

NEWSLETTER

May 2018, issue 15

Parish Council matters

May is the beginning of the Council year and when all the legal processes which local councils are required to follow must be completed. At this year's Annual Parish Council Meeting on 10 May, the Chairman, Sue Briscoe, and Vice-Chairman, Graham Rolfe, were both re-elected for another year.

Purley on Thames Parish Council has four committees – Barn and Burial Ground; Recreation; Highways and Footpaths; Planning – and it is at the Annual Parish Council Meeting that committee chairmen are appointed and that Councillors may move between committees.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting is also when the Annual Return is approved and signed by the Chairman and when official policy and procedure documents are reviewed and re-adopted by the Parish Council.

Now that all the official processes have been completed and the new structure of the Council has been agreed, the committees will be preparing for their first meetings of the year. The Planning Committee meets twice a month and held its first meeting on Monday 14 May. All the other committees meet once a quarter on a Thursday evening, with the round of meetings beginning at the end of June: Highways and Footpaths on 28 June; Recreation on 5 July; Barn and Burial Ground on 12 July.

The term of office of a Parish Councillor is four years, and the next election year for Purley on Thames is 2019. This means that, at next year's Annual Parish Council Meeting, elected Councillors will be required to sign their Acceptance of Office and their Declarations of Interest which must both be sent to West Berkshire Council's Returning Officer.

Further information about the Parish Council and its committees is on the web site under Council Matters.

Christine Lamb CiLCA
Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council

Villager of the Year 2018

Don't forget to submit your nominations for Villager of the Year Award 2018. This award is given in recognition of a villager's outstanding efforts over the last year (or more) which benefit the community of Purley on Thames.

The closing date for nominations is Saturday 30th June 2018 and the nomination form can be downloaded from the Parish Council web site – <http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/voy/>

Springs Farm

The section of footpath PURL 1/1 which was temporarily closed so that work could be carried out to Springs Farm's hedges and security fencing has now been re-opened. As there is still work to be completed, the footpath has been fenced off from the drive itself, making it safe for pedestrians to walk along without risk from the ongoing work or passing vehicles.



We would like to thank the owners of Springs Farm for sending their grounds contractors to clear a very overgrown plot on the allotments.



Before work began

The team of four arrived at the allotments at 8.00am, bringing with them two tractors, a JCB digger and a large dumper truck. Although they made short work of clearing the nettles and old fruit bushes, it took nine trips for all the rubbish – wire, old pots, fence posts, tiles – and plants to be removed from the site. The work was finished by 12.30pm.



Clearing work in progress

As you can see from these pictures of before, during and after, they've done an excellent job and the plot is now completely clear. It would not have been possible for council staff and volunteers to achieve this without the help given by Springs Farm.



The cleared plot



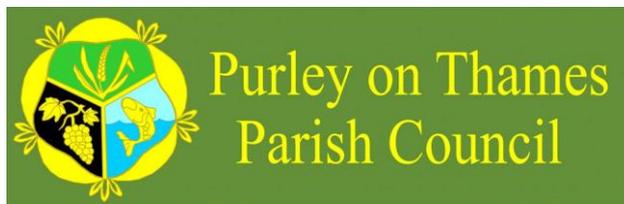
Thanks must also go to the owners of Springs Farm for donating the money to fund a new defibrillator at the Memorial Hall in Glebe Road. A plaque has been put up in the hall in recognition of this gift to the village.

West Berkshire Council

The first West Berkshire Library Service Annual Report will be available in June. It is intended to give an idea of what libraries do, who uses them, staff and volunteers, service costs, and how much town and parishes contributed to them in the financial year April 2017 to March 2018.

New litter bin on Mapledurham Drive

Given the high level of littering around Mapledurham Drive, particularly over the summer, a new litter bin has been ordered and will be installed next to the existing bin opposite Bucknell's Meadow.



Thames Valley Police

We have been advised that PS Dan Lond will be our primary contact on the West Berkshire Neighbourhood Police Team from the end of June when he joins the team. PS Lond is currently on the custody team in Newbury, but has previously worked as a Neighbourhood officer in Reading and is looking forward to returning to the role, albeit in a supervisory capacity.

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TVP has been following up on reports of increased antisocial behaviour around Bucknell's and Blounts Meadow and near Mapledurham Lock. There was a busy few days in April when the temperatures soared, but things seem to ease after that.

The police are aware, however, that half term and the summer holidays are potentially difficult times and would like to remind everyone to think carefully about vehicle and home security. House windows, particularly those on the ground floor, should be closed when no one is home, and cars should be left locked. It's also important to avoid leaving valuables, including tools, in vehicles regardless of whether they can be seen.

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Following recent incidents of antisocial behaviour at Goosecroft, we have been advised that if criminal behaviour is observed taking place, it should be reported to 999, the emergency number – if there is any risk to residents or the incident is late at night, the call will be given high priority.

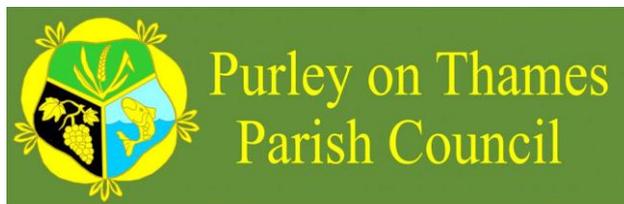
The 101 number should be used only for non-emergency calls, for example to report incidents which have already taken place.

It would be a great help if details of reported incidents – including the police log number – could be given to the Parish Office so that we can keep a full record of all the issues and responses.

