

# 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,

**Church can be a dangerous place!**

"What do you mean? Surely a church is one of the safest places to be!"

"Well normally, of course, it is but it all depends on what is happening."

The church building is used a lot during the course of a week by all sorts of different people and groups. We are glad that it should be so. When not in use the building is kept locked but if anyone wants to visit it they are welcome to call at the Rectory for a key. The churchyard is used from time to time for burials, but for the time being this is restricted to re-opening of existing graves as all the spaces have been used up.

But the building itself and the churchyard are not meant to be places where children can play and mess around! If children climb on to the roof, as has happened recently again, there is danger. The roof is slippery and steep and someone could easily fall off on to the ground. Ten or twenty feet is a long way to drop and the flagstones are solid and very hard! The power lines also come into the building near the roof and we do not want to see any accidents here either.

Quite apart from the danger, there is also the cost involved in repairing damage done to slates, tiles and roofing felt on the storage sheds. If the roof is damaged, water gets in

and does further damage.

The churchyard has sad associations for many residents. To think that children are running all over graves, dislodging flowers and stones is distressing and quite unnecessary. There are play areas in different parts of the parish where there is no danger and where no one minds children running around - that is what these places are for. But the church and churchyard are not playing places. May they be respected for what they are please.

## **PARISH REGISTERS**

### **Wedding**

20th April                      Andrew Tingey and Karen Masters

### **Funerals**

12th April                      Jessie White, aged 80 years  
16th May                        Audrey Webb, aged 67 years  
17th May                        Alfred (Archie) White, aged 82 years

## **CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE**

Could someone please offer to help with strimming the long grass around the gravestones? Peter Harvie does a wonderful job every week with normal grass cutting, but we should not really be leaving this job to one person! Please speak to Jackie Benstead (429116) or to the Rector (417727) if you could help.

## **PURLEY PARK PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

We would like to inform members and residents of Purley Park that the Reading Magistrates Court refused the application for an off licence being awarded to the shop at

1A Colyton Way.



## THE ANNUAL BOAT BARBECUE

Purley's Annual Boat Barbecue trip to Hardwick House will take place during the evening of **Saturday, 31st August**, so put the date in your diaries now!

This year there will be a slight change to the schedule, as there will be only two trips rather than the three that we have had in the past. Instead of just providing a shuttle between Mapledurham Lock and Hardwick House, this year the boat will leave Mapledurham Lock, travel all the way up to Pangbourne, turn just below the weir, and come back downstream to dock at Hardwick. **And all this for £3.75 adult (including 50p for charcoal) and £1.75 child!** This means that there will be 60 minutes between the boats leaving Mapledurham Lock, so the journey and turn-around will be a little less rushed. The first boat leaves at 6.30 p.m. and the second at 7.30 p.m. It will not be possible to travel out on the first boat and back on the second.

Claudia Beckett (844893) is taking the bookings again this year, so book early to guarantee your places.

## LUNCH POT

The new spring menu has been going down a great. Many customers have been "mixing and matching" by having a filled jacket potato and the salad. At £1.40 this makes a filling yet reasonable meal. As well as our "regulars", such as cheese or ham to accompany the potatoes, salads or rolls, we have been trying out "specials". These have proved very popular and who can blame anyone for being tempted when faced with delicious salmon plait, large scotch eggs or chicken pie to name a few. Put with salad this makes a generous lunch for just 90p. Remember it's half price for all children's portions!

Many thanks for the donations of high chairs, which have helped the mums tremendously. This month could I beg for any trays you no longer need, especially rectangular ones. Thank you.

Look forward to seeing you on Thursday, 12 noon - 1.00 p.m. in St. Mary's.

Nicki Woodward

Archie White gave me the following announcement for Purley Parish News. Sadly, only a couple of days later, Archie himself passed away, but I think he would still have wished me to include it.

