

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH - PURLEY ON THAMES

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

9.30 a.m. First Worship - An informal service including All Age Teaching (creche provided)

11.15 a.m. Parish Communion

6.30 p.m. Evening Worship

**RECTOR** Rev. Roger B. Howell,  
The Rectory,  
1 Westridge Avenue,  
Purley on Thames  
Tel: 417727

**CURATE** Rev. Brendan Bailey,  
10 Knowsley Road,  
Tilehurst  
Tel: 451411

**READERS** Jean Rothery Wally Watkivs  
Tel: 843625 Tel: 426170

**CHURCHWARDENS** Mary Barrett David Jordan  
Tel: 842166 Tel: 415994

## CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Jackie Benstead  
Tel: 429116

## CHURCH HIRINGS

Liane Southam  
Tel: 428243

**BAPTISMS** Enquiries about baptism should be made to the Rector (417727)

**WEDDINGS** Enquiries about weddings should be made to Jackie Benstead (429116)

**FUNERALS** Enquiries about funerals should be made to the Rector (417727)

Dear Friends,

If a way could be found to break the deadlock in the search for peace in Northern Ireland it would be a wonderful piece of good news! There would be much rejoicing, many sighs of relief and a profound sense of thankfulness that the troubles were over. If a true and lasting peace could be found in the Middle East between Israel and her neighbours, it would be good news! If the countries of former Yugoslavia could be rebuilt and warring groups became reconciled to one another and able to live together, it would be the end of an agonizing situation and welcome good news!

And so it could go on. Lots of individuals are looking for good news: those without work hope they will find another job; those without homes hope for a permanent roof over their heads. Our country and world need to hear some good news in so many different ways, but what would be good news for some, would have little significance for others. We are all so different that it would be hard to find something which would be good news for everyone.

But Easter fits the bill. What happened on the first Easter Sunday brings the announcement of good news for the whole world! It is relevant to every single person for this very simple, but painful reason - death!

Our lives are limited.

They come to an end - sometimes abruptly and often before we think they should. None of us can escape death.

**Jesus Christ experienced death but three days afterwards, He broke through the power of death in the resurrection!**

***This is the message of Easter, but only part of it - He rose to life again at that point but is alive for evermore!***

From this unique event comes the guarantee that all who acknowledge Him as Son of God and entrust their lives to Him will also pass safely through death, just as He did.

Assurance of this truth makes a world of difference to the way we view death - our own and that of those near and dear to us. There is still much sadness and shock, the sense of numbness and loneliness is still there and the pain of bereavement goes on for a long time. But the unbreakable promise of Jesus is there to undergird us in all these feelings.

When the friends of Jesus first heard the news of the resurrection, they found it really hard to take on board, but eventually they grasped it. What convinced them was when they saw Jesus for themselves - then they *knew* He was alive. In a time of great stress and sadness such as bereavement brings, it is very hard to take on board new truths - because everything shouts at us that it cannot be so. Now is the time to think about these things. We know the time left to us is getting shorter every day. We tend to give a lot of thought to things which *might* happen, and often we find that we need not have worried after all. The end of life is a *certainty* - either through illness or accident, or through old-age. Now is the time to prepare for it!

**Jesus died on the cross and rose to life again so that we might face it with confidence and not fear.**

The greeting *Happy Easter* may be no more than a courtesy address, but it could be much more than that. To *know* that Jesus gave His life and rose again brings not just temporary happiness, but lasting peace within.

I wish you a Happy Easter!

## **WINDING UP OF THE FULLERTON CHARITY**

In 1918, Mrs. Leila Minna Gertrude Downing Fullerton of Purley Park made in her will a bequest of £300, the income from which was to be used by the churchwardens of St. Mary's for the upkeep of the church, at their discretion. The Trustees of the Charity established for this purpose are the Rector, and Churchwardens of St. Mary's.

Under the 1992 Charities Act, the Charity Commissioners were empowered to realise the investments of very small charities such as this one (by then held in 3.5% War Loan Stock) and the proceeds were given to the Trustees to hold in a separate Bank Account. These proceeds currently stand at £195.00, accumulating annual interest of less than £3.00. The subsequent Charities Act of 1993 permits Trustees of Charities whose gross income is less than £1,000 p.a. to apply for the capital sum to be spent as income (in line with the provisions of the Charity), and for the Charity then to be wound up.