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Other ways of reporting incidents are:

- Send an e-mail to the team at PangbourneNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
- Via the red button on the home page of the web site – www.thamesvalley.police.uk
- Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111



Road closures

Tidmarsh Lane is due to reopen on Friday 25 May, following the installation of fibre optic cables by Gigaclear.

Mill Lane, Tidmarsh, will be closed for its entire length from Tuesday 29 May to Friday 8 June while fibre optic cables are installed by Gigaclear. Traffic will be diverted via Sulham Lane, the A329 to Pangbourne, and the A340.

Further details are available at <https://roadworks.org/?tm=105747059>, and any enquiries should be directed to Gigaclear – Karl Whittaker, 07976 165124.

Road resurfacing

The A329 Reading Road from Knowsley Road roundabout to Long Lane has been scheduled for resurfacing; work is due to take five days from 18 July 2018. Working hours will be restricted to 9.30am to 3.30pm and traffic lights will help maintain access throughout.

The scheduled start date is only indicative and might change, for example if there is bad weather, but updated information will be available at roadworks.org/

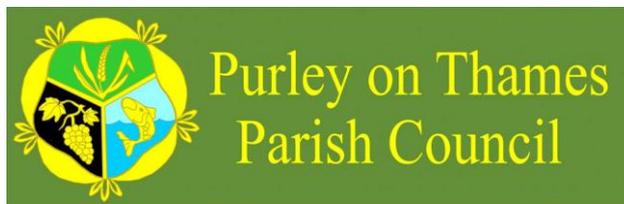
Village matters

North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The North Wessex Downs was designated as an AONB in 1972, and is now the largest in the south east and the third largest of the 37 AONBs in England. It is managed by a partnership known as the Council of Partners, which has the task of increasing public understanding and enjoyment of the AONB, and fostering the social and economic well-being of its local communities. The Council of Partners is made up of the nine local authorities across whose areas the AONB lies, together with representatives from government agencies and local interested parties.

The North Wessex Downs Council of Partners currently has vacancies for members in the following four areas: farming and rural business; nature conservation; historic environment; community and parish groups. The appointment is initially for two years with the opportunity to extend for a maximum of six years. Meetings are held three times a year, usually in village or town halls in the area.

The nomination form and more information about AONBs and the Council of Partners is available at www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/about-us/council-of-partners.html - the deadline for nominations is Sunday 10 June 2018.



Post Office update

The latest we have heard about the Post Office and shop is that they will stay where they currently are, on Purley Rise. The Post Mistress, Mrs Sandhu, has been suffering with poor health for some time and had surgery earlier this month. The Post Office and shop will be open for reduced hours, when cover is available, for the time being.

Local events in June

Now Summer's with us and the weather has, for the most part, warmed up, there's quite a range of activities being held in the area, a few of which we've listed here.

The annual Beale Park Boat and Outdoor Show will take place from Friday 1 to Sunday 3 June and includes a vintage vehicle show. For more information, including cost of entrance, see www.bealeparkboatandoutdoorshow.co.uk/

To mark the 50th anniversary of the last trolleybus operating in Reading, Sunday 3 June will be Reading Vintage Bus Running Day, and vintage/preserved buses of Reading or Thames Valley origin will be offering free bus rides to local destinations starting from Station Approach, Reading - <http://www.reading.gov.uk/article/11337/Reading-Vintage-Bus-Running-Day>

This year's Pangbourne Village Fete has a festival/circus theme and is being held on the afternoon of Saturday 9 June on Pangbourne Meadow. See the FaceBook page for updates - <https://en-gb.facebook.com/PangbourneVillageFete/>

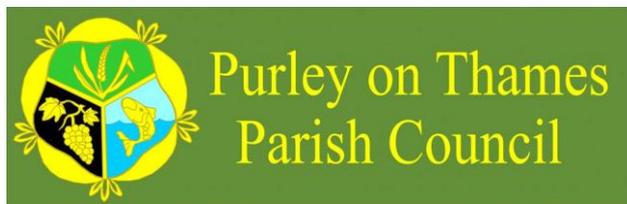
On Sunday 10 June, Newbury-based community arts charity, ACE Space (www.acespace.org.uk), is putting on a one-day, family-friendly mini festival in Shaw House and its grounds. Tickets cost £4.00 for over 12s (no unaccompanied under-18s are admitted) and may be bought at the gate on the day or in advance at www.wegotickets.com/event/436795

The Stoke Row Steam Rally at Hill Bottom, Whitchurch Hill, is also on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 June - www.steamheritage.co.uk/steam-rallies-and-events/event/stoke_row_steam_rally

There's also quite an array of offerings over the weekend of 16 and 17 June, including:

The 2018 Reading Water Fest - www.reading.gov.uk/waterfest - will be held at Forbury Gardens, the Abbey Ruins, and along the Kennet on Saturday 16 June. This year's event coincides with the official reopening of Reading Abbey – www.readingabbeyquarter.org.uk - and the start of the Reading Abbey Revealed Festival.

That same weekend, Mapledurham at War - www.mapledurhamatwar.co.uk/ - will be taking place from 10.00am to 5.00pm on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 June, and will include WW2 amphibious craft and cars, as well as re-enactments and musicians and dancers.



The regatta in Goring and Streatley alternates with the festival held there – this year, it's the turn of The Gap Festival which will be held from 14 to 17 June 2018. More information is available on the web site - www.thegapfestival.org/

Reading Amateur Regatta - www.reading-amateur-regatta.org/ - is on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 June.

Thames Valley Park Regatta – Sunday 24 June 2018

Reading Town Regatta – Saturday 30 June 2018

More information about both is available from <http://www.rtr-tvp.co.uk/>

More local events are listed on the “What’s On” page of the Parish Council web – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/whats-on/

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 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.