

## NEWSLETTER

July 2018, issue 17

### Parish Council matters

#### Anti-social behaviour and vandalism

Over the past year, there has been a high level of misuse of sports facilities, anti-social behaviour and vandalism, particularly at the Parish Council's two recreation grounds, Goosecroft and Bucknell's Meadow. Incidents include acts of graffiti, criminal damage, broken glass in play areas, signs of drug use, and arson attempts, as well as large groups of youths gathering at anti-social times and making a noise, speeding and driving on grass, drinking alcohol and littering.

All of these incidents have costs associated with rectifying them and, to date, the financial cost of repairs and installing CCTV at Goosecroft as a preventative measure has cost the Parish Council over £10,000. Sports clubs have also suffered damage to equipment, storage units, and advertising boards. On top of this, there's the cost of officers' and councillors' time spent in clearing up broken glass, litter, drug paraphernalia, reporting issues to the police, arranging repairs, and so on.

The Parish Council is always looking for ways to prevent further problems and damage, and has now decided that, as well as locking the tennis courts (see below), the gates at the entrance to Goosecroft will be locked sometime after 11.00pm.

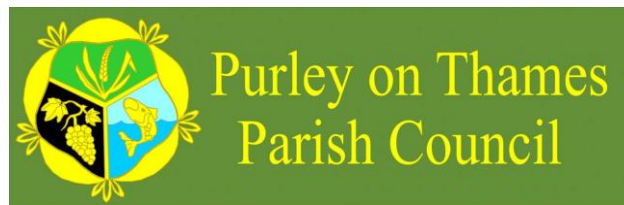
It's a shame that, as well as deterring some vandalism and anti-social behaviour, these actions will also block access to those wishing to use the facilities as intended. The Parish Council does not, however, have unlimited funds to spend on repairs and most of its income comes from the precept paid by tax payers living in the parish. Sadly, we must do what we can to prevent further unnecessary costs in repairing/replacing vandalised equipment if we are not to increase the precept considerably or reduce the services we are able to offer.

#### Travellers

There has been an alarming level of traveller activity in the area over the past few weeks with camps having been set up in Pangbourne, Sulham, Aldermaston Wharf, Burghfield, as well as Calcot and other locations in Reading.

As a result, the Parish Council has made the decision to install a height restricting bar and some new fencing at the top of Goosecroft Lane. It is hoped the work will be carried out in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, the gates to Goosecroft will be locked sometime after 11.00pm with the aim of increasing security and preventing unauthorised access.



## **Tennis courts**

As you may remember, in 2017 we completely refurbished the tennis courts at Goosecroft at a cost of £35,000, which came from S106 ring-fenced Open Space funds; the courts were resurfaced, the fencing replaced and all the nets were renewed. The result is a great improvement on the old courts and – as reported last month – local tennis players, young and old, have benefitted from the upgraded facilities.

Sadly, however, in recent months, quite a bit of damage has been caused by football being played on the courts, despite notices clearly stating this is not permitted. As a result, in order to protect the nets and court surface from requiring further costly repairs, the Parish Council has decided to lock the courts when they're not being used by the Tennis Club. Timing of Tennis Club events is on the club's noticeboard next to the courts.

If you wish to book a tennis court, you can either:

- contact the Amenities Officer on 07917 453187 – please call in advance as he will not always be available to open the courts; or
- come to the office during open hours – 2.30pm-6.30pm on Mondays, 9.30am-2.30pm on Thursdays – and an officer will open the courts for you (outside office hours, please ring the office doorbell in case anyone is around who can help).

Anyone using the courts who is not a member of the Tennis Club may be charged £5.00 per hour.

The need to lock the courts will be monitored, and they will be re-opened to the public when it is safe to do so.

While the tennis courts are locked, any items which are sent over the fencing accidentally should be reported to the Parish Office and left until an officer can retrieve them. Attempting to climb the fence not only causes damage, it is also dangerous and the Parish Council will not be responsible for any accidents occurring as a result.

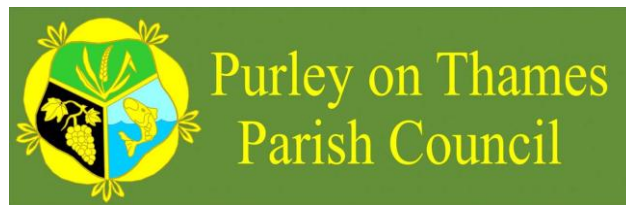
## **West Berkshire Council**

On Monday 2 July, the recycling centre at Padworth started accepting general rubbish as well as recycling.

Further details about Padworth Recycling Centre, including opening hours, may be found at <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/29413> while information about what may be recycled and the permit scheme are available at <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/recyclingcentres>

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From Monday 3 September 2018, there will be an annual charge for WBC's Garden Waste Collection service, and residents will need to opt-in to continue having their fortnightly collection. Letters outlining the changes will be sent to properties eligible for the service over the next few days, or further information is available at [www.westberks.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/gardenwaste)



## Springs Farm

Unfortunately, there has been a number of incidents of trespass and vandalism at Springs Farm over the past couple of years. Most recently, at the beginning of this month, someone broke into the grounds and destroyed three of the trees, which were planted last year, with an axe.