Editor

**JESSIE WHITE** (Died 2nd April 1996, aged 80 years. Her funeral was on the 12th April)

Archie White wishes to thank all those dear friends who sent messages, cards of condolence, flowers and attended the interment of my beloved wife, Jessie. Of the 54 years of our loving partnership, we spent more than 40 of these in Purley. During those years, Jessie gave freely of her energy and time to the welfare of the Purley Estate and won so many friends.

Again thank you all for the many kindnesses which have given me comfort during these first lonely days.

Thank you once again for your generous support by donating **skipping ropes** for the children of Albania. I have taken these to the Feed the Children Headquarters in Caversham and was told "these are being packed right this minute for shipment on the next lorry to Albania"! Nice to know that the little bit we are doing is so appreciated by these unfortunate children.

This month we are continuing on the theme of educational/stimulating toys and ask for you to donate **BALLS**. Now these balls can be of any size you wish from tennis ball size to the size of a football (and for all you Welsh readers, rugby balls will be very welcome too!).

Please leave these balls in the usual box in the entrance porch at St. Mary's Church, Purley or ring me on 625760 if you would like me to collect directly from your home. Thank you again.









# **THE ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL**

## **Pangbourne & District Branch**

Over £1,500 was collected during our house-to-house and street collections. Thank you to all who collected or donated so generously.

To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of ARC, a rose called ARC Angel has been specially grown which made its debut at the Chelsea Flower Show in May. It is available to order for delivery in October. It retails at about £6.00 with £1.86 going to ARC from the sale. The rose is a hybrid tea and grows to around 2'6" with a heavenly scent. If you wish to place an order, please telephone me on 421020.

If anyone would like to become a member of our local branch, our Membership Secretary, Rosemary Wigmore (843112), would love to hear from you. Membership is a minimum of £1.50 per year which includes three magazines.

Anne Bolam

## **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.

## **TO LET**

Single bedsitting room in very pleasant house in Tilehurst. All amenities - would suit older lady or widow. For details, please telephone 421528.

## **DISTRICT NOTES**

First, a big thank you to those who have donated their unwanted travel tokens to the Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre. There is still time to hand more of them in so that the centre can get the value of them. The new tokens will be issued as usual in the first two weeks of July and those eligible will be sent full details. If you are a man and have reached 65 or a woman who has reached 60, or you are registered disabled, then please do get in touch with the Council to make sure you are on the list.

Some help for rural village shops has just been announced which enables the Council to give a 100% instead of just a 50% rebate on business rates. But as it applies only to shops in rural settlements of less than 3,000 population, Purley is unlikely to benefit.

Our congratulations to Jean Gardner who has been elected Vice Chairman of Newbury District Council for the coming year. Jean has been chairman of Tilehurst Parish Council for many years and is a governor of Denefield School. The new chairman is John Morgan who represents the Downlands.

The new arrangements for planning committees have come into operation and the first meeting of the new Eastern Area Committee will take place at the Calcot Centre on June 5th. This will deal with planning matters from Purley, Pangbourne, Sulham, Tidmarsh, Theale, Tilehurst, Mortimer and Burghfield and applications from Thatcham and surrounding villages will be heard in Thatcham. Hopefully this will shorten meetings and allow more time to give proper consideration to our local plans.

Allan Jones, our Director of Development Services, has been appointed Chief Executive of Test Valley District Council. Rather than replacing him immediately, we are appointing an Acting Director who will look after planning and technical matters until we have had a thorough review in the context of possible Unitary Authority status. We are still awaiting news from the House of Lords on this so everything is still a bit in limbo.

John Chapman,  
Newbury District Councillor, Purley Ward

## **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.

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

The resurfacing of the courts is now under way. The courts will be out of action for five weeks, and please would everybody note that no access is possible to the courts during this time, for any reason.

We are making arrangements during June so that coaching and matches can continue, using the courts at Deneffield School.

For membership information, please contact me on 843932 or Jenny Davies on 625925.

