

## NEWSLETTER

June 2019, issue 28

### Parish Council matters

What will be the future of the Purley on Thames Post Office? Ruchi, our postmistress, has made no secret of the fact that she wants to give up her business but there are several options if we want to keep local post office services.

The first is that, as in Pangbourne, the post office counter could be installed in an existing business. Few Purley businesses have suitable premises and have no interest in doing this.

The second option is a hosted outreach service. This means that one of the larger post offices in the area would send out a member of staff to an approved venue such as a social club or Parish Office for set hours each week. This option offers limited hours and services.

The final option is to run the post office as a community business with the Post Office providing support, training and resources for volunteers. Many villages across the country are doing this successfully. A community post office needs local people to be committed to running it and supporting it as customers. Many community shops have a management team to set it up and oversee its working with a team of volunteers who commit to several hours per week to work in the post office.

What are your views and ideas? Do you feel it is vital to keep a village post office? We can't move forward without knowing how local people feel so please let us know! There will be a Community Meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16 July in the Small Hall of the Barn at Goosecroft to share thoughts. Please do come along and bring your neighbours too. If you can't make the meeting, send us an email, write us a letter, talk to a Parish Councillor, or drop in to the Parish Office on Thursday 18 July between 10.30am and noon. We really do need to know what you think! Thank you.

*Sue Briscoe*  
*Chair of Thames Parish Council*

### West Berkshire Council

Over the past few weeks, we've reported a number of issues – such as dead animals, and grass verges and roadside hedges in need of cutting – to West Berkshire Council.

Problems like this can be reported direct to the district council via its web site – [www.westberks.gov.uk/servicerequests/describe\\_case.aspx?lev=0](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/servicerequests/describe_case.aspx?lev=0) – or you can let us know and we'll pass the information on.

## Villager of the Year 2019

Further to the item in last month's newsletter (available on the Parish Council web site), nominations for Villager of the Year 2019 may be made, not only for individuals, but also in recognition of a village group or organisation which has contributed to the wellbeing of all or part of the local community over the past year.

Nomination forms are available in the Purley Parish News, on the Parish Council web site, and from the Parish Office. Completed forms should be posted or hand-delivered in a sealed envelope to the Parish Office, or e-mailed to [asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk) – all nominations must be received by **Wednesday 31 July 2019**.

## News from the Parish Office

We're now nearly in July and the summer holidays are just starting. Officers and councillors are all taking time off, so it seems a little quieter than usual – although, as it's also the start of the run of quarterly meetings, the workload's as busy as ever!

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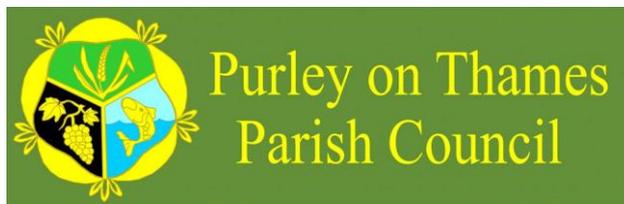
Now that summer's with us, and the weather's warming up, we hope that the temporary, 1,100 litre trade wheelie bin on Mapledurham Drive will help keep the area around Bucknell's Meadow and the river clear of litter.

The bin will be in place until after the schools go back in September.

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Work has begun on converting the disabled WC at the end of the Pavilion into a public facility for use by all enjoying the recreation areas at Goosecroft. The first step to achieving this was to install a new magnetic locking system which will automatically open at 9.00am and lock in the evenings.

The next stage will be the installation of a baby changing table and other fittings which it's hoped will be completed in late June or early July.



## Action Fraud

Action Fraud is the national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre. It provides a central point of contact for information about fraud and financially-motivated internet crime. The service is run by the City of London Police working alongside the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB).

For more information about the service and to report fraudulent or scam calls, texts and e-mails, please see <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>.



Last year, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) received over 100,000 reports of scam telephone calls as fraudsters mimicked legitimate helpline numbers to dupe taxpayers and steal money. The scam worked as taxpayers who received calls would check the telephone numbers online and find they appeared to belong to HMRC; the victim would often then believe the calls were real.

As a result of this, new defensive controls were put in place in April to prevent "spoofing" of HMRC's most recognisable helpline numbers (often beginning 0300). The controls have been created in partnership with the telecommunications industry and Ofcom, and are the first to be used by a government department in the UK. Since their introduction, the number of scams where HMRC helpline numbers are mimicked has been reduced significantly.

