

## NEWSLETTER

June 2018, issue 16

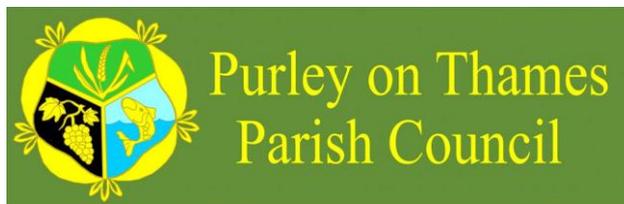
### Parish Council matters

There has recently been a number of antisocial and sometimes criminal activities taking place in Purley, mainly in our community spaces. May I remind you that if you see something happening which you feel is wrong (but not criminal), you should report it to the police on the non-emergency number, 101. Doing this helps the police to build an awareness of the locations which need a regular presence. We really need your help on this or nothing will change! Of course, if you witness a crime taking place, the number to call is still 999 for an immediate response.

Lovely weather, Bank Holidays, and the end of school exams are all factors which contribute each year to an influx of visitors to the river and meadows in Purley. It's wonderful they can share our beautiful environment but what a shame some people then spoil it! Residents who live on or around the main routes to the river are very conscious of the number of visitors and their behaviour. A hot bank holiday earlier this year was spoiled for residents and others enjoying themselves by a minority shouting, swearing and littering. This has prompted a group of people in the "lower village" to form the Purley Residents Support Committee (PRSC). PRSC is completely separate from the Parish Council but its current activities do have council support. The group's first task has been to organise litter-picking teams which have already started work, armed with equipment paid for by a generous donation from a local business. The litter picking groups are made up of adults and children, the latter being particularly enthusiastic! Pupils from Purley Primary School have been discussing care of the environment and, on a recent visit to the school, I was delighted to be asked by one class about how the Parish Council was going to respond to these local problems. They had lots of ideas which we will take "on board". If you would like to know more about PRSC, email [PRSCpurley@aol.com](mailto:PRSCpurley@aol.com)

Looking ahead, this November marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, and commemorating it is to be a national event of which Purley will be a part. The "Great War" eclipsed all previous wars with its scale of destruction, and its wake brought huge social change, advances in medicine, technology and transport. Of the many men from Purley who went to fight, eleven gave their lives, and people who moved to Purley after the war also bring their own family's WW1 history. The Parish Council is supporting local groups which are organising a programme of events in October and November to mark the Armistice. The key events will be an exhibition in the Barn, Goosecroft, on 3rd and 4th November, and a Remembrance Service and the national bell-ringing on 11th November. A local programme will be produced listing all the events and activities, and we hope you'll be able to participate.

*Sue Briscoe*  
*Chairman of Purley on Thames Parish Council*



## Travellers on Pangbourne Meadow

As you might be aware, a group of travellers moved onto Pangbourne Meadow on Wednesday 13 June. At a Court hearing on Friday 22 June, Pangbourne Parish Council was granted an Order of Possession and Notice of Enforcement on the meadow. The order enforced by Sheriffs on Monday 25 June, giving the travellers 24 hours to move to another site.

Neighbouring parish councils were kept updated on the situation as the travellers had told police they'd already chosen another local site move to, and there were reported sightings of people apparently checking padlocks and access to various fields and meadows in the area.

Although it is not yet known where the travellers intend going, we have been looking at ways to increase security of the public spaces in Purley, including locking the gate to Goosecroft. This is a task the parish councillors have volunteered to undertake, and a rota has been drawn up to make sure the gate is opened and closed as necessary to allow access to legitimate users of Goosecroft's facilities.



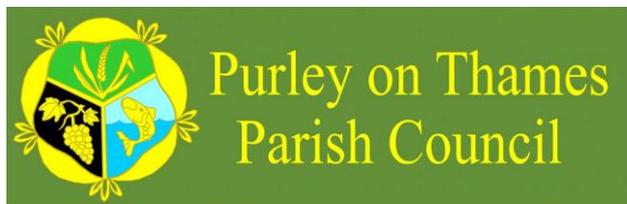
As a result of groups of travellers camping illegally on sites in Tilehurst, Theale, Calcot, Coley, Prospect Park and Portman Road, Reading West MP, Alok Sharma, launched a petition to make trespass a criminal rather than civil offence. Further detail can be seen on the Reading Chronicle website - <http://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/16308628.alok-sharma-mp-wants-to-make-trespassing-a-criminal-offence/>

There is also a national petition aimed at making trespass a criminal offence so that police may act without the lengthy and costly process of involving the courts. There is more information on the Government and Parliament web site - <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/220663%20>

## 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/](http://roadworks.org/)



## In the Parish Office

At this time of year the Parish Office is preparing for the next round of committee meetings. Over the next four Thursday evenings, each of the three committees which meet quarterly – Highways and Footpaths, Recreation, Barn and Burial Ground - will meet, after which there will be a meeting of full Council.