Jane Perugia

## LADIES SUMMERTIME SHARED SUPPER

There is a ladies shared supper on Friday, 28th June, 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. Bring something to eat and share. Refreshments will be available and, if there is any food left over, you can take it home with you. Tickets costing £1.50 are available from Abi Stinson on 414134. This is an opportunity to leave husbands at home babysitting and should not be missed!

## PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH

6th June	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
12th June	7.30 p.m.	Women's Institute
20th June	2.15 - 4.00 p.m.	Health Visitor Clinic
4th July	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

## PURLEY ALLOTMENTS

It is nice to see so much good work going on at the allotments. All the plots are now let and we have a waiting list but there are one or two that are not being cultivated, so some tenants will be hearing from the Council. If you would like to go on to the waiting list, please contact me at the address below.

May I remind all tenants that paths between plots must be kept clear and not used as a dumping ground for stones or weeds. Stones may be put on the central path used by cars but all your weeds must be disposed of on your plots. Also, weedkiller may not be used on paths.

There have been several cases of pilfering and we ask everyone to keep a sharp look out. The Council will not hesitate to prosecute anyone caught vandalising or stealing from allotments.

John Chapman,  
Allotment Manager for Purley on Thames Parish Council  
5 Cecil Aldin Drive (tel: 426999)

## **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.

## **CARAVAN TO LET**

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

Tel: 844564

## **NEW TO THE AREA?**

Make friends at Lunch Pot - see Page 6 or ring 413197 for details. All ages welcome. Lifts can be arranged.

# **"ALL GOOD PALS AND JOLLY GOOD COMPANY"**

**Do join us for a trip to the Seaside at St. Mary's Church on  
FRIDAY, 12th or SATURDAY, 13th JULY at 8.00 p.m.  
Get your tickets for this Olde Tyme Music Hall by calling:**

**Peter & Vera Farrow on 413887 or Roger & Maureen  
Kennedy on 426972**

**(Tickets £5.00 to include delicious refreshments -  
Children £3.50).**



## THE BARN

The Barn at the Recreation Ground has been in regular use now for several months by the Scouts and the Youth Club. We have had an awful lot of problems with the heating which has made it virtually impossible to consider other lettings. Hopefully these and other teething problems have now been overcome and the Parish Council is planning to install heating in the main hall before next winter. A small working party has been set up to consider lettings and is anxious to hear from people who might like to hire the barn.

We do have a lot of regulations and planning restrictions to comply with and so many will possibly be disappointed. However, we would like to hear from you with your ideas.

But first it might be helpful to let you know what we have on offer. The Barn is in two parts; a small hall which is devoted to the Scouts and Youth Club, and a large hall which could be made available for other uses. There are three toilets and a small kitchen. The large hall is about 72 feet long and 31 feet wide and has a good tiled floor. The building is a traditional 18th century manorial barn with many interesting features.

The main planning restriction is that we can use it only when the Scouts or Youth Club are not using their hall. What this means is that it would be available day times until about 5.00 p.m. and possibly evenings on Friday and Saturday. There are legal restrictions which mean that for any letting a "responsible person" must be on duty to ensure that the conditions are being observed and to open up and lock up afterwards. The kitchen can be used to heat water but may not be used to prepare food for public consumption.

The Parish Council has developed a draft lettings policy but is open to suggestions and these will all be considered on their merits. The principal concern is control of the fire risk and smoking is absolutely forbidden in and around the building so no proposals will be considered unless they can guarantee this - bland assurances will not do. Please do write to the Clerk with your ideas, even if you have no immediate plans for an event. What we are after are suggestions as to the type of events that could be held, how much you would be able to afford in rental, how you would operate and control the event and who the likely attendees would be, especially the number of cars that the event might attract.

Letters to the Clerk, please - Mr. R.D. Fullbrook, 28 Fontwell Drive, Reading.

