have received very generous financial support (directly, or indirectly through the West Berkshire branch of the Alzheimer's Society) from several village organisations: Purley Players, the West Berks Scrabble Club and Project Purley, as well as donations from individuals. I would like to express my thanks for this much-appreciated generosity and continuing support.

If there are people with concerns about increasing memory problems, (their own or those of relatives or friends), please contact me about trying our group. Come and enjoy a few simple seated aerobic exercises followed by singing (or even just listening) in a comfortable environment with friendly, understanding people. The experience may help to delay further problems and, hopefully, at least you will enjoy Monday mornings - and it's free! We provide tea and coffee too! (for which you may make a small donation if you wish).

We meet again on Monday, 3 November and each following Monday until 1 December.

*Janet Southall
984 2259 jsouthall@compuserve.com*

A STRANGER FOR CHRISTMAS

Visits from strangers at Christmas began with shepherds turning up at a Bethlehem stable, and continued with the arrival of wise men from a foreign land. You could carry on this tradition, by inviting an international student to spend Christmas in your home. HOST is a well-established charity, backed by the Foreign Office and many universities, which links adults studying in the UK with hospitable volunteers throughout Britain. Guests come from all over the world, including many from China. They speak English, are keen to share their own culture, while longing to know more about our way of life. Welcoming a student who might otherwise spend Christmas on a deserted campus, fosters international understanding, and will make Christmas special. See www.hostuk.org or call 0207 254 3039, for more information. HOST arranges visits throughout the year, so if your *inn* is full this Christmas, you can still offer an invitation at another time.

PROJECT PURLEY

Project Purley has enjoyed listening to many distinguished speakers in the society's 26-year history. This number was added to on Friday, 19 September when Richard Benyon, the Conservative Member of Parliament for Newbury, came to The Barn to tell us about *The Big Battlefield Bike Ride*.

Richard, himself a former army officer in the Royal Green Jackets, took part in the bike ride from 26 May to 1 June this year to raise funds for service charities, in particular the Help for Heroes appeal. Richard is a trustee of the charity and has visited Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham as well as the Headley Court rehabilitation centre in Surrey to meet injured and wounded servicemen and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. He explained that many of the battlefield casualties will need lifelong support, and the Help for Heroes appeal has so far raised £10 million to provide improved gymnasium and swimming pool facilities at Headley Court.

The idea of the sponsored bike ride interested our speaker because it meant that he, his wife Zoe and the three hundred cyclists who accompanied them – including several servicemen who had experienced rehabilitation – could combine the ride with visits to the sites of several World War One and World War Two battlefields.

The party was seen off at Portsmouth by the Red Arrows display team, and the band of the Royal Marines playing in front of HMS Victory, as well as a group from Headley Court, as they prepared for their 342 mile long ride.

Escorted throughout by a bugler, the cyclists were ferried across the Channel and disembarked at Sword Beach, one of the five D-Day landing zones. They then cycled the short distance inland to Pegasus Bridge where, in 1944, Major John Howard and his men of the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry had made an airborne assault and held the bridge against repeated German attacks until relieved by Lord Lovat's Scouts. At Pegasus Bridge Café, the cyclists were warmly greeted

by the daughter of the café owner who had welcomed the invading troops on D-Day.

From Pegasus Bridge the cyclists pedalled on the 65 miles to Le Havre, a town where there is to this day much resentment over the Allied invasion. This attitude persists because the town was almost flattened by British shelling, as the invading forces attempted to drive out the Germans and establish a much needed deepwater port. In fact, the brother of Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the former Prime Minister, was court-martialled because he refused to order his tanks to fire on the town, knowing that many French civilian casualties would be caused.

The next stop was Saint Valery where the party laid a wreath in memory of the British servicemen killed during the retreat to Dunkirk. Then came the visit to Dieppe, where the Canadian raid of 1942 ended in a massacre of the invading force. Despite the disaster, many valuable lessons were learned which would be implemented for D-Day.