It should be noted that HMRC does not make initial contact via the telephone; this will be done by letter which will include a reference to be quoted in any subsequent telephone calls. No one representing HMRC will demand immediate payment of any outstanding amounts, nor will they suggest using vouchers or gift cards to settle bills.

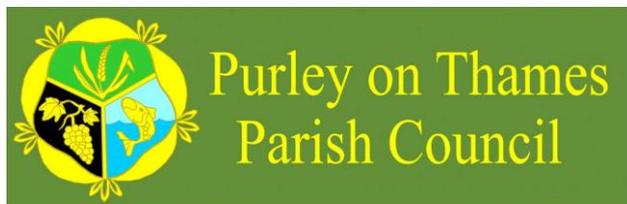
Any suspicious and unsolicited calls, texts or e-mails claiming to be from HMRC or from a bank or police official should be reported to Action Fraud.

## Village matters

### Volunteering opportunity

Friends of Purley School (FOPS) is delighted to announce that its Thameside Firework Fiesta will take place this year on Sunday 3 November 2019 from 5.00pm. Now in its fifth year, this is becoming a regular community event and, as well as being enjoyed by many local people, it is also a great way of raising funds for Purley Primary School.

The fiesta is organised by a small committee of volunteers and, this year, they'd welcome some new people to join them. If you'd be interested in joining the FOPS Fireworks Committee, please email [askfops@gmail.com](mailto:askfops@gmail.com) or telephone Danni on 07796 935410.



## Speed Indicator Device training

Further to the item in last month's newsletter, if you'd be interested in taking the next Speed Indicator Device (SID) training session on Friday 7 August, please contact the Clerk either by calling the office or by e-mailing [clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk).

## Purley Horticultural Society

Purley Horticultural Society (PHS) held a successful plant sale on Saturday 11 May in the car park of Purley Memorial Hall on Glebe Road, and customers were able to purchase bedding and vegetable plants.

On Wednesday 15 May, members of the Society were able to enjoy a coach trip to Leonardslee Gardens in Sussex with, as it turned out, perfect weather for the visit.

Looking forward a little, PHS, together with Purley Women's Institute, will be holding its Late Summer Show in Purley Memorial Hall on Saturday 7 September. The event will be open to the public from 2.30pm to 4.00pm, and schedules are available in the Trading Store and on the Society's [web site](#).

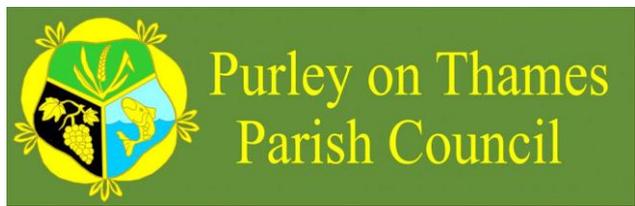
## Swan Upping

An annual census of the swan population, known as Swan Upping, has been carried out for hundreds of years along a stretch of the River Thames, although it's now changed from being primarily ceremonial to playing an important role in wildlife conservation and education.

Over a five-day period, a flotilla of traditional rowing skiffs makes the journey upriver. In them travel Royal Swan Uppers wearing scarlet rowing shirts, Swan Uppers from the Vintners' and Dyers' livery companies, and the Queen's Swan Marker who wears a white swan's feather in his hat.

When they see families of swans and cygnets, the Swan Uppers carefully lift them from the river to assess their health, particularly that of cygnets; the vulnerable young birds are weighed, measured, and checked for signs of injury (fishing hooks and lines are common causes).

This year, the Swan Uppers' journey will start from Sunbury on Monday 15 July, and finish in Abingdon on Friday 19 July; they are due to be at Mapledurham Lock around midday on Thursday 18 July.



**Dog litter awareness campaign**

Purley Residents Support Committee (PRSC) is starting a campaign to raise awareness of the problem of dog littering around Purley.

On Thursday 18 July, there will be a stand on Mapledurham Drive, near the entrance to Bucknell’s Meadow. The idea is to talk to people who pass by to find out which areas suffer the most of dog littering, and to raise awareness of the consequences and health risks of people not clearing up after their dogs.

PRSC will also be working in conjunction with the school to find out how children feel about the problem of dog litter. The group also intends taking a stand at the Farmers’ Market on Saturday 10 August with the aim of raising awareness of the issue with more local people.

