

NEWSLETTER

February 2019, issue 24

Parish Council matters

At this time of year, the Parish Council has to look carefully at its budget, plan for future spending and set the precept for the next financial year. Although the precept is a very small percentage of West Berkshire's Council Tax that comes to the Parish Council, it constitutes the largest part of our income. We try to keep the precept as low as possible while making sure we're able to cover costs and maintain or improve our facilities. We also have to budget for unplanned expenditure. A recent example of this was when a car, possibly a blue mini, was driven into a gate post at the Burial Ground, Goosecroft, very early one January morning. Two brick pillars and a stretch of wall have been seriously damaged and, as no one has admitted responsibility, we will have to spend several thousand pounds on repairs. Thames Valley Police have the relevant CCTV footage.

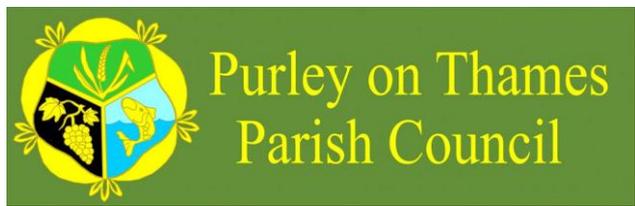
The Memorial Hall has started holding a monthly "drop-in" morning. The next will be on Friday 22 March from 10.30am to noon, and offers an opportunity to meet friends, or perhaps make new ones over a cup of coffee (it costs £1.50 for coffee and a biscuit). There's a games corner for small children and the hall's committee also plans to have a book exchange. If you want to know more or have books to donate, e-mail purleymemhall@yahoo.co.uk. When you're at the Memorial Hall, don't forget to see the crowd-funded "Lest We Forget" bench, commemorating the Armistice.

Sue Briscoe
Chair of Thames Parish Council

Tilehurst Parish Council

It is with great sorrow that we have to report that Jean Gardner, Chairman of Tilehurst Parish Council, passed away on 3 February 2019. She had been on Tilehurst Parish Council since 1973 and for the past 33 years was unanimously elected as Chairman. It was in that capacity that she regularly attended the Chairman's Reception in Purley on Thames.

Purley on Thames Parish Council was represented at her funeral. She will be greatly missed.



Councillor resignation

We are very sad to announce that Graham Rolfe has resigned from the Parish Council. Graham was a long-term Parish Councillor and Vice Chairman of the Council, who always showed great commitment to the role and played an active part, both as a member of the council and in the community overall. His technical knowledge and expertise have been invaluable in setting up and running the web site as well as various databases.

We would like to wish Graham very well and to thank him for his hard work and for all the help and support he's shown officers and fellow councillors over the years.

New Councillor

On a happier note, we are pleased to confirm that a Gordon Adams has been co-opted to join the Parish Council. Gordon is a long-standing resident of Purley who knows the area well. We are pleased to welcome him and look forward to working with him.

As there is not enough time now to co-opt anyone else before the elections in May, the Parish Council will run with only 12 councillors for the time being.

Parish Office Drop-in, Monday 11 March

The Parish Office will be holding a drop-in from 3.00pm to 6.00pm on Monday 11 March when anyone interested in standing as a Parish Councillor can find out more about what it involves. If you'd like to speak to a councillor, please let us know in advance, otherwise you're welcome to drop in during the afternoon and talk to the clerks if no councillor is available.

News from the Parish Office



Rainbow over the Barn

One result of the sunny and rainy weather we've had recently is that the Amenities Officer was able to take some amazing pictures of rainbows at Goosecroft!

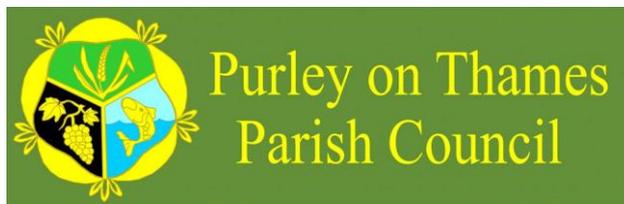
The photo on the left shows a rainbow over the Barn while, on the right, there's a double rainbow over the Pavilion.