The bike ride moved on towards the World War One battlefield of The Somme, stopping several times for food and liquid refreshment on the way. As they did so, they noticed many small cemeteries where often body parts had to be scooped up and buried together because it was not possible to identify which part had belonged to which dead soldier. The Somme plateau was described as "a cesspit of death" by our speaker, and the Thiepval Memorial, designed by Lutyens, commemorates the loss of a golden generation of our British youth. Of all the names on the memorial, including many of Royal Berkshire Regiment soldiers, Richard has chosen just one, that of Rifleman Abraham F.H., to research and find out more about the man and his next of kin.

The final French stage of the ride saw the cyclists travel ninety miles to Dunkirk, where the 1940 evacuation of British forces saw 330,000 servicemen brought safely across the Channel and back to England. At Dunkirk, Richard and his party were taken off the beach by landing craft and transferred to the aircraft carrier, HMS Bulwark. A memorial service was held on deck, then the cyclists landed at Dover to be welcomed by the Red Devils parachute display team.

The very last leg of the journey was completed as the group cycled up from Dover and into London, passing the Ministry of Defence building, the Cenotaph, down Whitehall and finally braking to a halt on Horse Guards Parade.

In conclusion, our speaker told us that the Big Battlefield Bike Ride had raised £1.3 million in sponsorship and donations. He had been privileged to be accompanied on the ride by many servicemen who had lost limbs on active service, as well as by one of Winston Churchill's granddaughters and an 82-year-old Irish peer who was awarded the France and Germany Star for his World War Two service.

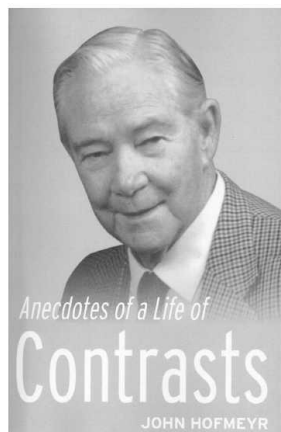
Questions followed for some twenty minutes, during which Richard said that he thought the current generation of youngsters, exemplified by those serving in Her Majesty's Forces, were as good as any that had gone before it. In reply to one persistent questioner, he answered "yes, thank goodness!" when asked if he was a member of the Royal British Legion. He also mentioned the Help for

Heroes rugby match due to be played at Twickenham the following afternoon (one of our members, Ian Burn, was going to watch the game), and explained that future funds raised would continue to support wounded servicemen, including those suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as well as their families and of course many service widows who would eventually have to move out of army accommodation.

Richard's clear speaking voice allied to an excellent PowerPoint presentation had made this a most informative as well as poignant meeting. Invitations to attend had been extended to several British Legion branches in the area, so there were several ex-servicemen in the audience. A *Help for Heroes* bucket collection at the end of the evening, augmented by our speaker donating his fee, raised £133.26. The attendance of forty-one, including several guests, was the highest seen at a Project Purley meeting for many months.

The next meeting of Project Purley will be held in the Barn on Friday, the 21 November at 8pm when Jill Franklin will speak about the History of Cross Lane Apple Farm.

David Downs



JUST PUBLISHED

Anecdotes of a Life of Contrasts

by Dr. John Hofmeyr

'A hundred and one tales', both lay and medical, in a quality paperback of 182 pages with illustrations and index – the 'pocket version' of *The Testament of a Doctor* published in South Africa in 2003.

Now available on order from local bookshops

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SHAKESPEARE IN THE BARN

The Rain or Shine Theatre Company will be coming to The Barn again next summer. The date is Friday, 19 June and they will be performing Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Please make a note of this date in your diary, as their last performance was a sell-out.



1ST PURLEY AND PANGBOURNE SCOUT GROUP

Can I start by offering my apologies as, having invited you all to come and see us at the Pangbourne Village Fete, this unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the sodden field and was then hastily re-scheduled and we were unable to offer our legendary bacon rolls for sale.

We did however have a stall where a lively golf competition took place and it was nice to see so many people taking an interest in our Group.

