

NEWSLETTER

August 2017, issue 6

Parish Council matters

I hope you have all enjoyed a happy and relaxing Summer despite the variable weather. Life in the Parish Council office has been quite busy. Sadly, we have had a spate of vandalism and anti-social behaviour, mainly at Goosecroft but also at Bucknell's Meadow where a major graffiti incident and some more minor damage have caused unscheduled work and expenditure of parish money. These incidents have been reported to the police and we are in discussion with them about measures to try to prevent them in future.

There have been more pleasurable tasks too! The Villager of the Year committee, which consists of two councillors and three local residents, met to consider the five nominations which were all very good. I'm pleased to announce that the Purley on Thames Villager of the Year 2017 is John Devine. John has served the community of Purley on Thames over very many years. He is most recently known as chairman and trustee of the Memorial Hall, our memorial to the village's war dead. Under his stewardship the committee has maintained the hall, extending and improving its facilities and ensuring it thrives as a village resource. John has also been an active member of the Horticultural Society committee for thirty years and is now the President. In the past, he was a Parish Councillor and he has always focussed on making Purley on Thames a great place to live. I'm sure you will agree that he is a worthy Villager of the Year.

Sue Briscoe
Chair of Purley on Thames Parish Council

Amenities Officer

We are now advertising for a new Amenities Officer to work alongside the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Councillors. This is a part-time post based in the parish office but it does require the post-holder to have their own transport as they'll need to go out and about to the Parish Council's facilities in the village.

Further details are on the noticeboards around the parish and on the Parish Council web site – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/vacancy-for-amenities-officer/. To apply or for more information, please contact the Clerk by e-mail - clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk – or at the Parish Office, contact details as below.

The closing date for applications is Monday 18th September 2017, and interviews will be held in early October.

Tennis courts

Over the past month, there has been very little need to close the courts to protect the new surface from hot weather; instead the courts are being kept locked to protect them from vandalism. Unfortunately, this means members of the public are unable to access the new courts unless a Tennis Club member is present. If you would like to play tennis when the office is open on a Monday afternoon or Thursday morning, do ask us to open the gate for you. We will happily do that and lock up again afterwards.

Everyone is also welcome at an open day being held by Purley on Thames Tennis Club - www.purleyonthamestc.co.uk/ - between 12.00 noon and 4.00pm on Saturday 16th September. As well as coaching and games, refreshments will also be available.

Antisocial behaviour

As a result of the recent spate of vandalism and antisocial behaviour around the village, particularly at Goosecroft, Parish and District Councillor Rick Jones met with Police Sergeant Andy Bone to discuss the issue and what is being/can be done about it.

The police are aware of the seriousness of the situation and have increased the patrols of Goosecroft; if they see cars or mopeds on grassed areas or doing spins, wheelies, etc, they will issue S59 warnings. They are also patrolling Sulham Woods at weekends whenever they can, as well as seeking the organisers of the rave at the beginning of this month.

The Parish Council is also taking the problem very seriously; regular security patrols of Goosecroft have been arranged and we are looking into the possibility of installing CCTV surveillance; PS Bone was able to give advice on this.

Members of the public can help by reporting incidents to the non-emergency number, 101. If you could also please contact the Parish Office to advise of incidents and police reference numbers, we will include them on our ongoing log of concerns. Thank you.

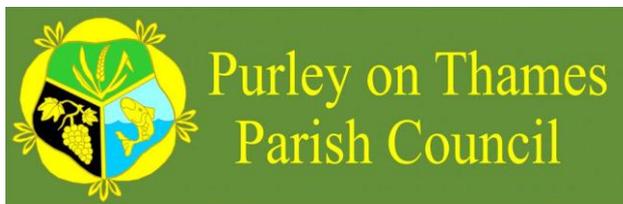
Bucknell's Meadow

An Ant Hill Climber has now been installed in Bucknell's Meadow. It is a three-pronged climbing wall and is already proving very popular with children up to the age of 12.

