

NEWSLETTER

October 2018, issue 20

Parish Council matters

We have seen in the news that some parts of Britain have had a huge amount of rainfall and flooding has been a major problem. Although we've had some heavy rain here, the River Thames has so far continued to be at normal level, but it's at this time of year we have to consider the possibility that Purley may have floods. The parish has a well-organised response strategy to local flooding and liaises closely with West Berkshire and the Environment Agency as they monitor both ground water and river levels. If you live on one of the roads in the lower village which might flood you should be registered with the Environment Agency for flood alerts. If you have not already done so you can register by going to www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings, or you can ask the Clerk to help you. The service is free and they can contact you by phone, email or text. If roads or property are underwater in Purley there are Flood Wardens who will help. If you want to know more, please contact the Clerk and we will arrange for someone to come and talk to you.

As we talk to local people we realise there's some confusion about the service now offered at West Berkshire Council's Recycling Centre at Padworth. The centre is open from 12.30pm until 6.00pm on weekdays and from 8.00am to 6.00pm on Saturdays and Sundays. The centre now accepts general household rubbish but makes a charge for ceramics, rubble, plasterboard and soil. Check the website for more details and don't forget to take your permit when you go.

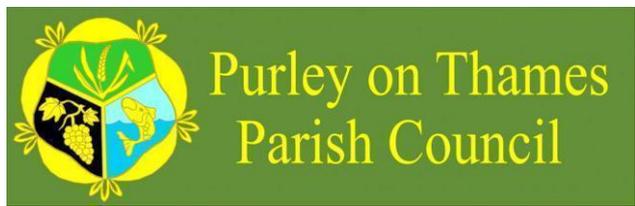
Although the incidence of dog fouling in Purley has decreased over the past year, there are still a few "black spots" around the village. We encourage you to report persistent dog fouling to West Berkshire Council as they monitor the worst affected areas and may patrol and impose fines on irresponsible dog owners. To report dog fouling search for West Berkshire Council/dog fouling and fill in the online form.

Sue Briscoe
Chair of Thames Parish Council

Sad news

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death, last week, of Parish Councillor Stuart Chester. We'll miss him very much.

Our thoughts are with his family, especially with his partner, Christine Collier.



Chairman's Reception

The 2018 Chairman's Reception was held on Monday 22 October in the Small Hall of the Barn at Goosecroft. Local residents who have contributed to the life of the village over the past year were invited so that the Parish Council could thank them for their contribution to community life. This year, there were representatives of local groups and clubs, and it was also lovely to see some of the volunteers who've made the Village Plan possible, as well as two members of the new Purley Residents Support Committee.



The Chairman's Reception is usually when the Villager of the Year is presented with their engraved silver salver. This year's Villager of the Year is Christine Mackie, who has made such a great contribution to the community over the years, including such things as starting the Oasis Club in St Mary's Church. As Christine was not able to attend the reception, Marjorie Butler accepted the award on her behalf and read out a statement from her. It was good to hear that all the good work Christine has done in the community will continue now she's moved away from Purley.

The evening was made even more special when Friends of Purley Barn (FOPB) presented the Parish Council with a cheque for £3000.00 by way of a donation towards the cost of two new heaters in the Small Hall of the Barn. This very generous contribution will be made via the Good Exchange and is a good indication of all the thought and effort FOPB has put into fundraising activity over the past few years.

Allotments

Have you ever thought about growing – and cooking, eating, sharing – your own produce?

Allotments offer a great way to achieve all of that while working out of doors and getting fitter. There's also the opportunity to meet new, like-minded people ... or you might prefer to enjoy working your plot in solitude – and all of our plots come with a view!

This is a great time to take on an allotment plot – you can plan what to grow and prepare your plot over the next few months, in readiness for Spring and the main growing season. We currently have a short waiting list but would like to be able to allocate any plots as they become vacant.

If you're interested, please contact the Assistant Clerk by calling 0118 984 4507, or e-mailing asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk



Unfortunately, because of holidays and sick leave, not all the invoices for annual allotment rent have yet been sent out yet. Thank you to all plot holders who've enquired – we're sorry for the delay but all invoices will be issued as soon as possible.

News from the Parish Office



Two new noticeboards have been installed.

The one shown on the left is next to the map board by the bus stop at the top of Nursery Gardens.

The other, shown on the right, is further along the A329 at the entrance to Skerritts Wood, on the boundary with Reading.