## **PURLEY C.E. (CONTROLLED) SCHOOL**

On May 1st twelve pupils attended a country dance afternoon at Basildon School. They joined in enthusiastically and danced alongside children from the Kennet and Theale Small Schools Federation. There was also a display of Maypole dancing which was a delight to watch. This was a most enjoyable event and the sun almost shone!

Visitors into school recently have included a German exchange student from Theale Green School, a student nurse and Mrs. Kathy Fisher from playgroup. Mrs. Fisher spent a morning observing our youngest children and recording their progress since leaving playgroup. We continue to develop close links with Purley Pre-School Playgroup and always welcome discussions concerning smooth, happy transfer to school.

On June 15th we are holding our Summer Fete. The proceedings will start with a display of dancing and music for all the children. Stalls this year include all the favourites such as Lucky Dip, Tombola, Raffle and Bouncy Castle. We are also having a local artist displaying his paintings and a book stall. The plant stall this year will include a "plant clinic". Please bring your sick plants as we have an expert on hand ready to recommend treatment! At 2.30 p.m. we start the Auction of Promises. We have a wide range of items which so far include promises such as -having your car valeted, a scuba diving lesson, a manicure, hair braiding and many more. Please join us for this fundraising event which promises to be lots of fun!

If you would like to visit the school, or put your child's name on our admissions waiting list, please telephone 842384 and make an appointment. The number of children on roll has risen steadily during the last year. Please let us know if your child needs a place, as this helps with our forward planning.

Jeannette Goddard, Headteacher

## **LONG LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Paper, paper everywhere! Where have I heard that before? The following is a summary of how we will be spending this summer term; budgets, School Improvement and Management Plans, SATs for infants, SATs for juniors, in-house tests, pupil reports, governors' annual report to parents, governors' committee reports, policy writing, Shire Hall, Department for Education and Employment - I could go on! As you can see, we are not exactly short of things to do and boredom is not a word to describe my job at any time of the year, but particularly the summer term!

Away from the administration, 40 of our older children are going to spend a week up in Matlock, Derbyshire, which is the venue for the residential visit this year. The group will have a packed itinerary which includes a visit to the Speedwell Caverns (including a boat ride on an underground river), a cable car ride at Matlock Bath followed by a LONG walk, guided tours of the Crich Tram Museum and Chatsworth House and "The Chocolate Experience" at Cadbury World. I wonder if you can guess which will be children's favourite part of the week?

Like many schools, we feel that residential visits can add an extra dimension to the children's learning but they are undoubtedly hard work. Mr. Lambden has been planning this visit since last September and I am grateful for all the hard work, and attention to detail, that he has already put into this year's venture.

I am also grateful to two of our governors who are prepared to take a week's leave from work to accompany the party of children again this year. I often feel that governors are the unsung heroes of our education system as they voluntarily give up their time to support the children's education by not only being a fundamental part of the school's management structure but by giving up some of their leave to accompany 40 excited youngsters!

Sorry, must sign off as the postman has just delivered another pile of paper .....

A.T. Kuhles, Headteacher

**PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
SUMMER FETE  
SATURDAY, 22nd JUNE 1996 - 12 noon - 3.00 p.m.  
"SPORT FOR ALL"**

Pangbourne Primary School will be holding their annual school fete with the theme of "sport for all" this year. The fete will be opened by Reading Football Club Manager, Mick Gooding. Attractions will include games, side stalls, rides, barbecue, bar, assault course and a karate demonstration, to name but a few.

Please come and join us for an enjoyable afternoon.

Sharon Herring,  
Pangbourne Primary School PTA

## **DENEFIELD SCHOOL**

As a technology college, one of Denefield's aims is to provide new and improved ways of using the latest technology to delivery aspects of the National Curriculum. As part of meeting this aim, the school's Curriculum Support Team made a bid to the Basic Skills Agency for a Local Initiative Grant.