A new basket swing has also been put in at Bucknell's Meadow. It is similar to the swing at Goosecroft, and is suitable for use by people with or without disabilities.



New ant hill climber in Bucknell's Meadow



144 bus service

Since 30th July 2017, a new bus service has run between Goring and Reading on Sundays. The 144 service is operated by Going Forward Community Interest Company (CIC) and makes four return journeys each Sunday, including stops at the entrances to Basildon Park and Beale Park, as well as at the Post Office on Purley Rise.

Further information and the timetable is available at www.goingforwardbuses.com/the-144/

Village matters

Local Clubs and Groups

Silver Surfers has been providing beginners computer courses to the over 50s for ten years now – and it seems to have extremely successful as demand for the courses has dropped away over the past few months. As a result, Silver Surfers is evolving into a computer club offering talks on topics relevant to computing, one to one tuition sessions, and technical help on things like how to use an iPad.

For further information, see the club's web site - www.inspire4life.me.uk/



This year's Late Summer Show, organised by Purley Horticultural Society and Purley Women's Institute, will be held on Saturday 9th September at the Memorial Hall in Glebe Road.

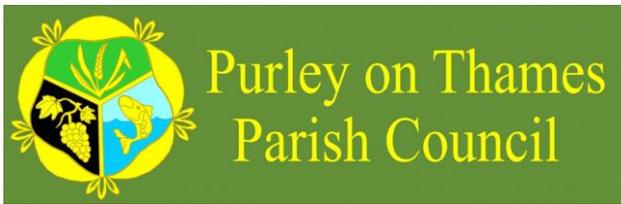
There is a wide range of exhibition classes, such as favourite pot plant, creating a miniature flower arrangement, cooking a Lemon Drizzle cake, or taking a photograph of "A Gate". Anyone who is resident in the areas covered by Purley Horticultural Society or is a member of either Purley Horticultural Society or Purley Women's Institute may exhibit. Full details and an entry form are available online – www.purleyonthames.org.uk/PHS/SSS2017.pdf

If you don't wish to enter but would like to see the entries and support the exhibitors, the show will be open to the public from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. Presentation of trophies will be at 3.30pm and there also will be refreshments and a raffle.

Volunteering

The following poem was written by Councillor Jane Langford during a stint of litter-picking at Bucknell's Meadow this spring. If it encourages you to help keep the village clear of litter, please do let us know by contacting the Parish Office – we appreciate any time you can give.

And, if you also feel like penning a poem about your experiences, do send it to us – perhaps it'll be included in a future edition of this Newsletter!



Litter

As you get older you learn nothing's new.
But when I was young, I knew a thing or two.

My hopes were high my eyes were bright.
My waist was thin, posture upright.

When I was young, I gathered bright flowers.
As I played in the fields many halcyon hours.

The rules to obey for this freedom to roam:
Don't trample crops, close gates, take litter home.

My back is now bent and my tummy is flabby
My hair's a bit thin and my clothes a bit shabby.

To contrast and compare the two ages of me;
I don't now pick flowers, but litter you see.

I've "progressed" with age to bottles and packets,
Cans, crisp-bags, stoppers and discarded jackets.

As I pick up litter, I sometimes reflect,
Why the young don't their park or playground respect.

But old heads on young shoulders is rare to find,
So I don't blame the young, if their parents don't mind.

I work in the playground for those younger than me.
Removing hazards, make the park nice to see.

And make myself useful. It's all I can do,
And wish that the young had a bit-of-a clue,

That it's easy to drop, it's easy to spill,
But it takes years and wisdom the waste bin to fill.

Jane Langford February 2017

Contact

For further information on matters raised here and other local issues, please see the Parish Council web site – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk. You can contact us on 0118 984 4507, or by e-mailing asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk. Villagers are also welcome to the office during public hours:

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