In order to protect the facilities at Goosecroft from the possibility of unauthorised access and camping, the Parish Council has taken the decision that the new, two metre height restriction barrier on Goosecroft Lane will be kept permanently closed from Friday 26 October.

This means that vehicles over two metres high – such as 4x4s with roof boxes and transit vans – will not be able to access the car parking at Goosecroft except by prior arrangement.



A new dog waste bin has been installed on River Gardens.

As always, if you see any issues with this or any of the other litter or dog bins – for example, if it needs emptying or seems to have been vandalised – please contact the office to let us know.



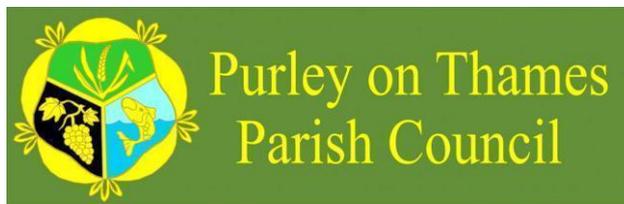
Thames Valley Police

Following reports of people still having problems reaching the police by calling the 101 non-emergency telephone number, we've been advised that other ways of reporting issues are:

- Send an e-mail to pangbournenhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk; or
- Ring CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111



If you'd like to keep up-to-date with local policing news, you might be interested in registering with Thames Valley Alert. Please see <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/> for more information.



Village matters

Volunteering opportunity

The Royal British Legion is a charity which provides financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and their dependants. Currently, it has no volunteers at all in Purley on Thames – if you'd like to find out more about the Legion and its work, perhaps even volunteer, please see www.britishlegion.org.uk/



The Parish Council is looking to set up a team of volunteers to help with any hand-deliveries of reports and information around the parish throughout the year.

If you might be able to help with this or would be interested in knowing more, please contact the Assistant Clerk.

Road safety

Recently, we've heard of some incidents locally of strangers trying to open the passenger doors of cars while they're waiting in traffic – one such instance occurred in Westwood Road in Tilehurst.

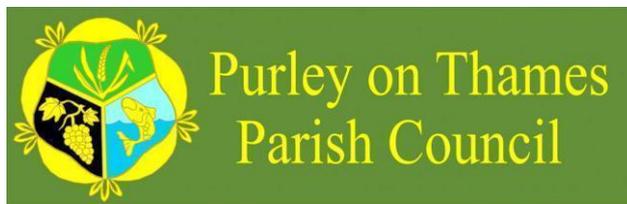
The general advice to prevent this is to keep passenger doors locked when you're alone in your car.

Should someone manage to get into your car, the advice is to sound the car's horn, flash the lights, and shout to attract attention from passersby and other drivers.

Parking in Reading

We've heard there might be new parking restrictions on previously uncharged car parks in Reading. The Tesco car park on Portman Road is to have a three-hour parking restriction after which cars may be fined, and Reading Retail Park on the Oxford Road is likely to introduce a similar arrangement for its parking.

If you use these or other car parks when going into town, please check whether there are any new restrictions and fines in place.



Centenary of WWI Armistice

The events to mark the centenary of the WWI Armistice are well underway with various talks and events, including the tea dance, having already been held.

The Memorial Trail around Purley is a self-guided, circular walk around the village to see where the 11 local men who gave their lives in the Great War lived. There are 11 figures representing each of the men – they have been put up as close as possible to their home. The soldier in the picture on the right is at the corner of Lister Close and Purley Village and marks the where Alan Denys Powley lived. It also marks the start/finish of the trail.



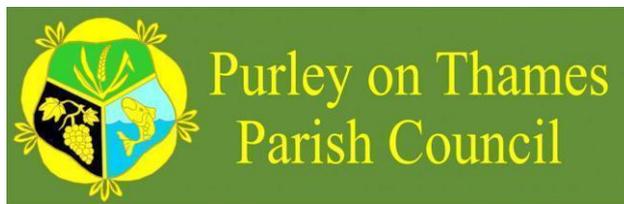
From 11.00am to 4.00pm on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 November, there will be the “Purley Remembers the First World War” exhibition together with an interesting range of workshops and talks in both halls of the Barn at Goosecroft. Refreshments will also be available on both days.

In the Large Hall of the Barn, there will also be a display of the poppies made by local schools, groups, and individuals on show in the Large Hall. An incredible amount of imagination has gone into creating them, and the result is an amazing variety of different shapes, sizes and styles of poppy. Thank you very much to everyone who’s been involved in making this such a success.



