

## NEWSLETTER

July 2019, issue 29

### Parish Council matters

#### News from the Parish Office

The Parish Council's programme of maintaining or replacing street furniture continues. The dog-litter bin at the top of Mapledurham Drive will be replaced shortly, and a new red dog-litter bin has been ordered. There will also be a new litter bin installed in Bucknell's Meadow near one of the new picnic benches which the Parish Council hopes will further help to reduce the amount of litter left on the ground.

The Amenities Officer, Colin, continues to work hard to maintain the Council's playgrounds at Bucknell's Meadow and Goosecroft. The recent RoSPA report reflected the high maintenance levels the Parish Council maintains over the year. Remember, if you spot any issues in these playgrounds, please report them to the Parish Office.

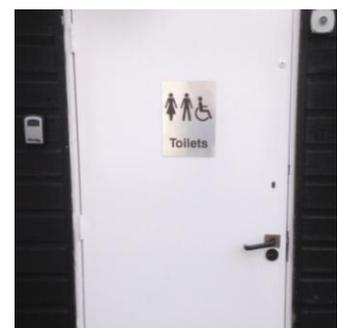
At the Parish Office, new software systems are being installed to help improve office efficiency in managing the allotments, Barn and Burial Ground. The allotments software is the first to be implemented and will be keeping the office busy over the summer.

Finally, the Parish Council would like to remind visitors to Goosecroft that the speed limit on the site is 5mph. This is to maintain the safety and enjoyment of all visitors to the site.



Good progress has been made on converting the disabled WC at the end of the pavilion at Goosecroft into a public facility; work which is being carried out in order to meet an action from the Village Plan.

A time-controlled automatic lock has been fitted to the door, a new baby-changing table has been installed, and the whole facility has been generally tidied up.



We expect the WC to be open to the public by the end of July or beginning of August – the new sign's already been put on the door in readiness for the grand opening!

### Travellers

After a quiet few months, there have recently been a few reports of traveller activity in the area. There was a camp in Calcot a week or so ago, and on 23 July we received notification of an unauthorised encampment on a recreation ground at Beech Hill.

## Network Rail

Earlier this month, Network Rail started renewing the track between Tilehurst and Pangbourne. The work involves replacing the old track and re-laying a new stone base, and the remaining scheduled dates we've been given are as follows (although they may change):

11.00pm to 10.00am on Saturday 3/Sunday 4 August

11.00pm to 10.00am on Saturday 28/Sunday 29 September

11.00pm to 6.00am every night from Monday 30 September to Friday 4 October

If you have any questions or concerns about the work, please call the dedicated, 24-hour National Helpline on 0345 711 4141, or visit [www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus)

More information about living by the railway may be found [here](#).

## Thames Valley Police



A burnt-out car was found on Westbury Lane following the weekend of 13/14 July. This seems to be the result of acts of theft and vandalism, and anyone with information about the incident should report it to the police by calling 101, the non emergency number.



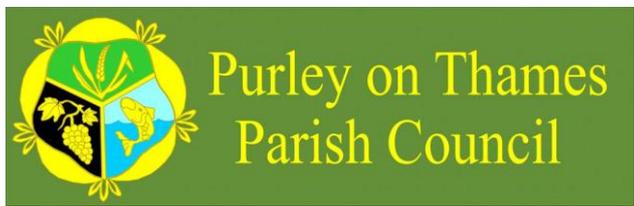
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Berkshire Lowland Search and Rescue is a charity which works in partnership with Thames Valley Police to locate and rescue high-risk, vulnerable missing persons, such as children and those living with dementia. All of its members are volunteers who are highly trained in search and rescue techniques, and it is the oldest lowland search and rescue team in the UK, celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year.

For more information about the charity and its work see [www.berkshirerescue.org.uk](http://www.berkshirerescue.org.uk)

## Speed Indicator Device training

A reminder that anyone interested in taking the Speed Indicator Device (SID) training session on Friday 7 August, should book a place by contacting the Clerk, either by calling the office on 0118 984 5407, or by e-mailing [clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk).



**West Berkshire Council**

The subscription for the 2018/19 garden waste collection comes to an end on 31 August 2019, and the new subscription period will run from 2 September 2019 until 28 August 2020. All current subscribers should have received their renewal notice by now and, to ensure there are no gaps in the service, should renew the subscription by 11 August.

For more information or to subscribe or renew a subscription, please see West Berkshire Council’s web site - <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/gardenwaste>



From Thursday 25 July, please make sure bins are out before 6.00am as collections will start at 6.00am, an hour earlier than usual. This is so that the collection crews can avoid being out in the hottest part of the day and is likely to continue until the weather cools down.



At its meeting on 2 July, West Berkshire Council (WBC) voted unanimously to declare a climate emergency and made a commitment to ensure West Berkshire is carbon neutral by 2030. A cross-party Environment Advisory Group (EAG) will be formed and will have a broad remit to scrutinise strategy and provide feedback on the delivery and content of WBC’s environmental plan. Further information may be found [here](#).