I and the Trustees have, therefore, decided to take this course of action. A Formal resolution to this effect was passed on March 12th 1996 and a copy of the Resolution will be on display at St. Mary's Church on the inside noticeboard until June. This article is also intended to give notice of our intention in the parish of Purley, in case anyone wishes to make representations to the Charity Commissioners over the Resolution.

If anyone wishes so to do, please contact me and I can supply further details and the address of the Charity Commissioners.

Roger Howell,  
Rector of Purley

## **COTTAGE TO LET**

Country cottage Brittany/Normandy borders, self-catering, sleeps 5/7. Half-hour from Mont St. Michel, half-hour from St. Malo, one and a half hour's drive from Cherbourg. Available April to October. Enquiries to Della Davies on 427919.

## **ENGLEFIELD GARDENS**

Open every Monday throughout the year, plus Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1st April - 30th June, 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. Entrance £2.00, children free.

# PARISH REGISTERS

## Baptism

18th February

Lucy Emma Gibbs

## Wedding

2nd March

Tom Mobey and Mary Keet

## Funerals

29th February

David Froud, aged 63 years (cremation)

13th March

Cyril Leonard Sears, aged 77 years (cremation)

14th March

Marina Julienne Cronshaw, aged 38 years

# LUNCH POT

The steady trickle of new customers continues and it is lovely to see them soon chatting while enjoying their lunch.

We are closed for Easter week only, 11th April, then will be back with some new choices on the menu as we move towards the summertime.

See you Thursdays, 12 noon - 1 p.m. in St. Mary's.

**WANTED** - If anyone has a high chair they could donate to Lunch Pot, the increasing number of mums with young babies would be very grateful. Ring me on 413197, or bring it along on Thursday. Thank you.

Nicki Woodward

# SUMMER SUN

To Let - Menorca, Calan Porter - pretty apartment which sleeps 5. Mature gardens, pools, playground, central position. Calan Porter has a clean, safe beach. Tel: 844564.

During March one of the young mums from St. Mary's told us the story about the birth of her third child, baby Sean. In hospitals throughout this country, when you give birth you receive a bumper pack containing the necessities for your newborn baby. In the Royal Berkshire Hospital pack was an envelope marked "What does a mother in Bosnia receive?" Inside this envelope was a picture of a Bosnian mum with her new baby and the word **NOTHING**. It was decided that we, in this country, are so lucky and indeed very rich in what we receive. Because this had a profound effect on us, we decided to hand round an empty white envelope during the Mothering Sunday service, and we, mothers and our children, filled this envelope with money which would go towards some baby boxes which Feed The Children are at present sending to those mothers who have nothing. At the time of going to press, I do not know how much we managed to collect but I will let you know in next month's Purley Parish News.

On 7th April it is Easter Sunday. We know that exchanging Easter eggs is a symbol of new birth after our Lord died for us upon the cross and rose again on Easter morning. We realise that it would be very difficult to send Easter eggs abroad - they would obviously break - so we thought the best idea would be to send chocolate bars to the children who have nothing. The usual box will be in the entrance to St. Mary's, but please give me a ring on 625760 or Mollie Bridge on 426722 if you would like us to collect your gift from your home. Thank you.

Sheila Adnett

## **PURLEY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP**

We are looking for a helper to work on a Monday and Wednesday morning, starting on June 3rd. If you could enjoy working with 3 - 5 year olds from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and would like to be considered for the position, please contact Sue Slade on 410778 after 1.00 p.m. or call in at the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Mondays to Thursdays, 9.30 -

11.30 a.m. for more details.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

### Millenium - A Suggestion for Purley

I've always thought that the pond beside the crossroads that gives Crays Pond its name makes a most delightful feature.

With willow trees at the waterside, spring daffodils and other sympathetic planting around the edges, it makes a most attractive green oasis at the centre of their village.

But what of Purley? Our Rector, Roger Howell, made a plea in the January issue of Purley Parish News. Is any individual, the Social Club(s) or even the Parish Council silently working away behind the scenes on a project for the millenium?