A new event this August Bank Holiday was the Purley Fete at Goosecroft Recreation Ground where the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts again offered several games for youngsters to play and enjoyed meeting many of you.

A large contingent of our Scout Troop took part in the District Scout Camp this June at Rushalls farm. Starting with pitching their own tents and finishing with striking and packing away the same tents, those who attended were able to improve their outdoor skills practicing activities such as archery, fire-lighting, rifle shooting, orienteering, building shelters in the woods, cooking over an open fire and, of course, singing round the camp fire. As district camp includes several other Scout Troops it also afforded the opportunity for the members to interact and co-operate with others, demonstrate leadership skills and form new friendships.

The Summer term finished with a joint outing for the Cubs and Scouts and their parents who met at Mapledurham drive on a Wednesday evening and walked along the Thames Path to Pangbourne where they enjoyed a well-deserved packet of chips and played cricket and football in the meadow until lack of light stopped play.

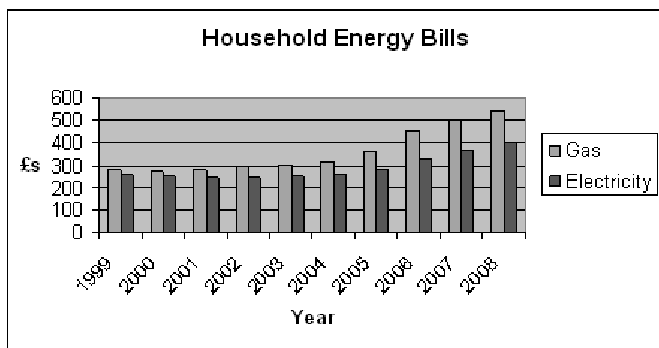
Another opportunity to experience the outdoors was the Challenge camp for over 30 Cubs and Scouts in September at Cray's Pond. Even though our summer weather had been so inclement many members of the group were keen to get into the outdoors and were rewarded with a lovely dry weekend. Yet again, activities including fire-lighting, hiking, rocket building(!), backwoods cooking, orienteering and some amateur dramatics thrown in for good measure, kept everyone busy!

Remembrance Day is an important date in the calendar of 1st Purley and Pangbourne Scout Group as we form a large part of the Parade that marches through Pangbourne each year to pay our respects to those who fought and died in past and current wars. This year we will again be joining the veterans and service personnel on the afternoon of Sunday 9 November and laying a wreath at the War Memorial in the Churchyard.

We will be getting into the Christmas spirit at the start of December when we join the shop-keepers of Pangbourne offering early evening entertainment before the official switching on of the Christmas tree lights and look forward to seeing you there.

TRIM YOUR HEATING BILLS

In July 2008, the UK's largest domestic energy supplier warned that gas bills could rise by up to 35% in 2008. This continues the upward trend in household gas and electricity costs since 2005.



Source: BERR 2008

Can we do anything to slow down these rising energy costs? As space and water heating account for around 60% of the energy used in the average home, this is a good place to start. Follow these 5 tips to trim your heating bills:

- Use your programmer to switch the heating and hot water on and off and set your thermostat at between 18 and 21° C. Every 1° C above this increases your heating bill by 10%.
- Avoid using the immersion heater to heat water. The relatively high unit cost of electricity makes it more cost effective to use your gas boiler for this.
- Switch supplier or switch tariff. If you have Economy 7, time your washing machine and dishwasher to exploit the cheaper nighttime electricity tariff.
- Make the most of each use of a given appliance. Wash clothes and dishes when you have a full load ready to go. Switch things off when not in use.
- Insulate your home. Energy Saving Trust now estimates annual savings of £160 from installing cavity wall insulation. This is currently free to over 70s.

For advice on insulating your home, call Cocoon on 0800 8048 777. This is a free, council-supported service.

This information was brought to you by United Sustainable Energy Agency (www.usea.org.uk). We deliver carbon reductions and address fuel poverty by offering a range of sustainable energy solutions to individuals, business and organisations. USEA is also an operator for the Energy Saving Trust and offers free, impartial and expert energy saving advice.