

NEWSLETTER

March 2018, issue 13

Parish Council matters

As the warmer weather arrives, we all become more inclined to go out and about. If you feel the urge to enjoy some fresh air, why not explore the many footpaths in and around Purley? Maps can be seen in two of the Parish notice boards – one at the top of Mapledurham Drive, the other by the bus shelter near the Nursery Gardens/Purley Rise roundabout. Alternatively, some years ago, the Parish Council put together a walking map of the area – it's a little out-of-date now but is still very useful and can be downloaded for free from www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Purley-Walking-Map.pdf. Hard copies of this map are also available from the Parish Office (there is a charge of 50p to cover the costs of printing).

If while you are out walking you find a path which needs maintenance, such as grass cutting, or clearing of overhanging branches, please contact the Parish Office to let us know.

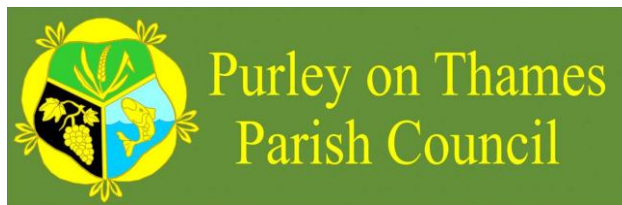
We are already aware that some of the surfaces on our most-used roads are deteriorating. West Berkshire Council has responsibility for the roads but major budget cuts mean they have had to introduce strict criteria for repairs. That said, it is worth using West Berkshire Streetcare online or apps such as FixMyStreet to report any problems relating to roads, pavements, street lights, etc.

There is more below about plans to commemorate the end of World War I but, in addition to events and activities, the organisers have wondered whether we should have a new memorial to the local men who fought in that war.

The Memorial Hall in Glebe Road was built in memory of those who didn't return from both the First and Second World Wars (it was also intended to be a practical amenity for residents, and was built with money raised by villagers). There are plaques in the hall and Church records give the names of those who died, but consideration is now being given as to whether we should have a more visible memorial to all who fought in the Great War.

We would like to know whether parishioners feel this is a good idea. Your thoughts on location for a lasting memorial and what form it might take would also be welcomed. Please contact the Parish Office with your thoughts, or fill in the survey on the web site, found at Council/Surveys or www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/surveys/

Sue Briscoe
Chair of Purley on Thames Parish Council



Annual Parish Meeting

Don't forget, this year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Small Hall of the Barn at Goosecroft at 7.30pm on Monday 16 April 2018. The speaker will be Paul Thomas of the Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service and he will tell us more about the forthcoming move of the fire, ambulance and police services to Theale.

All residents are welcome to attend – this is your opportunity to meet Parish Councillors, to ask questions, and to find out how your money has been spent over the past year.

The Annual Report will be delivered to all households before 16 April.

Cold weather and salt bins

Following the snowy weather in early March, we made sure all the salt bins were full before the next snowfall on 17 March. We also managed to replace a salt bin which had been stolen and to have a new salt bin located in Chiltern View; there's now a total of 25 in the parish.

The cost of all this was over £2,000 and we really hope the supplies we now have will last through any further cold spells. A review of the bins will be carried out over the next couple of weeks, but if you notice a salt bin is close to empty – or has been damaged or stolen – please do contact the Parish Office to let us know.

The salt in the bins is provided for use on public highways and footpaths to make them safe in extremely cold weather. The salt should not be used on private drives or property.

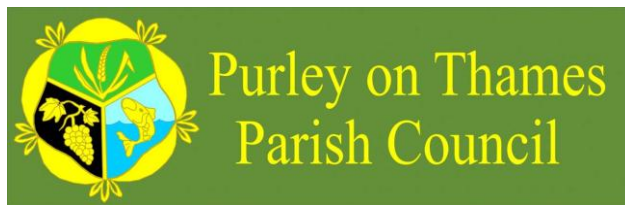
West Berkshire Voluntary and Community Sector Knowledge Event

This event has been organised by the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire in partnership with West Berkshire Council, the Health and Wellbeing Board and Awards for All and aims to promote the value of volunteering and to highlight the help and support available to residents from community and voluntary sector organisations across the district.

More than 80 organisations will be coming together from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Thursday 29 March at Newbury Racecourse, making this the largest ever event of its kind in West Berkshire, and one of the largest volunteering events in the south of England in recent years.

It is a chance to find out more about children's services, older people's services, disability services, learning disability services, listening charities, Young Family support, some arts organisations, cancer charities, health services, mental health support, dementia support, stop smoking help, befriending services, local transport services, local funders and much more.

For more information visit www.volunteerwestberks.org.uk



Village matters

Armistice Centenary arrangements

In last month's newsletter, Sue Briscoe invited members of the community to be involved in organising a series of community events to mark the WW1 Armistice Centenary. A preliminary meeting was held on Monday 12 March 2018, and was attended by nine representatives of groups which are active locally. The overall feeling was very positive; several groups already have plans for centenary events, while others are considering holding events.