Recent items in the Reading Chronicle about a Tidmarsh Village green suggested the possibility of millenium funding for such a proposal.

Could Purley go one better - we do actually have a village, we could have a village green, with a village pond as beautiful as that at Crays Pond?

A humble suggestion for our existing central green patch where the horses now graze, where the farm/village pond used to be and where the willows still stand defiantly to make us remember their past glories.

Trevor J. Cotton

## CARAVAN TO LET

West Sussex, Bracklesham Bay - 6 berth caravan on a private site. Well situated for Chichester, Portsmouth, Goodwood and the South Downs. Club bar, launderette, children's playground, good walks, space and peace.

Tel: 844564.

## WANTED

Highchair for Lunch Pot - See page 5.

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor,

My mother, Nancy Ayers, was a resident of Purley for many years and has not been too well over the last months.

After spending time in the Battle and Royal Berkshire Hospital she spent Christmas with us in Cornwall.

However, on New Year's Day she was admitted to Fairey Hospital and then moved on to Bodmin Hospital. I brought her home briefly to Purley at the beginning of February and even with carers it became clear that she could no longer look after herself and she is now residing in a nursing home at Looe where she is receiving the 24-hour care that she needs. Her address is:-

Hillcrest House Nursing Home  
Barbican Road,  
East Looe, Cornwall PL13 1WW  
Tel: 01503 263489/265151

She would be very pleased to hear from anybody about Purley news.

Peter Ayers

## **PURLEY ON THAMES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held at The Memorial Hall, Glebe Road on Friday, 26th April at 8.00 p.m. All electors of the parish are welcome.

This is the opportunity for you to hear reports from your Parish Council and your local councillors on the Berkshire County Council and Newbury District Council. You are also given the opportunity to ask questions of the Parish, District and County Councillors.

It is also hoped that there will be reports from the local schools, the Memorial Hall and the Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre.

I look forward to seeing you on the 26th April.

Reg Marshall,  
Chairman, Purley on Thames Parish Council

## **ROTARY CLUB OF PANGBOURNE**

Over the past few weeks the usual widely varied programme of speakers has continued. Among the topics presented and discussed have been the operation of the Royal Berks and Battle Hospital Trusts, the restoration of various artifacts, the planning of the new Reading Football Stadium and the considerations behind the generation of nuclear power.

A cheque for £250 has been presented to Mr. Jerry Owens, Headmaster at Langtree School, by the Rotary Club of Pangbourne to help provide basic school materials for a school in Berat, Albania.

A very direct and personal link has been formed between the two communities as well as between two schools in Albania and Langtree School. So far, nearly £4,000 has been raised to fund supplies.

John Clare

## **PURLEY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**

Purley Sports and Social Club are holding their Annual Fun Day on Bank Holiday Monday, 26th August 1996, at the Recreation Ground. If any local organisation would like to book and run a stall on the day or if any business would like to book a space, would they call Peter Evans on Reading 412910.

## DISTRICT NOTES

By now everyone should have had their plastic bin for newspapers and have had one or two collections. Please do make good use of this new service as it will both help to reduce the amount of paper that has to be buried and hopefully the Council will be able to make a bit of money to help keep costs down. The scheme got off to a good start over the District as a whole with well over 40 tons being collected every week except when snow intervened. In Purley we had a bit of a mix up as the same leaflet went to every house, and some should have had the version that gave the alternate week for collection - net result was that Purley Rise and a few other streets had their bins sitting uncollected and the week before our officers were wondering why Purley and Tilehurst were not properly contributing to the scheme.

The issue of concessionary travel tokens this July will see a change of colour and denomination. The old ones which have been in use now for many years will be withdrawn shortly afterwards so they will not be worth anything. If you do have some left over or sitting unused at the bottom of a drawer, then why not donate them to the Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre who can redeem them for cash. Either drop them into the Centre or give them to me to pass on.

I was able to make sure that parking charges in Pangbourne will not be increased this year. They will stay at 20p for the first hour, 30p for 2 hours, 40p for 3 hours, 50p for 4 hours, £1.20 for 8 hours and £5.00 for more than 8 hours. However, there will be stricter enforcement, especially to catch people feeding the meters and causing obstructions by not parking in the designated places.