The programme of events in Purley on Thames will reach its grand finale on Sunday 11 November – Armistice Day. There will be the Service of Remembrance at 10.30am in the Memorial Hall on Glebe Road – the 11 soldiers on the Memorial Trail will be moved to the Memorial Hall before the service. In the evening, a range of events, including beacon of light and bell ringing, will held at St Mary’s Church as the village joins in the National Tribute.

Further details and the guide to the Armistice Trail are available on the Parish Council web site - <http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/armistice-centenary-events/>



Firework displays

Quite a few firework displays are being held locally on the first weekend in November, including:

Saturday 3 November - The Lions Club of Reading annual fireworks display at the ground of Reading City FC on Scours Lane. Gates open at 5.00pm with the display starting at around 7.00pm. There will also be fairground rides, face painting, snacks, hot food, drinks, and a beer tent. It's recommended that tickets are bought in advance – click [here](#) for further details.



Sunday 4 November – Purley Primary School Parent Teacher Association (FOPS) will be holding its annual Thameside Firework Fiesta by Mapledurham Lock. Gates open at 5.30pm for hot drinks, glow novelties, music, and a licenced bar. The fireworks start at 7.00pm.

Tickets may be bought online at www.thamesidefireworkfiesta.org, or from Purley Primary School office, Barn Owls Day Nursery and the shop on Colyton Way – there is a discount if tickets are bought in advance.

Please note that this year, no parking will be available. Instead, Reading Buses is kindly putting on two extra buses between Reading and Purley, especially for the event. At 5.22pm, the buses will follow the number 16 route from Friar Street, along the Oxford Road, Overdown Road, Long Lane and Knowsley Road, arriving in Purley for 5.54pm, in plenty of time for you to enjoy the display. After the event, two number 16 buses will leave Purley at 7.57pm, travelling back along the same route and arriving in Reading at 8.23pm.

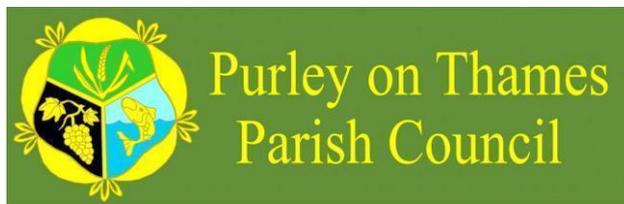
See <https://bustimes.org/services/16-sky-blue-central-reading-purley?date=2018-11-04> for further details.

Local news and events

Thursday 22 November – Christmas Cheer Festival, Madejski Stadium, from 10.00am to 4.30pm. This year all funds raised will go towards Thames Valley Air Ambulance. For further information, including details of stallholders and ticket booking, please see <https://www.christmascheerfair.co.uk/>



Saturday 24 November, 7.30pm at St Catherine of Siena, Tilehurst – Gratis Choir's concert to commemorate the centenary of the WWI Armistice. This is a free concert, although there will be a retiring collection in aid of a charity supported by the Church. For further information, please see <http://gratischoir.org.uk/concerts.htm>



The 2018 Christmas Market organised by Friends of Purley Barn will be held from 11.00am to 3.00pm on Sunday 25 November in both halls of the Barn at Goosecroft. This year there will be a wide range of stalls, mulled wine and refreshments, and a grand raffle. The Pangbourne Silver Band will play, and Father Christmas will be there to meet the children.

Entrance and parking are free. Light lunches will be served by Purley Sports and Social Club during the day. See <http://www.fopb.org.uk/FoPBStructure/FoPBCMarket2017.html> for more information.



Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service is holding its sixth annual fundraising Santa Dash event from 9.00am on Sunday 25 November in Windsor Town Centre. This festive 5km fun run is open to all and may be run, walked, jogged, skipped, hopped, danced ...! The route takes in Long Walk, the Castle, Queen Victoria's statue and Windsor's shopping area. Santa suits are provided for adults, reindeer antlers for children, and all funds raised will go towards the hospice.

For further details and to book tickets see www.alexanderdevine.org or call 01628 822777.



Christmas food fair in Goring Village Hall, 10.00am to 3.00pm on Saturday 1 December. Information about stallholders and booking tickets is available [here](#).



Please see the "What's On" page of the Parish Council web – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/whats-on/ - for information about other local events.

Contact

Please see the Parish Council web site – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk – for more information on local issues,

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.