

NEWSLETTER

February 2018, issue 12

Parish Council matters

Firstly, a date for your diary. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Monday 16 April at 7.30pm in the Small Hall of the Barn at Goosecroft. All residents of Purley on Thames are invited so why not come and find out more about the Parish Council's activities over the past year and ask any questions you may have. The Annual Report will be delivered to all households before the meeting.

Looking further ahead, the Parish Council is hoping to hold a number of events in October/November to mark the centenary of the end of World War I. We plan to have a mix of social, historical and educational events, something for everyone. If you have ideas or would like to join the organising group, come to a meeting in the Parish Office on Monday 12 March at 6.30pm. These activities don't just happen so we need YOU! If you would like to be a part of Purley's commemoration but are unable to attend the meeting, please let the Parish Office know.

Lastly, I have a request – it might be most relevant to walkers and dog walkers but any offers of help are welcome. Would you be willing to volunteer to keep our dog waste bag dispensers topped up? This is a vital role if we want to keep our locality clean! Volunteers please contact the Clerk on 0118 984 4507 or clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk. Thank you.

Sue Briscoe
Chair of Purley on Thames Parish Council

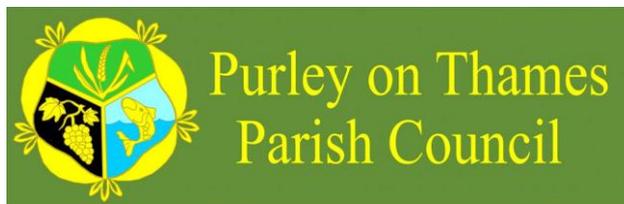
Fallen tree on footpath

Regular users of the footpath by the Knowsley Road roundabout (the old A329) will be aware that fallen trees and branches had blocked it in the stormy weather we had in January. West Berkshire Council's contractors have now been out and cleared the trees – and the path generally – so it is once again passable.

Fly posting

Following the item in our December Newsletter, there have been various reports of instances of fly posting around the Purley. As a result, officers have been out and removed notices, adverts and signs from the lower village, Beech Road and A329 Oxford Road.

If you see any fly posters, please do continue to let us know as we have delegated authority from West Berkshire Council to remove them. Do not remove posters yourself as the authority extends only to representatives of the Parish Council.



Possible extension to Goosecroft Recreation Ground

The PC has been offered 2.66 hectares of agricultural land adjoining Goosecroft to extend the recreational area. This is a rare opportunity to expand the playing fields and an application for change of use has been submitted to West Berkshire Council's Planning Department. The main concern raised about the proposal is about parking and we are investigating ways in which any increase in the number of cars could be catered for at Goosecroft.

Thames Valley Police

Further to the item in last month's Newsletter, we have been advised that Acting Sergeant Andy Murray will be our main contact on the West Berkshire Neighbourhood Police Team for the next few months until the new substantive sergeant can join the team.

Andy has been with Thames Valley Police for nearly ten years and, although this is his first Neighbourhood posting, he brings with him a wealth of experience as a response officer in West Berkshire over those years. Andy, along with the rest of the Pangbourne team, can be contacted via PangbourneNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

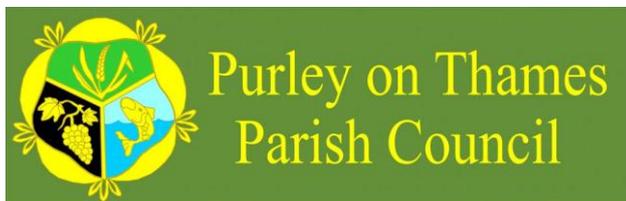
West Berkshire Council

West Berkshire Council's Business Support Service has teamed with Blake Consultants Limited to offer local businesses a free workshop on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

On 25 May 2018, new law around data protection will come into force – this will affect the way all businesses collect, store, and use data. The "lifting the lid on GDPR" workshop aims to provide advice to local businesses about data protection, systems and procedures, IT, and marketing. Aimed primarily at B2C or B2B businesses with a UK client base, the workshop will give an understanding about the three most important elements of GDPR:

- Individuals' rights – people will have more rights when it comes to the information businesses hold about them;
- Accountability – businesses will need to have documents and processes in place to show they are adhering to the new regulation; and
- Risk – businesses could be fined up to 4% of global turnover if they are proven to have breached the rules set out in the GDPR.