We were all very pleased to see that the Inspector upheld the Tree Preservation Order on the land between Theobald Drive and Oxford Road.

Well we now know the worst for next year as far as Council Tax is concerned at least. We always start off with what is called the Tax Base, i.e. the equivalent number of Band D houses. For this District as a whole this was 53650, for Purley 1744 and for Tilehurst 5349. This is then used to convert the precepts from the various authorities into Council Tax amounts and the result was £469.69 for Berkshire County Council, £46.96 for Thames Valley Police, £64.59 for Newbury District, £25.44 for Purley on Thames Parish Council and £30.56 for Tilehurst Parish Council. This gives a total of £606.68 for Purley and £611.80 for Tilehurst.

Owing to some peculiar European legislation which now defines when railway timetables can change, the new summer timetable comes into effect on 6th June. The only significant change as far as we are concerned is that the service from Reading at off peak times will be at the standard xx25 and xx55 times instead of xx30 and xx55 as at present. The car parking at Tilehurst and Pangbourne stations will be run directly by Thames Trains instead of being managed by First Parking whose contract has just run out.

Now that Newbury Town are getting their own Town Council it has seemed appropriate that the District Council should change its name to "West Berkshire". This has already been proposed and has received considerable support. I would be interested in your views before a final decision is taken.

Discussions continue about what to do with the remaining derelict and substandard plots on the River Estate. I am hoping to have some positive news of action in the near future.

John Chapman,  
Newbury District Council, Purley Ward

## **PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **May Ball - Dinner Dance**

Yes, it's that time of year again. After such a highly successful event last year, we are holding our second MAY BALL on Saturday, 18th may 1996.

It will take place at The Rosewood Hall, Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne from 19.30 hours until midnight.

Tickets are now available at £20.00 per person, which includes an introductory drink, three-course dinner (including coffee and mints), music and a raffle not to be missed!

So why not dress up and join us for what is sure to be a great night. Any enquiries please telephone me on 615535 or ask at the school office.

Sharon Herring,  
Pangbourne Primary School PTA

## **PURLEY (BERKS) TENNIS CLUB**

As announced at the end of last year, we are looking forward to a new tennis season with new courts! We have been working hard with Purley Parish Council through the winter to sort out the paperwork and hope that the re-surfacing work will be going ahead shortly.

Both the Ladies' and Men's teams are entered in various leagues during the summer. Ladies please note that Wednesday afternoons are reserved for you (2 p.m. start). Coaching this year for juniors and adults - all levels! - will be on Wednesday evenings.

New members are always welcome. Please contact me on 843932 or Jenny Davies on 625925.

Jane Perugia

## **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

At the March meeting we had the Annual Business with financial report, secretary's report, and President's comments, selection of a new President and Committee, or rather re-selection of old President and old Committee, with the addition of Margaret Martin to freshen us up a bit. It has been a satisfactory and enjoyable year, with some good entertainments and achievements and our finances on a better footing with constant efforts and welcome additions.

The Competition Cup was won by Ella Petrie with Sybil Pryor as runner-up, and the Flower of the Month Annual Competition was won by Vi Watts, with Sybil Pryor runner-up again - oh well!

The Beetle Drive provided noisy light relief and was a tie between Marion Dabbs and Ann Chapman. Angela Edwards' perfect Christmas Rose came first in the Flower of the Month and Kath Hodge's Snowdrop second.

Next month's meeting will be on Wednesday, 10th April, 7.30 p.m. at the Memorial Hall when Ann Howes will talk about Hats - past and present; the competition is "An Easter Bonnet" and there will be a Bath and Beauty Stall.

Sybil Pryor

**Date for your Diaries** - Barbecue and Boat Trip provisionally Saturday, 31st August.

## **PURLEY CRICKET CLUB**

## **1996 Season**

Purley C.C. will again be running three teams in the coming cricket season; two Saturday XI's will be competing in the Berkshire League and the Sunday XI will be playing friendly fixtures.

The Club has also entered several midweek Knock-Out cup competitions.