Following on from this decision, WBC will be facilitating a district conference in the autumn. The agenda and format have not yet been agreed, but it will be held on Monday 28 October at Newbury College.



West Berkshire libraries are inviting children from four to 11 years old to sign up to the annual [Summer Reading Challenge](#) - to borrow and read any six library books between 1 July and the end of September. This year’s challenge, Space Chase, is inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing, and children are asked to help super space family, the Rockets, track down books nabbed by mischievous aliens. As they read, children will solve clues and collect special stickers to complete their mission folder.

It’s free to take part and there are incentives along the way, as well as certificates and for completing the challenge. West Berkshire libraries also run a summer Mini Challenge for younger members as well as one for [adults](#).

## Swan Upping



Every July, the Queen's, Vintners' and Dyers' swan uppers, wearing traditional livery, travel along the River Thames in skiffs carrying out a census of swans, checking their health and weight and marking them.

This year, they reached the riverside in Purley on Thursday 18 July and, as always, had a fascinated audience watching – among the onlookers was Councillor Pam Beddoes who shared these pictures with us.

It was the first time Pam had gone to watch the colourful spectacle and it seemed that the family of swans which lives on the Thames near Mapledurham Lock was going to stay on the other side of the river, meaning the spectators wouldn't be able to see much.

But then, the five swans - parents and three cygnets - very obligingly crossed the river to the lock where everyone had a wonderful, close-up view of the weighing and ringing process!



## Heat exhaustion and heat stroke

Now that the warmer weather is with us, there's a high risk of heat exhaustion or heatstroke. The advice for helping your body keep itself cool and also helping prevent dehydration is to:

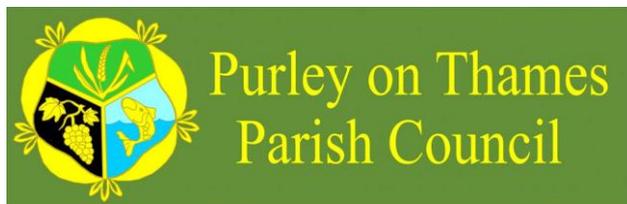
- drink plenty of cold drinks, especially when exercising;
- take cool baths or showers;
- wear light-coloured, loose clothing;
- sprinkle water over skin or clothes;
- avoid the sun between 11.00am and 3.00pm;
- avoid excess alcohol;
- avoid extreme exercise.

It's particularly important to keep an eye on children, the elderly, and people with long-term health conditions such as diabetes or heart problems as they're more at risk.

Heat exhaustion is not usually serious provided the sufferer can be cooled down within 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, if the person is no better, call 999 as they may have heatstroke which needs to be treated as an emergency. Please see [here](#) for more information about symptoms and treatment of heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

*Don't forget that pets and wildlife also suffer in extremely hot weather.*

*For seasonal summer advice from the RSPCA, please see [here](#).*



## What is the future of Purley's Post Office?

The Post Office/shop on Purley Rise will be closing as soon as an alternative way of offering post office services can be found. There was a good response to the "drop in" sessions and community meeting organised by the Parish Council to explain the options available. Many of the local people attending expressed an interest in replacing the present shop/PO with a community shop/Post Office.

Ruchi, our current post mistress, is very keen to help Purley to keep its post office services. She has offered to give the business to the village and partition off the front half of the present shop which would be rented by the community.

Enthusiastic volunteers have offered to form a Management Group to research the viability of a Community shop/PO. A lot of work needs to be done to explore the many aspects of running our own store and this is about to start! If you would like to be part of the Management Group it's not too late – contact the clerk by sending an e-mail to [clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk), or by calling the office on 0118 984 4507, and your details will be passed on.

The Management Group will let you know about its progress by posting updates on the noticeboard outside the Post Office. Hopefully, it will have a web site one day. This is a COMMUNITY venture which needs us all to "get behind" it. Your ideas, skills, time and support are all needed if Purley is to make a success of this. Many other villages around the country already have thriving community shops. Why not us?

The Management Group will need to know that, after the work to set up the store is complete, there will be enough volunteers to staff it. If you would like to volunteer to work for a few hours each week in the PO/shop once it opens, talk to Ruchi in the post office who can tell you what is involved. You can do that now.

Although this is a venture which has been initiated by and is supported by the Parish Council, it will be run by volunteers from the community. The intention is that, once the Management Group has been set up and is in place, the Parish Council will not be directly involved in setting up, managing or running the shop and Post Office. Over to you!

*Sue Briscoe*

*Chairman of Purley on Thames Parish Council*

## Village matters

### Volunteering opportunity

The South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) has vacancies for Public Governors to help provide the patient care services such as 999, NHS 111, and patient transport in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Hampshire. Governors need to be confident communicators who are able to speak to SCAS members and the public about complex healthcare matters. Anyone applying must be a member of the constituency in which they wish to stand, and be aged 16 years or over.