The free workshop will be held from 9.00am to 11.30am on Thursday 22 March at WBC's offices in Market Street, Newbury. If you'd like to book a place, please contact Janet Duffield, Lead for Economic Development at WBC on 01635 519475, e-mail janet.duffield@westberks.gov.uk



Cold weather warning

West Berkshire Council (WBC) has issued a cold weather alert warning of an expected cold spell at the end of February/beginning of March. It recommends wearing suitable clothing and heating homes to at least 18°C (65°F) – this advice is particularly important for sedentary people, anyone of 65 years or over, and for those with pre-existing medical conditions. This temperature should be maintained overnight, and warm clothing, thermal blankets and heating aids should be used as appropriate. Having temperatures slightly above 18°C (65°F) might be beneficial for health.

Further information from WBC is available at <http://bit.ly/1n94TX1>

Age UK has also produced a guide to keeping warm and well during cold weather - https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/information-guides/ageukig27_winter_wrapped_up_inf.pdf

For NHS advice see www.nhs.uk/Livewell/winterhealth/Pages/KeepWarmKeepWell.aspx

Village matters

Post Office

As some local residents will be aware, there are plans to move the Post Office facilities from Purley Rise to the shop on Colyton Way. As yet, arrangements have not been finalised but we will keep you informed as we're updated.

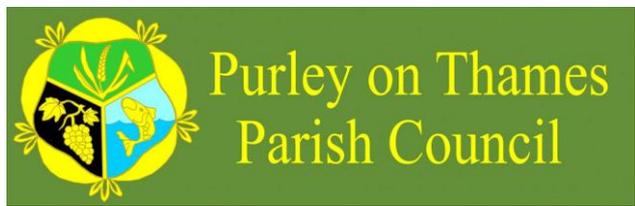
Sunflowers

If anyone would like to try growing some sunflowers in Purley this year, please contact the Parish Office as we do still have some seeds – if they're sown outdoors between March and May, they'll flower between June and September.

Whitchurch Bridge

As you might have noticed, the 20mph speed limit in Pangbourne has recently been extended across the length of Whitchurch Bridge. This is because the cost of widening the approach road from Pangbourne to the bridge proved higher than hoped, so the decision was made to proceed immediately with a traffic calming scheme which joins up with the existing 20 mph zone to give a continuous 20mph limit from the toll booth, over the bridge and along Whitchurch Road into Pangbourne.

Further information is available on the Whitchurch Bridge Company's web site – www.whitchurchbridge.com/



Volunteering

In addition to the volunteer role Sue Briscoe has mentioned in her introduction to this month's Newsletter, there are always other tasks, such as litter picking, which need doing – particularly over the spring and summer. If you have any time and would like to help the community, please let us know.

We are also currently considering trying to organise a Spring Clean of Purley. The idea is that we'd set a date or series of dates, and anyone could come along to help clear the village of litter and do a general tidy up. We'd provide litter pickers, bags and gloves, and you'd be asked to give any time you could spare that day.

If this is something you'd like to see and would help with, please contact the Parish Office.

What's on ...

The West Berkshire Museum's special exhibition, "Hoards and Treasure", opened on 24 January 2018 and will run until January 2019. It brings together an extraordinary range of items discovered in 13 West Berkshire parishes. The hoards range in date from the Bronze Age to the late 18th century, and contain all sorts of objects. Treasure items found locally, some as recently as last year, are also on display.

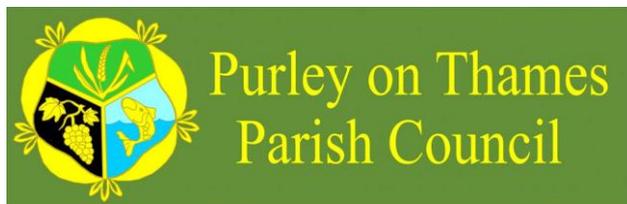
The museum is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm from Wednesday to Sunday and entrance is free, although donations are welcome. For further information, please see the museum's web site – www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on/special-exhibition-hoards



The first Patchwork and Quilting Fabric Fayre will be held in the Barn at Goosecroft from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Saturday 24 March. Everyone is welcome and entry costs £3.00 – proceeds from admission will be donated to the new Car Volunteer Service.



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.



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 contact the Assistant Clerk, asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk, giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.

Please note that, as part of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), everyone who has already signed up for the Parish Council Newsletter will be required to actively opt-in and agree to the Parish Council keeping their details on the circulation list. The Assistant Clerk will be contacting all current subscribers about this; anyone who does not respond by Friday 25 May 2018 will have to be removed from the Newsletter circulation list in order to comply with the new legislation.