### **Pre-Season Indoor Cricket Nets**

Pre-season indoor nets are taking place between 8 and 9 p.m. at Bradfield College Sports Complex on the following dates:

April 10, 17 and 24

Existing and prospective members all welcome.

### **Junior (Colts) Cricket**

As announced in last month's magazine, the club is starting a Junior (Colts) section; this will commence in early May on Tuesday evenings at our home ground (the Recreation Ground, Beech Road). Initially, coaching will be provided and, as demand grows, we hope to develop to running a team and playing friendly matches.

### **Fixtures**

Saturday, 20th April v St. Sebastians (Friendly)	Away 2.00 p.m.
Saturday, 27th April v Reading AllStars (Friendly)	Home 2.00 p.m.
Saturday, 27th April v Theale (Friendly)	Away 2.00 p.m.
Sunday, 28th April v Mortimer West End (Friendly)	Home 2.30 p.m.
Saturday, 4th May v Emmbrook (1st XI League)	Away 2.00 p.m.
Saturday, 4th May v Berks County Sports (2nd XI League)	Home 2.00 p.m.
Sunday, 5th May v Aldworth (Friendly)	Home 2.30 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in the Cricket Club in any way (Colts or Adults playing, umpiring, scoring or just watching) watch out for more information in Purley Parish News or contact:

Martin Bishop on 427142 or Brian Smith on 843653.

## **PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH**

10th Apr.	7.30 p.m.	Women's Institute
13th Apr.	2.30 p.m.	Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show
17th Apr.	8.00 p.m.	Horticultural Society meeting
18th Apr.	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
20th Apr.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Tool Sale
26th Apr.	8.00 p.m.	Parish Assembly
2nd May	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic

**Each week during term time, Monday to Thursday, 9.15 - 11.45 a.m. : Purley Pre-School Playgroup. For further details, please telephone Sue Slade on 410778 or call in during one of the sessions.**

The Hall Treasurer will be retiring at the end of the present financial year (31st August). Is there anyone in the Parish who would be interested in taking on this post? For further details, please telephone me on 843809.

Mrs. J. Hutchings, Hon. Secretary

## **LONG LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

I am pleased to report that our new arrival was delivered safely, weighing in at several tonnes and witnessed by 200 children. In other words, the new building is here! The modular building arrived a couple of hours late which meant that Reading didn't grind to a complete halt during the rush hour as originally intended. Within two hours, the crane had positioned the two halves of the building together and a team of workers set to. As I write, the services are being connected and we should be able to use the classroom from the beginning of the summer term.

Readers of the two local papers will have seen pictures and articles reporting the Art and Craft Exhibition that was held in our school on 2nd March. Everyone who came seemed to agree that it was really most successful and we must do it again!

Mrs. Ann Emmons, a part-time teacher at this school and the school's art co-ordinator, was the brains behind the ambitious concept of bringing together the work of local artists. Our hall was transformed into an impromptu art gallery displaying the work of 26 local artists together with work by the children from the school. On the Monday, four artists were kind enough to show the children their skills. The event generated much interest and renewed enthusiasm for art with the children. Although the event was not designed as a fund raising activity, Mrs. Emmons donated, for raffle, one of her pictures, and together with a small entrance fee we raised £200. Half the money has been given to Feed The Children and the other half will be used to purchase art materials.

A representative from Feed The Children came in to show our older children slides of her recent visit to Albania. Our pupils were shown again the difficult conditions many Albanian children and their families face in nurseries, schools and orphanages. Despite the valiant efforts of Feed The Children to support families in Albania, the need continues and we, as a school, will continue to give practical aid and money for this cause.

A.T. Kuhles,  
Headteacher

# THE ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM COUNCIL

## Pangbourne & District Branch - Diary of Events for 1996

- Sun. 28th Apr.** - Pic-a-Stick Stall at Pangbourne Donkey Derby
- Sun. 26th May &  
Sun. 7th July** - Little Bowden House, Yattendon Road, Pangbourne - Gardens open to the public. Home-made teas made by ARC Committee and friends. 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
- Sat. 7th Sept.** - Collections at Waitrose, Oxford road, Reading
- Fri. 11th Oct.** - **-60th Jubilee Celebrations of ARC** in Pangbourne Village Hall. Dr. David, Consultant Rheumatologist will be speaking, and this will be followed by a Musical Event. Tickets available later in the year.
- Tues. 7th Nov.** - Christmas Coffee Morning, Pangbourne. If anyone would like to help or give a donation in this our special year, please contact me on 421020 or Sheila Aris on 427721.