This is also the time of year when annual risk assessments of the Council's facilities are due.

Although regular weekly or monthly risk assessments must be carried out on many of the Council's amenities and equipment, there's also a requirement for a full annual assessment. Each committee is advised of the condition of the facilities under its care, and a full report is then provided to the Parish Council, including recommendations of works which need to be undertaken in order of priority.

And, once all the meetings and risk assessments have been completed, it's then simply a matter of arranging for all the remedial work to be carried out!

## Allotments

At the allotments, we are in the process of converting an existing half plot into four new micro plots. The idea is that the smaller plots will enable people who can't manage a half or quarter plot (whether because of physical ability or lack of time) to grow their own produce, fruit and flowers. There is a wealth of experience at our allotments, and plot holders are always willing to share their knowledge and offer their support, and our smaller plots will mean we can be more inclusive.

The half plot we've allocated to the first micro allotments was in very poor condition and needed a good deal of work before it could be re-let to a new tenant. Springs Farm helped us clear the old fruit bushes and weeds (as shown in last month's Newsletter), and has also offered to help put in the new beds and fencing.

For now, there will be only four micro plots, and we hope to have them ready for their new tenants very soon.

If you are interested in taking a plot at our allotments, please contact the Assistant Clerk, [asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk)

### **Bucknell's Meadow**

As part of a project about helping their local community, children from Purley Church of England Primary School have started a regular litter pick around Bucknell's Meadow.

You might also see children from the school around the village as they are doing a "Monday Mile" each week which means they walk around to get some exercise, familiarise themselves with their surroundings, and help by filling up the dog waste dispensers.



The meadow was used by Purley C of E Primary School for its annual sports day on Friday 15 June. The weather was lovely that day and the school set up various gazebos in the meadow for parents and children to enjoy. They also did a wonderful job of clearing up at the end and left Bucknell's very clean and tidy.

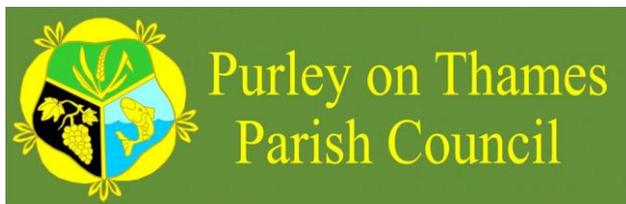
### **Villager of the Year 2018**

The closing date for nominations is Saturday 30 June 2018. If you know someone you would like to put forward for their contribution to the community of Purley on Thames, please do download the nomination form from the Parish Council web site - <http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/voy/> - and submit it as soon as possible.

### **Tennis courts, Goosecroft**

As you may remember, the tennis courts at Goosecroft were refurbished last year and fully reopened earlier this year, and we're delighted to say the new courts are very widely used. Purley Infants School enjoyed the facility as part of its summer sports day, while children from Long Lane Primary School are having four morning sessions on the courts during June and July, and the local Beavers group will be using them at the beginning of July. Local residents are also welcome to use the new courts provided they are not being used by the Tennis Club ([www.purleyonthamestc.co.uk/](http://www.purleyonthamestc.co.uk/)).

The Tennis Club's 2018 open day will be from 12.00pm to 4.00pm on Sunday 22 July at the tennis courts, all are welcome to attend.



## **Village matters**

### **Running group**

A new summer running group has started in Bucknell's Meadow. If you are a runner and are available between 9.30am and 10.30am on Thursday mornings, do feel free to go to see if you'd like to join in with them.

### **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/)

If you have an event you'd like included on the page, please contact the webmaster using the form provided.

## **Contact**

Further information on matters raised here and other local issues is available on the Parish Council web site – [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk).

To contact us, please call 0118 984 4507, or e-mail [asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk) giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.