We have just learned that Denefield has been successful in this bid. We are one of the 103 schools, out of the 540 who applied, to be selected.

The school will now contribute to the research being undertaken by the Basic Skills Agency. This is a Government funded agency whose primary concern is key skills.

Our aim is to set up intensive, individually tailored, programmes of study for a number of students of various ages and abilities. These programmes, which are designed to raise the students' levels of achievement in spelling in particular, will rely on extensive use of computers and the appropriate software. They will also include a home or school component. Parents will be asked to become involved in their child's learning programme.

A resource study centre is planned for September. This is an area where students can meet with their learning consultant and follow their computer based studies.

Jenny Pearson, Curriculum Support

## **SHORT BREAK IN CORNWALL**

Why not have a relaxing break in a comfortable, detached, character cottage on the edge of a quiet village not far from Bude.

Ideal for a couple wishing to explore the Devon/Cornwall area. There are lots of beautiful coastal walks and easy access to Bodmin and Dartmoor; the cottage being approximately 5 miles inland. The cottage has off-road parking and secluded gardens. It sleeps 2. Available - June, £150 per week, July £160 per week, August £175 per week. Linen and towels and a "Welcome Pack" are included. Sorry, no smokers or pets. For

more information, please telephone 421716.

## **PANGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We had been planning our Year 6 trip to France for nearly a year, but the day finally came when 40 excited 10 and 11 year olds assembled with their parents outside the school towards the end of April.

We had quite a long day ahead, but in the event the thrill of travelling through the Channel Tunnel, not to mention gate crashing the grand opening of a French motorway service station, gave us all something to talk about until we reached our destination.

The second day saw us visiting Giverny, where the children were completely captivated by Monet's house and garden. The other visits were to the Abbaye de Mortemer and the Foret de Brotonne and finally Honfleur. All of these visits were wonderful, but the main aim of the school journey to France was to experience a taste of French life as well as its culture. All the children were made very welcome wherever we went - it is a bit daunting for a cafe proprietor to see 40 English children bearing down on their establishment. However, unperturbed the owner brought out extra tables and chairs and allowed each child to order his or her drink individually. Imagine my surprise, too, when a rather fierce patronne of a 'tabac' gave each child a 1 franc reduction in the price of a postcard! The food was also a great adventure - bowls for breakfast instead of cups, and genuine farmhouse fayre. Nearly all the children appreciated the opportunity to try the local cheeses.

The highlight of the whole week was the day we went to our twin town Houdan. We arrived at 11 a.m. to be met by a large group of children from the local primary school, with their parents. Our children went home for lunch with their correspondents, almost like a mini exchange. Although they were a little nervous when they met the French children, all those who spent the afternoon in French homes thoroughly enjoyed themselves and have hopefully formed some lasting friendships.

Even the journey home went like clockwork. We came home on the ferry and again were treated very kindly by all the staff on board. Vive le France - and who knows, we may go again next year!

Pam Hillier-Brook,  
Headteacher

## PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The annual coach trip this year takes place on **Sunday, 14th July** to the National Trust's Sheffield Park Garden. Sheffield Park Garden is 100 acres of towering trees, wide winding paths and magnificent shrubs. The original landscape design of the garden and estate was probably laid out in about 1775 by Capability Brown. In 1909 the estate was purchased by Mr. Arthur G. Soames and transformed into the splendid gardens which exist today. In 1954 the garden was bought by the National Trust. There are special features in the garden at different times of the year, but in June water lilies adorn the 5 lakes. These are built on 5 levels, joined by cascades and waterfalls and, legend has it, frequented by a headless woman who, when approached, vanishes into "thin air".

There is a tea room adjacent to the car park, which serves buffet lunches, sandwiches, and tea and coffee, but better still there is a picnic area set aside across the road from the car park. And afterwards a few hours of sea air at Brighton or, if you prefer, time to visit the Royal Pavilion.