ARC is the only British Charity dedicated to this cause. The charity does not receive help from the National Health Service. Eight out of ten of us will have some form of arthritis by the time we reach 70!

Anne Bolam

## FROM MY HISTORY NOTEBOOK

### Drowned in the River Thames

On the right hand side of the path leading to the south porch of Purley Church are the gravestones of two young people who drowned in the river Thames. Despite the fact that the river forms the northern boundary of the parish, there are no references to death by drowning in the parish documents. The Parish Registers do not record a cause of death except in one instance when Giles Blagrove was murdered in 1738. It was the inscriptions on the two stones that led us to look elsewhere for more information, which was found in back copies of the Berkshire Chronicle and Reading Mercury.

*"Sacred to the Memory of George Viner who was accidentally drowned while bathing  
August 31st 1854 aged 20 years.*

*This stone was erected by his afflicted parents as a lasting tribute of their affection to  
their son".*

George Viner was a footman with Alexander Popham Esq., a tenant at Purley Park from about 1847 to 1858. In 1851, Mr. Popham had a living-in staff of ten, while his coachman and gardener and their families lived elsewhere on the estate.

It had been a week of beautiful weather, and early in the morning of 31st August George and another servant went to bathe in the river near the church. He could swim and had almost reached the Oxford side when he appeared to be sinking and called for assistance.

As his companion was a poor swimmer, he went for help, but by the time he returned from the house with the coachman, George was lying in seven feet of water. At the Inquest held later that day, a verdict of accidental death was recorded.

It was almost two years later that the same Coroner, Rupert Clarke, Esq., was called to investigate another sad case of drowning at Purley.

*"In memory of Francis Affleck who was accidentally drowned while bathing in the river  
Thames on 24th July 1856 aged 9 years"*

Returning from school with a friend one Friday afternoon, Francis Affleck decided to bathe in the river near the Pound House, Mapledurham. Being only 9 years old, he was probably not a very strong swimmer and almost immediately got out of his depth. Before assistance could be procured he was unfortunately drowned; as before, the verdict was accidental drowning.

The Affleck family had arrived in the parish a few years previously when James Affleck obtained work as a Farm Bailiff. During the short time that James and his wife Mary were living in the village, two children were born to them and baptised in Purley Church; James in 1854 and Samuel in 1857. There were probably other children, but as they lived here so briefly, I have not been able to find out more about the rest of the family.

Another sad case is that of the Rev. Matthews who was drowned in 1914 or whom I will write more next month.

Jean Debney

*(This article was first published in Purley Parish News in March 1982 and has been reproduced by kind permission of Jean Debney).*

## **COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR BERKSHIRE**

### **Funderfinder in Newbury**

In order to make easier the tracking down of funds for voluntary groups, CCB has purchased Funderfinder, a computer package. Instead of making your way manually through the hefty tomes of charitable trusts, you feed your information into the computer, and it will produce a list of likely trusts for you to consult. It does not deal with grants to individuals.

Judy Clark, who acts as Charities Information Officer, or Brian Bellamy (a volunteer) will be at Newbury Volunteer Bureau on Thursday mornings to help groups go through the Funderfinder package. This has to be done by appointment only, as it takes up to one hour's consultancy time with each group to use the package to its full potential.

Obtaining a list of likely fundfinders is just the first step in the process of obtaining funds. You then need to seek further details about the Trusts themselves from reference books in order to write an effective application which fits in with each Trust's precise giving policy, application cycle etc. Reference books on Trusts (e.g. Directory of Grant-making Trusts) should be in the reference section of your nearest major library. There are also copies of these at CCB's base in Newbury Volunteer Bureau, together with books on writing effective grant applications, which you are welcome to consult.