During the First World War, the Barn (now at Goosecroft) was used as a mounting station so Sue Briscoe and Christine Lamb, Clerk to the Council, felt it would be good to mark this involvement by holding a community exhibition in the building. The idea is to include stories from the time as handed down through the generations and remembered by local residents now, a hundred years later. If you have any stories, pictures or memorabilia to share, it would be lovely to hear from you.

Suggestions for other activities were put forward at the meeting and include:

- WW1 soldier outlines/silhouettes around the village
- Speakers' events/presentations on aspects of life from 1914 to 1918
- A community craft activity to be completed by 11/11/18
- A service at the Memorial Hall in Purley
- St Mary's Church bells to ring out at 7.05pm on 11/11/18 (see below)
- Concert by Singing for Fun
- Possible re-enactment of famous football match on Christmas day 1914
- Exhibition of WW1 medical equipment on loan from Berkshire Medical Museum
- Experts giving advice on tracing family history or on items passed down from WWI



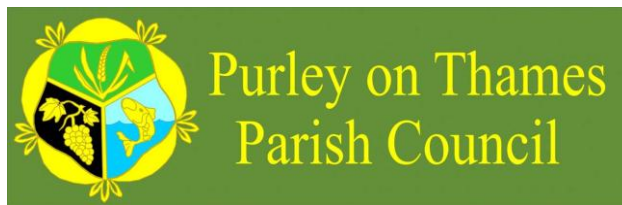
Overall, it was agreed that a series of events be co-ordinated in a collective programme, culminating in the main local event on 11 November 2018. It was suggested that the programme begin with a Project Purley talk/presentation in the Barn on Friday 19 October.

As a result of the meeting, a working group – consisting of Catherine Sampson, Pam Beddoes, John Chapman and Christine Lamb – has been set up to produce the event programme.

If you or your club or group would like to be involved in Purley's programme of events, please contact Christine on clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk – all ideas and offers of help are welcome!

DID YOU KNOW? "A Nation's Tribute" is being planned for 11/11/18 and includes pipers, beacons, buglers and church bells. St Mary's bell ringers are rehearsing and it's hoped we might also have a beacon in the village. See www.brunopeek.co.uk for further detail.

Armistice Centenary Working Group



Sunflower seeds

We're looking forward to the snow finally clearing so that we can put our sunflower seeds in. Now's a good time to sow them outdoors (we have them in a pot by the front door to the office) and we do have seeds available, so just come to the Parish Office to see us if you'd like to try growing them as well.

If you do grow any sunflowers, we'd love to see them, please send a picture of them to asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.org.uk – if possible, we'd like to include pictures in this Newsletter later in the year.

Volunteering

Thank you to the people who have offered to fill the dog bag dispensers – your time and help are very much appreciated.

What's on ...

Don't forget to check the "What's On" page on the Parish Council web site for a range of events being held locally – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/whats-on/.

If you are holding an event and would like it included on the listing, please complete the form on the web page.

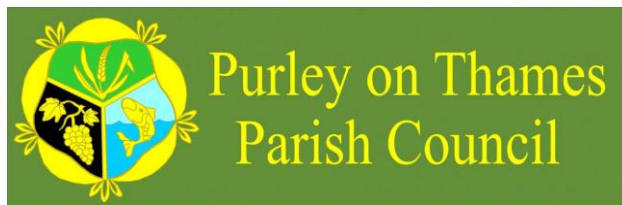
2018 Dorothy Morley Award

The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust has launched the 2018 Dorothy Morley Awards, a biannual award aimed at highlighting local projects which benefit local communities and wildlife. The award scheme, which has run since 2000, is a tribute to the memory of the dedicated conservationist, Dorothy Morley, and is made possible through the generosity of the Morley family.

The Dorothy Morley Award is open to groups in Berkshire who involve their local community in managing green space, or who have plans to do so. Projects may be of any size, and entrants may be residents' groups, village societies or conservation groups, provided the site of the project has public access. The winning group will win £1,000 towards its project, and one runner up will receive an award of £500. Deadline for entries is Friday 29 June 2018.

For more information, please see www.bbowt.org.uk/dorothymorley

Please note this award scheme is not open to school projects. There is a separate school grounds project award run by CPRE Berkshire – www.cpreberkshire.org.uk/awards



Contact

Further information on matters raised here and other local issues is available on the Parish Council web site – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk.

To contact us, please call 0118 984 4507, or e-mail asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk. You are also welcome to come and see us during the following office public hours:

Monday	2.30pm to 6.30pm
Thursday	9.30am to 2.30pm

If you know of anyone who might also like to receive this Parish Council Newsletter, please ask them to notify asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, the new GDPR legislation which comes into force on 25 May 2018 requires us to ask everyone on the distribution list for this Newsletter to agree to their details being held on a circulation list. The e-mail about this was sent on 19 March and we would like to thank everyone who has opted-in so far – many of the responses received were prompt and positive which is extremely encouraging.

If you did not receive the e-mail, please contact the Assistant Clerk.

Anyone who has not opted-in by Friday 25 May 2018 will be removed from the circulation list.