Double rainbow over the Pavilion



Thank you to those who reported the salt bins near them were running low. All the bins are due to be refilled in the next few days, so they should be fully stocked should the weather turn cold and icy again.



West Berkshire Council

The local council elections will be held in early May and, this year, the Boundary Commission for England's review of ward designations for West Berkshire is to be implemented. This means that, from May, West Berkshire will comprise 24 wards served by 43 councillors (down from the current 30 wards and 52 councillors). The intention is to make the wards more even in terms of representation, one effect of which will be to slim the council down somewhat thereby saving a small amount of money.

From May, Purley Ward will expand to include most of the existing Tilehurst Westwood Ward and there will be three District Councillors to represent the area. Sulham and Tidmarsh will become part of the Pangbourne Ward, which will have one single District Councillor.



West Berkshire Council (WBC) is supporting the government's new national recruitment campaign to help fill the 110,000 vacancies in Adult Social Care.

["Every day is different when you care"](#) launched in late February and will run during March. It focuses on promoting the wide range of career opportunities in Adult Social Care and highlights that no two days are the same.

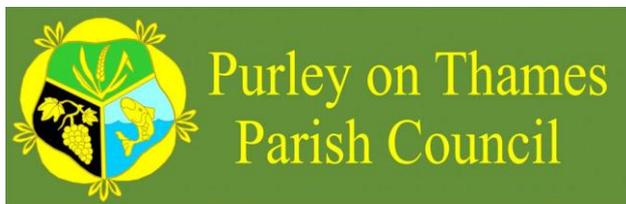
More information about [Working in Care in West Berkshire](#) and specific [Adult Social Care vacancies](#) in the area may be found on WBC's web site.

Dementia Action Alliance survey

The West Berkshire Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) is a community-run group which aims to improve the lives of local people who live with dementia. It will be hosting an invitation-only one-day conference for people from health, social care, local business, emergency services, voluntary sector and local government to explore how West Berkshire and other rural communities can become better places for those living with dementia.

The agenda for the conference is to be shaped by feedback from local people and there's a [special survey](#) which anyone in West Berkshire who lives with dementia is encouraged to complete.

Dementia currently costs more than heart, cancer and stroke combined and over 850,000 people in the UK are affected, at a cost of over £26bn. These figures are expected to continue to rise so it's important to look at creating a more inclusive community for those affected.



Deposit Return Scheme consultation

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is now running a consultation "Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland". The purpose is to help the government consider the merits of introducing a DRS and to ensure that, should a DRS be introduced, it will be easy for consumers to return drinks containers so as to increase recycling rates and reduce littering.

The consultation opened on 18 February 2019 and will close on 13 May 2019, and full details can be found on the government [web site](#).

Roadworks on A329

West Berkshire Council's contractor is scheduled to carry out roadworks on the A329 from Monday 25 February to Tuesday 5 March. The area affected is between the Knowsley Road roundabout and the end of Long Lane and there will be traffic control (two-way signals) in place.

Emergency closure of Glebe Road, Purley

Glebe Road was closed on Wednesday 20 February because of a collapsed/broken sewer pipe. The road is not expected to be reopened before Thursday 7 March at the earliest, and the closure might have to be extended in order to complete necessary repair work.

The road is closed from its junction with Westbury Lane to its junction with the A329, Purley Rise. Access will be maintained for residents and a diversion will be signed.

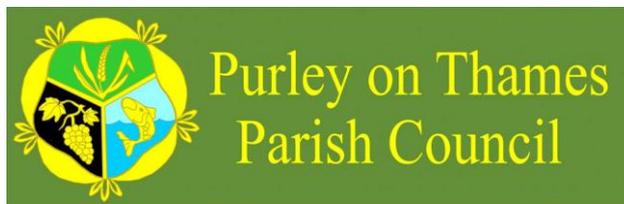
A plan of the closure may be seen at <https://roadworks.org/?tm=112774095>, and all enquiries should be made to Cappagh on 0208 947 4000.