Cost for coach fare **AND** entrance to Sheffield Park is £11.50. If you are a member of the National Trust, cost of coach fare only is £7.50.

Application forms can be obtained from the Trading Store, or from John Murphy, 6 Hazel road, Purley (tel: 419185), and should be returned **by Sunday, 30th June**. Cheques should be made payable to "Purley Horticultural Society".

The Summer Show takes place on **7th September**. The schedules are available from the Trading Store. It's not too early to start nurturing those prize plants and practising the cake recipes, and see if you can't finish that handicraft.

We have arranged with Newington Nurseries (at Newington near Stadhampton) and Glenvale Nurseries (Hungerford Lane, Bradfield South End) for a 10% discount for Horticultural Society members. For Newington Nurseries, this is on plants only. Please note that the card must be produced before the purchase is rung into the till.

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,  
Secretary

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

This time of the year is taken up with new resolutions prepared and forwarded by other W.I. organisations. These proposals are intended to better the welfare of our governing community. Such proposals this year were:-

1. Could Her Majesty's Government consider and reinstate a living grant to support students in higher education when they come from families of lower income.
2. Grave concern was shown with the increasing lack of NHS dentists and urges HM Government to ensure that NHS treatment is available to all.
3. Recognising that the teaching of cookery, food hygiene, nutrition, budgeting and parenting skills are fundamental to the nation's well being. This meeting urges HM Government to make these subjects a compulsory part of the National Curriculum, particularly with reference to Key Stage 3 pupils.

Well now, plenty to get your teeth into, wouldn't you say, especially as most subjects affect us all. Voting then took place and our votes are forwarded to our delegate who voices our opinions at national level. May we remind readers that the Women's Institute in the past was instrumental in promoting breast cancer screening - yes, our voice is heard.

This took up most of our evening. The Flower Competition was won by Mrs. Sylvia Conquest with a striped camellia, and second was Miss Sybil Pryor with an arum-mouse. It was so life-like I thought it was going to skip off the table!

Next month's meeting, on Wednesday, 12th June, 7.30 p.m. at the Memorial Hall, is a talk on Canal Barges and the competition is "Build a Boat"! Guess I shall have to reach for my Black & Decker!

See you there should you fancy an evening out - visitors always welcome.

Sylvia Conquest  
411936

# **THE ROTARY CLUB OF PANGBOURNE**

## **Two major fundraising events by Pangbourne Rotary**

A record attendance of 112 players enjoyed a good day's golf at The Rotary Club of Pangbourne's 7th Golf Day at Goring & Streatley Golf Club on 30th April. The winning team was entered by Facility Designs Ltd. who were one of the 28 teams taking part. Nelhams Transport Services Ltd. came second and John Holt & Partners third.

The day was organised to benefit charities and a record amount of £3,400 was raised. The principal charity to benefit is the Wessex Children's Hospice with the balance going to other charities supported by The Rotary Club of Pangbourne.

On Sunday, 12th May, 170 riders enjoyed a superb setting and weather for the sixth Mountain Bike Challenge organised by The Rotary Club of Pangbourne. The event was held at Rushall Farm, Bradfield, courtesy of the John Simmonds Trust. As previously, eight main categories of male and female riders were competing. A trophy and cash prizes were awarded to successful riders.

From Pangbourne Rotary Club's point of view, the purpose of the event was to raise funds for the various charities the Club supports and the net sum raised from the day was over £1,000.

The Rotary Club is most grateful for the support they had for the two events. At the Bike Challenge, volunteers came from the Berkshire Red Cross and East Berks Raynet provided on-course communications. Additionally, Lancaster Range Rover provided a Range Rover. At the golf day, Horncastle Garage provided a minibus and driver as well as other assistance on the day.