**Local news and events**

On Friday 21 June, the monthly coffee morning will be held from 10.30am to 12.00 noon in the Memorial Hall on Glebe Road. This is a lovely opportunity to catch up with friends or perhaps play cards, Mah Jong or scrabble. There’s also the toy and colouring corner to entertain children, as well as the book exchange. Coffee and a biscuit cost £1.50 and everyone is welcome.

If you need help with transport to the Memorial Hall on Friday, please call 07729 871493.



Purley Church of England Primary School’s Summer Fête will be from 11.00am to 2.00pm on Saturday 29 June. There’ll be stalls and refreshments, a fancy dress parade with the theme “P”, a raffle, performances from the pupils, arts and crafts, an auction, and many more activities.

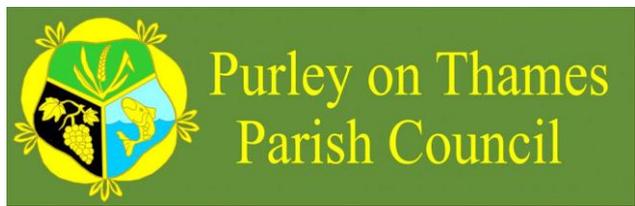
Entrance costs 50p for adults and is free for children. If you’d like to know more about this event, please see the [flyer](#).



From 10.00am to 5.00pm on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 June, the Great British Food Festival will be at Englefield House.

For more information and to buy tickets, please see [greatbritishfoodfestival.com/englefield/](http://greatbritishfoodfestival.com/englefield/)





Purley Park Trust is holding its Summer Fête from 11.00am to 2.00pm on Saturday 6 July at its site in Huckleberry Close (please note, there's no parking available on site). Entry is free for children under ten, and costs 50p for anyone aged over ten years. There will be wide range of activities, including hook a duck, face painting, penalty shoot out, as well as stalls, a raffle and a barbecue.

For more information about the trust and its work in Purley on Thames, please see the web site - [www.purleyparktrust.org/](http://www.purleyparktrust.org/).



The next Farmers' and Craft Markets will be held in the Barn at Goosecroft on from 8.00am to noon on Saturday 13 July. For more information see [www.tvfm.org.uk/purley-on-thames/](http://www.tvfm.org.uk/purley-on-thames/)



Friends of Purley Barn is holding a Summer Spectacular Jazz Concert on Saturday 13 July at the Barn at Goosecroft. Doors open at 7.00pm with the concert starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10.00 per person and a paying bar will be available.



More information may be found [here](#). To book tickets, please call 07787 187363 or e-mail [jazz@fopb.org.uk](mailto:jazz@fopb.org.uk).



For ten days, from 14 to 24 July, the Turbine House of the Riverside Museum at Blake's Lock is hosting an installation "The Arborealists and Guests: the Art of the Tree". The exhibition presents a diverse approach to the subject of the tree and is open from 10.00am to 6.00pm; entrance is free.



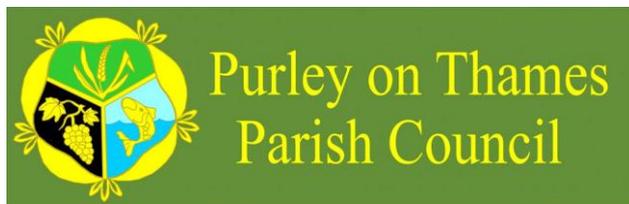
The annual Swan Upping is scheduled to take place at Mapledurham Lock at around 12.00 noon on Thursday 18 July – see the item on "Swan Upping" above. Further information and the full schedule are available at [www.royalswan.co.uk/](http://www.royalswan.co.uk/)



On Saturday 20 July, Thames Vale Singers is holding a "Summer Cocktail" in the Memorial Hall on Glebe Road. The event starts at 8.00pm and tickets cost £10.00, including refreshments.

To book tickets, call 0118 984 3668 or 0118 942 4372 – the box office opens on 26 June.





From 10.30am to 12.00 noon on Friday 26 July, there'll be the regular monthly coffee morning in the Memorial Hall on Glebe Road. Coffee and a biscuit cost £1.50 and everyone is welcome to meet with friends. As well as the chance to play cards, scrabble or Mah Jong, there's the book exchange and a children's toy and colouring corner.

If you'd like to go to take this opportunity to meet friends but need help with transport, please call 07729 871493.



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

## Contact

More information about local issues may be found 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.