Village matters

Purley Memorial Hall

Purley Memorial Hall recently upgraded the lighting in its main hall to LED lights and, as a result, four 6ft and one 5ft florescent lights are now redundant. If anyone would like one or two (perhaps for a garage) they are available – free. They come with covers.

If you're interested or would like more information, please contact the Hall Manager, Rita Benedict, on 07772 129187 or e-mail purleymemhall@yahoo.co.uk.



Bridge Drive

The Friends of Purley Barn would like to thank the Bridge Club very much indeed for their very generous donation of £1,051. The Bridge Club held a very successful Bridge Drive in the Barn in January, where 84 people gathered to play bridge and have afternoon tea.

Their generous gift will go towards refurbishing the WCs in the Barn.

Purley Residents Support Committee (PRSC)

PRSC recently held a successful Community Conversation, and a report collating the issues raised and actions identified has now been written and issued to those who attended. The report is a working document which will develop as focus is given to each community action.

Work has already started on some of the issues raised, and a meeting to find out about Neighbourhood Watch was held on 15 February and was attended by local police. A further Neighbourhood Watch meeting will be organised for an evening to enable other residents to attend.

Another issue identified was dog fouling and some residents have been pulling together ideas for a campaign of signs aimed at raising awareness and discouraging this problem on local streets and footpaths.

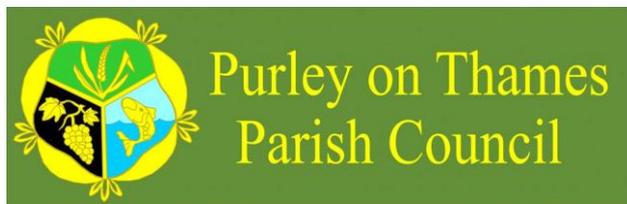
If you would like a copy of the report, or any other information, please email PRSCpurley@aol.com

Stamp prices

Royal Mail is increasing the prices of stamps. From Monday 25 March 2019, a First Class stamp will rise by 3p for letters (to 70p) and 5p for large letters (to £1.06). Second Class stamps will rise by 3p for letters (to 61p) and 4p for large letters (to £83p).

There was, however, an error in calculating the new Second Class stamp price and the new cost of 61p will be a penny over the existing regulatory price cap for a period of seven days, from 25 March until 1 April. Royal Mail will be donating the revenue it expects to raise from the error – around £60,000 – to the charity, Action for Children, which helps disadvantaged children across the UK.

Full details of the new stamp prices may be found at www.royalmail.com/prices2019



Barclays Bank, Tilehurst

From Monday 18 March, the Tilehurst branch of Barclays Bank will have reduced opening hours. The new opening times will be from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Monday, Friday and Saturday, and from 10.00am to 4.30pm on Wednesday. The branch will be closed on Tuesday and Thursday.

“Back in Time ...”

Wall to Wall Media, the producers of the BBC series “Back in Time for Tea” and “Back in Time for School”, will be filming a new series about what life was like running – and living above – a rural village shop, and are looking for a new family to take part.

Families must be UK residents and have at least three children, ideally aged eight years or older. The family chosen must be able to immerse itself in the past and will ideally have memories of, or family connections to, the countryside and village life. Filming will take place in the Berkshire area over the summer holidays and all family members must be available during that period.

If you’ve ever wondered what it would be like to go back in time and might be interested in taking part, visit the web site www.walltowall.co.uk for more information.

Junior rowing club

A new rowing club, Thames Scullers, has been set up in Whitchurch on Thames. It is for juniors and operates under the rules and guidelines of British Rowing (with which it is now affiliated). If you’d like to know more about the various activities it offers, please see the web site, <https://thamesscullers.webs.com/>

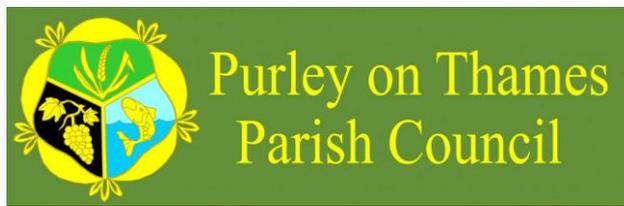
Local news and events

Family Race Night will be held on Saturday 2 March in the Memorial Hall in Glebe Road. This event is to raise funds for Project Africa 2019 and the World Scout Jamboree 2019.