## **FROM MY HISTORY NOTEBOOK**

### **What Happened to the Cow Money?**

On 21st June 1905 a meeting was held in the Schoolroom to enquire about a Charity which had been left to Purley and had long since been lost. Present were the Rev J.H. Dudley Matthews, Rector of Purley, Mr. G.F. Downing Fullerton of Purley Park, Job Burgess, the Sexton, and others. Fortunately the results of this Inquiry were published by the Charity Commissioners as no record remains in the Purley Parish Council Minutes about this meeting.

Until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the early 16th century, the care and relief of the poor had been largely in the hands of the Church. After 1540, in order to relieve the increasing ranks of paupers roaming the country, money and property were left by Will for the benefit of the poor. By the end of the 18th century, many of these charities had been lost or misappropriated and so in 1786 Parliament ordered an Inquiry. It is from this date that many of the "Charity Boards" were erected in churches listing the names of the benefactors and their bequests.

In the parliamentary Returns of 1786 for Purley, it was stated that a sum of £6 was in the hands of the overseers of the poor of the parish: it had been given by an unknown person and was then producing 6s interest a year. A further report in 1837 said that the sum had "appeared for a hundred years in the parish books as the cow money". (These books have now, alas, completely disappeared). Mr. Edward Sherwood had the money and paid the 6s annual interest which was "distributed occasionally among poor widows". He was a tenant of a farm in Purley which was let by the Storer family subject to the condition that the occupier should act as overseer, in which capacity Edward Sherwood acted until his sudden death in 1856. The 1905 Inquiry stated that "since his death there has been no payment, and the money cannot be traced, but it is said that his descendants can".

Somewhere among the Probate Records of Purley folk I hope one day to find the record of this lost charitable bequest. To date I have found several legacies to the poor, but none for as much as £6: Thomas Holloway (died 1572) left 6d for the "porre mens box"; Alice Bird, a widow (died 1617) left 10s and William Henwood, fuller of "Purleigh" (died 1638) left 3s 4d to the "poore of Purleigh upon the day of my buriall". John Justice the younger, husbandman (died 1600) left 12d, "a peace to the poor of Purley" and then names five of them - unfortunately his writing is so appalling that I can only decipher that 4 out of the 5 names are widows!

The only "Parish Book" that survives, apart from the Parish Registers, is one volume of the Churchwardens and Overseers Accounts which date from 1825. I have searched this and found no mention of the "Cow Money" between that date and Mr. Sherwood's death. One day I hope that the answer will materialise - it will probably come from a totally unexpected source, if at all.

Jean Debney

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

# PURLEY CRICKET CLUB

## Junior (Colts) Cricket

This season we have started a Junior (Colts) section; the attendance at these evenings has been very encouraging with up to 25 boys between the ages of 8 and 13 enthusiastically participating.

Colts evening is every Tuesday, 6.30 to 7.45 p.m. at our home ground (the Recreation Ground, Beech Road, Purley).

Initially, general coaching is being provided but as skills improve and confidence grows, we are planning to run a team and play friendly matches.

## Club Practice Evening

During the season Club Practice takes place on Thursday evenings (from 6.30 to 8.00 p.m.) at our home ground.

## Fixtures for June/July

Saturday	1st June v Reading AllStars (1st XI League)	Home
"	1st June v Ibis/Mapledurham 3rds (2nd XI League)	Away
Sunday	2nd June v Mortimer (Friendly)	Away 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	8th June v Broadmoor (1st XI League)	Away
"	8th June v Crown Wood (2nd XI League)	Home
Sunday	9th June v Bradfield (Friendly)	Home 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	15th June v Peppard (1st XI League)	Home
"	15th June v Binfield (2nd XI League)	Away
Sunday	16th June v Shinfield (Friendly)	Home 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	22nd June v Ibis/Mapledurham (1st XI League)	Home
"	22nd June v West Ilsley (2nd XI League)	Away
Sunday	23rd June v Kidmore End 3rds (Friendly)	Away* 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	29th June v Stratfield Turgis (1st XI League)	Away

"	29th June v Emmbrook (2nd XI League)	Home
Sunday	30th June v Sulhampstead 2nds (Friendly)	Home 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	6th July v Emmbrook (1st XI League)	Home
"	6th July v Peppard (2nd XI League)	Away
Sunday	7th July v Silchester (Friendly)	Away 2.30 p.m.
Saturday	13th July v Wraysbury (1st XI League)	Home
"	13th July v Theale (2nd XI League)	Away
Sunday	14th July v Presidents Game (Friendly)	Home 2.30 p.m.