As a result, and following guidance from the neighbourhood police team, the owners of Springs Farm have been left with no option but to install CCTV facing the private land along the perimeters of the property. It is hoped that this will prevent any further incidents there, but local residents should be aware of the issues and of the need to be vigilant about protecting their own properties.

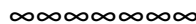


On a more positive note, the owners of Springs Farm have installed a new boardwalk along the Thames Path, at the muddiest section on the approach to Pangbourne. As you can see from these pictures, the work is now complete and the new boarding will make the walk between Purley and Pangbourne far more pleasant and enjoyable for all.



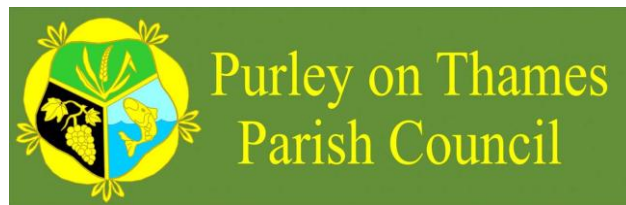
## Thames Valley Police

As a result of the high volume of 101 calls made in regard to incidents at Goosecroft, the area is now on TVP's schedule for regular checking and monitoring. Unfortunately, fewer calls have been made about events at and near Bucknell's Meadow so the police do not visit it as regularly. Please do report anything suspicious as it does help make a difference, and also helps TVP build a picture of the overall situation of issues in Purley.



Should you have any problems reporting non-emergency issues on the 101 telephone number, we have been advised that e-mails sent to [pangbournenhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pangbournenhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) will also be picked up and logged.

Please note, any response to e-mails sent to this address will not be immediate, so this is an option only for non-urgent matters.



## Heatwave information

We've had some unusually very hot and dry weather over the past few weeks, and a level 3 heatwave alert was issued for five days from Monday 23 July.

While some enjoy the warmer weather, extremely high temperatures do present health risks, particularly to the very young, vulnerable adults, older people, and those with long-term health conditions. People with breathing conditions such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) might be more affected when there are high air pollution levels together with hot weather.

The general advice to follow in a heatwave is:

- Stay out of the sun;
- Keep your home as cool as possible – shading windows and shutting them during the day, opening them only in the evening and at night when it's cooler, might help;
- Drink plenty of fluids.

It is also worth keeping an eye on the weather forecast so as to be as prepared as possible. If you know of anyone, for example an older person living alone, who might be at special risk, you could also make sure they know what to do.

Further help and advice is available as below.

Public Health England's "[Beat the heat: staying cool in hot weather](#)" leaflet

Age UK's guidance on [staying cool in a heatwave](#)

NHS Choices "[Heatwave: how to cope in hot weather](#)"

West Berkshire Council's advice on [preparing for summer](#)

Defra's information about [air pollution](#)

## Allotments

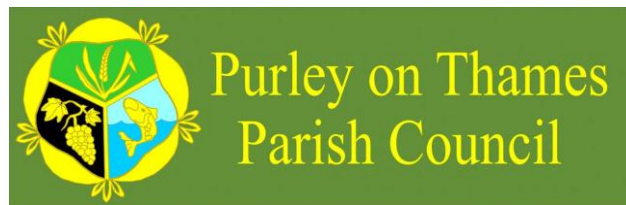
On the morning of Saturday 14 July, a group of older Scouts volunteered to help carry out some clearing work on the allotments. The weather that day was very hot indeed, but they all worked very hard regardless of the difficult conditions.

Our thanks go to everyone who was involved, they did a fantastic job!



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We hope to have pictures of the new micro plots in the next issue – the final stages of preparation are due to be carried out, with help from Springs Farm, in the next few weeks!



## Road resurfacing

After discussion with Gigaclear and West Berkshire Council, a schedule for the next phase of Gigaclear works has been agreed. The following roads will be affected between now and mid-September:

18-21 August, Monday-Saturday – Horseshoe Road

26 August-16 September, Sunday only – Whitchurch Road (before the bridge)

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Work on the A329 from the Knowsley Road Roundabout to Long Lane is now scheduled to take place between 1 and 7 August. There will be temporary lights in place to control the traffic during this time.

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Resurfacing work is due to be carried out on Colyton Way, Brading Way, Chestnut Grove, and Wintringham Way in August and September.

Access will be maintained at all times and work will be completed in sections, so only the area being worked on will be closed. Residents should have been advised of when the area outside their home will be affected.