Please telephone the CCB office (01734 612000) during normal office hours to make an appointment to use Funderfinder, or Newbury Volunteer Bureau (01635 49004 - mornings only) if you would like to look at the reference books.

If you are unable to come for a Funderfinder appointment, we have a questionnaire which enables us to give a postal service.

We have been fortunate in obtaining funding for this package and we would like to feel that all voluntary organisations in the County get a chance to make us of the information contained in it.

Judith Clark,  
Assistant Director

## **THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME - THE LONDON TO SAIGON MOTOR CHALLENGE 1992**

### **Saturday, 12th September 1992 - Golmud Hotel, Golmud**

Spending the day in Golmud. Today is the big clear-out day, we must try to get rid of some of that sand and dust in the car and make a final decision about whether we actually risk taking the car up to Lhasa or not. We have been assured the roads are fairly good, tarmac most of the way but we have no handbrake, of the six wheels and tyres we started with we now have three good ones, one buckled with a good tyre, another a good wheel but a split tyre, and a wheel with a shredded tyre. It would be very disappointing not to be able to achieve that drive to Lhasa as, yet again, as we have found so often on this trip, they haven't called this a motoring challenge for nothing.

The experience of changing the tyres was out of 1930s. Stewart went with Joe, the American, and Joachim who had tyre problems, with one of the Chinese drivers to a small workshop situated where everything was done by hand. They were a tyre lever short so they heated up a piece of metal, went to the workshop next door and within five minutes had another tyre lever. It was filthy and it would appear that they offered some form of 24 hour service but because of this the dirty, unswept, never cleaned workshop and yard was sleeping quarters.

We have been warned that it is snowing in Lhasa and Stewart hunted for warm clothes but could find nothing as the Chinese seem to be somewhat smaller than he is but hopefully we are well enough equipped.

At supper we were given a lecture by David Camancho about altitude sickness and the extreme dangers of it. We were already very aware of the problems but it is quite different from reading them in Reading to being told just before you are about to depart to very high altitudes.

*(To be continued)*

*Stewart and Nan Scotchbrook*

## **PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Our AGM in February ended another successful year for the Society. The Chairman thanked all those who have given their time and efforts to make it such a successful and enjoyable year.

Your committee for the next year is:

<b>Chairman:</b>	Neil Buckle
<b>Secretary:</b>	Anne Stockley
<b>Treasurer:</b>	George Critchell
<b>Trading Secretary:</b>	Bob Hawkins
<b>Show Organiser:</b>	Jimmy Armstrong
<b>Member:</b>	Pat Brightwell
	Marion Dabbs
	John Murphy
	Richard Watts
	Terry Woodward

The **Spring Flower Show** is on Saturday, 13th April. The last date for entries is Wednesday, 10th April, so you've still time to get your entries in! The show is open to the public from 2.30 p.m., so do come along - it's always a beautiful sight. If you need any advice on your entries, then please give me a call and we'll try to help.

Other events:

**Wed. 17th April** Evening Talk: "Hanging Baskets and Containers" by Mr. Partidge, 8.00 p.m. at the Memorial Hall.

**Sat. 11th May** Plant Sale, 9.00 a.m. in the Memorial Hall car park. If you have any special request for plants, please let me know.

**June** Coach trip. Watch this space for details.

The Trading Store is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. If you have any queries about the Society, please call me on 624457.

Anne Stockley,

## LAUGHLINES

A highland farmer who had attended for the first time the General Assembly, that annual gathering of Church of Scotland ministers in Edinburgh, was asked on his return home for his impressions. After giving the matter due thought, he replied, "Ministers are rather like dung. They are all right when spread thinly over the land, but get them in a heap and they are a bit nauseous!"

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## PURLEY PARISH NEWS

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I welcome contributions from anyone to this magazine, particularly on local issues and events. Please note, however, I reserve the right to edit contributions to suit space availability. Comments and opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the P.C.C. of St. Mary's Church, Purley on Thames - sponsors of Purley Parish News.

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This month's magazine is published on **Saturday, 6th April 1996**. All copy for the May issue must reach me by **15th April** and the magazine will be published on **Saturday, 4th May 1996**.

Editor