(\*Clayfield Cops)

All matches start at 2.00 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

If you are interested in participating in the Cricket Club in any way (Colts or Adults playing, umpiring, scoring or just watching) come along to any advertised event or contact:

Martin Bishop (427141) or Brian Smith (843653)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I have recently been walking my daughter to Long Lane Primary School in the mornings. Every time I am horrified to see many drivers using Long Lane driving at speeds of up to 50 mph. The road is narrow and possesses a number of dangerous bends. With two schools and, therefore, hundreds of children milling around twice a day, surely at least a 30 mph restriction is long overdue, hopefully before a tragic accident occurs.

Yours faithfully,  
John Jarvis

Dear Editor,

Oh, what has happened to the lower half of Westbury Lane; this is not the lane I know leading to the footpath across the fields to Pangbourne. It looks more like the front drive to the farm with its lights - who wants lights in the country? Come on, Purley, fight for

it, it's yours. Don't let your village paths slip away; before you know it, the lane will be gone forever.

Phyllis Rawlins

## **THE SPIRITUAL RAILWAY**

A memorial plaque erected in the nave of Ely Cathedral, in memory of two who died in 1845:

"The line to Heaven by Christ was built  
With heavenly truth the rails are laid,  
From Earth to Heaven the line extends  
To life eternal, where it ends.  
Repentance is the station then  
Where passengers are taken in  
No fee for them is there to pay  
For Jesus is Himself the way.  
God's Word is the chief engineer  
It points the way to Heaven so clear.  
Through tunnels dark and dreary here  
It does the way to Glory steer.  
God's Love's the fire, his Truth the steam  
Which drives the engine and the train.  
All you who would to Glory ride  
Must come to Christ, in him abide.  
In first and second and third class  
Repentance, faith and holiness  
You must the way to Glory gain  
Or you with Christ will not remain.  
Come then, poor sinners, now's the time  
At any station on the line  
If you'll repent and turn from sin  
The train will stop and take you in."

(Extracted from a letter published in "The Railway Magazine" - November 1995)

## **WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TAXI**

Cabco in Newbury now have a wheelchair accessible taxi which can be used in the

Newbury area.

For further details, ring 01635 52388.

Community Council for Berkshire

## LAUGHLINES

A report in The times purported to describe an incident involving Lady Forte in a Mayfair church recently. Attending a service, she apparently visibly bristled when the regular church tramp shuffled in and sat next to her on the front row:

When he started snoring like a tuba, the situation became intolerable and she nudged him, telling him firmly to shut up. There were apologies, but the vagrant slumped forward and let out a roar which would not have disgraced a 64 ft. organ pipe. Lady Forte rustled in her handbag, hoiked out a tenner and flapped the note in front of the man's stubbled face. "Go and buy yourself a drink", she said.

"Shove off lady", he replied. "I am trying to pray".

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Did you hear about the man who stayed up all night trying to work out what happened to the sun when it went down? It finally dawned on him.

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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.

**This magazine is published on the first Saturday of each month (except August) and the subscription Price is £3.00 for eleven issues.** If you are new to the area and would like to subscribe to Purley Parish News, please contact the Circulation Manager, Les Jamieson, on 412342.

This month's magazine is published on **Saturday, 1st June 1996.** All copy for the July issue must reach me by **15th June** and the magazine will be published on **Saturday, 6th July 1996.**

Editor