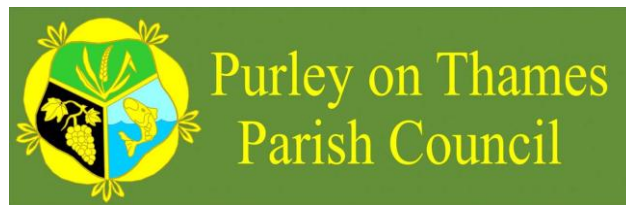
The bus service will run but will use the arrangements set up for times of flooding, and will be turning at St Mary's Church. On Sunday when there are Church services, the bus will stop at the top of New Hill and turn at the roundabout by Nursery Gardens. Notices confirming the arrangements will be posted on all bus stops within the next two weeks.

For more information as to when specific roads are likely to be closed, please see <https://roadworks.org/?104749864>

## Villager of the Year 2018

Thank you to all those who submitted a nomination form by the 30 June deadline.

The official announcement of Purley on Thames Villager of the Year for 2018 will appear in the September Purley Parish News, and the presentation will be made at the Chairman's Reception in October.



## Village matters

### Local news and events

The Purley Car Volunteer Service launched on Wednesday 11 July and will operate only on Wednesdays while the team gains experience, and more volunteer drivers willing to give up an occasional morning or afternoon are found.

For more information about the service or to volunteer as a driver, please call 07568 365381.

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Tidmarsh & Sulham Village Fete will be held from 2.00pm on Saturday 4 August at Mill Corner Farm. This year, as well as a mix of stalls, there will be a jazz band, classic/interesting vehicles, a fun dog show, barbecue, Pimms, teas and ice creams.

There is plenty of parking at the farm and entrance is free for children under 15 and £1.00 for adults.

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A series of four summer multi-sports camps for children is being hosted by Purley on Thames Cricket Club at Goosecroft from Tuesday 28 to Friday 31 August.

More information is available at <http://performance-sports.org.uk/>

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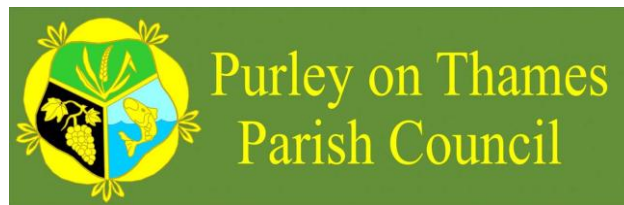
As you might know, a programme of events is being organised to mark the centenary of the WWI armistice later this year. It will include an exhibition in the Barn which the organisers hope to decorate with poppies made by local groups and individuals.

So, whether you're a member of a creative group or are simply looking for fun projects to do over the summer months, why not try making a poppy or two to include in the display? Poppies may be made from a range of materials such as paper, card, plastic, wool – there's a whole host of ideas on the internet or you can use your imagination!

If you'd like to participate in this or any other aspect of the commemoration programme, please contact the Clerk during office hours – a list of links to creative suggestions for making poppies is also available on request.

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If you're looking for ideas for things to do (for children and/or adults) over the summer holidays, Wild Days offers a range of activities – [www.2wild.co.uk/](http://www.2wild.co.uk/)



## Looking forward ...

Following last year's community art project when Whitchurch Bridge was "yarn-bombed", Gill Williamson, founder of the Art Café in Whitchurch on Thames, is organising a follow-up in the form of *Equinox Together*. Colourfully decorated pottery cylinders made by local schools, community groups and individuals will be threaded on to spiral poles and displayed on Pangbourne Meadow from 15 to 30 September.

See <http://www.sitespider.co.uk/users/newsbin/whitchurch/Equinoxposterred.pdf> for further information.



As part of the Armistice Centenary programme of events in the autumn, there will be a WWI-themed tea dance in the Small Hall of the Barn at Goosecroft on from 2.30pm to 4.30pm on Thursday 25 October. As well as refreshments, there will also be a dancing demonstration. If you're interested in attending, please contact [happi.feet@outlook.com](mailto:happi.feet@outlook.com)

## What's on

More local events are listed on the "What's On" page of the Parish Council web – [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/whats-on/](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/whats-on/)

## Volunteering

Home-Start West Berkshire, a local family support charity, is currently recruiting home-visiting volunteers in this area. Volunteers are usually parents themselves, so will have the personal experience, skills and knowledge of resources available locally to be able to offer practical support to other parents with young children. Volunteers will be committed and caring and offer their time freely. Anyone completing the training course can gain a Level 2 qualification.

The next training course will start on 19 September 2018 and run for seven consecutive Wednesdays from 9.30-14.30pm (with a break for half term on Wednesday 24 October).

If you are interested and would like more information, please see the web site – [www.home-startwestberks.org.uk](http://www.home-startwestberks.org.uk) – e-mail [office@home-startwb.org.uk](mailto:office@home-startwb.org.uk), or call 01635 760310.

## Contact

Do take a look at the Parish Council web site – [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk).

If you'd like to contact us, the number to call is 0118 984 4507, or you could come in to the Parish Office to see us. Our office open hours are Mondays from 2.30pm to 6.30pm and Thursdays from 9.30am to 2.30pm.