The doors will open at 7.00pm with the first race at 7.30pm. Entry is free, and it costs £1.00 per horse per race. There will be food, a bar and some fun stalls, and the event will finish at 10.00pm.



From 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Sunday 3 March, there will be Spring Flower Sunday at St Nicholas, Sulham. This is an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful flowers, including crocuses, snowdrops and primroses, in the churchyard, and there will also be tea and cakes available in the church.



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Shrove Tuesday – or Pancake Day – is on Tuesday 5 March and Launchpad Reading will be holding its annual pancake race on Broad Street from 12.30pm, with prizes being presented at around 1.30pm.

Further details are available [here](#). The deadline for entries is Tuesday 26 February, but volunteers are also being sought to help on the day. Proceeds raised will go to preventing homelessness in Reading.

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Comic Relief’s Red Nose Day is on Friday 15 March. This is a day, every two years, when people get together to raise money at home, school and work. If you’d like to know more about fundraising activities, see the web site - www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday

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The Reading Half Marathon will be held from 10.00am on Sunday 17 March (St Patrick’s Day!). This is one of the largest half marathons in the country and around 13,000 people are expected to run. The course is manned by around 700 people, most of whom are volunteers from local charities and organisations which support the event. If you’re not running but were thinking of going to Reading that day, do remember to plan your journey.

Further details are available on the web site - www.readinghalfmarathon.com/

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Also on Sunday 17 March, the Holi Unlimited – Festival of Colours 2019 event will be held from 11.30am to 6.00pm at Rivermead Leisure Complex in Reading. There will be the chance to spread colours, enjoy the food and shops, dance to a live DJ, as well as funfair rides and children’s competitions. Tickets cost £3.00 and can be booked [here](#).

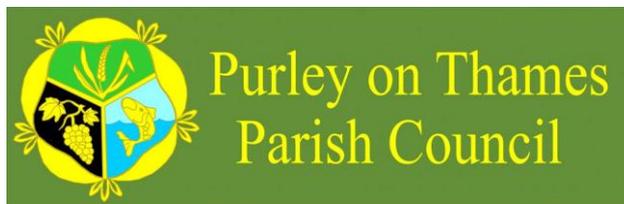
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The monthly coffee morning at the Memorial Hall will be from 10.30am to 12.00 noon on Friday 22 March. This is a lovely opportunity to catch up with friends. Coffee and a biscuit cost £1.50 and there are also games to entertain children.

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Monday 25 March is International Waffle Day! This holiday is believed to have originated in Sweden as Våffeldagen, and is still celebrated there as well as in other places around the world. The date (not to be confused with the American National Waffle Day on 24 August) historically marks the beginning of spring, an event which is marked by eating waffles.

More about International Waffle Day, together with some ideas on how to celebrate the occasion, are available [here](#).



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On Saturday 30 March, Village Concerts is organising a performance by Naomi Banks at St Mary's Church. Doors will open at 7.00pm with the show starting at 8.00pm. For details and information on how to book tickets, see the Village Concerts web site – www.villageconcerts.eu

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Don't forget, Mother's Day is on Sunday 31 March!

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Looking ahead a little, Purley Residents Support Committee (PRSC) is organising a "What's On" Fair in the Barn at Goosecroft from 10.00am to 3.00pm on Saturday 6 April. Entry will be free and this will be an opportunity to find out what clubs and societies, groups and associations there are in the local area. Refreshments and cakes will be available.

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For information about these and other events, please see the "What's On" page on the Parish Council's web site – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/whats-on/

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.