If you or someone you know might be interested in this opportunity, more information is available at [www.scas.nhs.uk/about-scas/council-of-governors/governors-election/](http://www.scas.nhs.uk/about-scas/council-of-governors/governors-election/), or you can e-mail [getinvolved@scas.nhs.uk](mailto:getinvolved@scas.nhs.uk). SCAS is also holding workshops in Newbury on 29 July and 30 September for anyone who who'd like to find out more about the role.

### Dog litter awareness campaign



One of the actions to come out of the Community Conversation held earlier this year was to raise awareness of the ongoing problem of dog littering around Purley. Marion Maybank of Purley Residents Support Committee (PRSC) has taken this issue on as a project and, as part of the campaign, she ran a "Scoop the Poop" stand on Mapledurham Drive on Thursday 18 July.

As well as talking to passersby and dog walkers to find out where they thought the problem was worst and to raise awareness of the health risks and other consequences of not clearing up after dogs, there was also a display of posters designed and created by pupils at Purley Primary School. Children from the school have also taken on the task of topping up dog waste bags around the village.



Winner of the poster competition

The next session in the campaign will be at the farmers' market on Saturday 10 August, and Marion also plans to set up the stand near Bucknell's Meadow on other dates over the summer with the aim of raising awareness of the issue with more local people.

Another, related idea to come out of the Village Plan is for local children to sign up and take a pledge to become Recreational Rangers. They would be issued with a badge and would be involved in helping to keep the village clear of dog waste and other litter, as well as taking an interest in caring for the village's open spaces.

## Purley Primary School Fête, Saturday 29 June

Well, Saturday 29 June, the day of the Purley Primary School Summer Fête, turned out to be a real scorcher but, happily, we were able to add ice pops and ice-cold drinks to the food stalls to help keep everyone cool as they played family games, including a sizzling-hot space-hopper race, football shootout, human fruit machine, and hook-a-duck.



Poppy and Policeman

The pupils made us very proud as they wore their 'P' costumes in the fancy-dress parade, and there were also class performances ranging from country dancing to rap. External stallholders joined us to sell books, cosmetics and beautiful gifts – and the ever-popular gunge-the-teacher saw Mrs Pickering coated in bright purple gunge to rapturous applause!



Mrs Pickering being  
"gunged"

Funds raised from this and all other FoPS events will be ploughed straight back into the school to benefit its pupils, and we would like to thank our sponsor, Sansome & George, as well as everyone who donated prizes, visited, volunteered and took part in the fête. It was a wonderful day and we hope you all had as much fun as we did!

*Friends of Purley School (FoPS)*

## Friends of Purley Barn

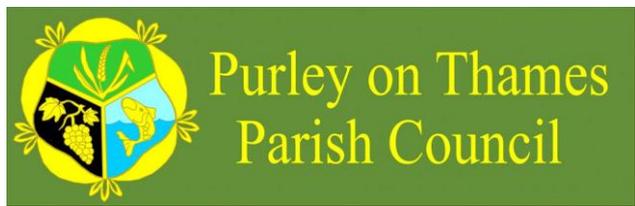
Following the success of the bluebell walk in Sulham Woods, Friends of Purley Barn (FoPB) has arranged a Summer Stroll on Sunday 15 September. Anyone wishing to take part should meet in the car park at the Barn, Goosecroft, at 2.30pm. The walk is expected to take around two hours and, as well as taking in parts of historic Purley, there will be a stroll along the Thames to enjoy the scenery and wildlife.

Everyone is welcome (including well-behaved dogs!), and most of the walking will be on level ground, but please do wear suitable shoes and bring a bottle of water with you. There is no need to book but there is a charge of £3.00 per person which includes refreshments in the Barn at the end of the walk.



Looking ahead, FoPB is arranging two other events over the coming months: the annual quiz night will be from 7.30pm to 10.30pm on Friday 4 October; and this year's Christmas Market will be from 11.00am to 3.00pm on Sunday 24 November. Both will be held in the Barn at Goosecroft and, as with all the events the group holds, the funds raised will be put towards improving the facilities in the building.

For more information about FoPB, the events it arranges, and funds raised, please see the web site [www.fopb.org.uk](http://www.fopb.org.uk)



**Purley Residents Support Committee and Berkshire Youth**

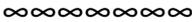
Purley Residents Support Committee (PRSC) has started working with Berkshire Youth to build communication with the increasing numbers of young people who visit the Bucknells and Blounts Meadows in warm weather.

Berkshire Youth met with PRSC and heard about the issues affecting residents and PRSC’s wish to hold a Youth Community Conversation in the village. As a result, Berkshire Youth has offered to visit the meadows over the summer to talk to young people about why they go there and to raise issues, such as residents’ feelings about litter and then encourage the young people to be part of the Youth Community Conversation.

**Local news and events**

The coffee morning in the Memorial Hall will be from 10.30am to 12.00 noon on Friday 26 July. 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.



The Sulham and Tidmarsh Fête will be held from 2.00pm on Saturday 3 August at Sulham House. Stalls will include plants and produce, cakes, white elephant, books, bottles, raffles and traditional children’s games. There will also be a licensed bar selling Pimms and real ale, a barbecue, ice creams, and a tea tent. Pangbourne and Tadley Brass band will be performing and, at 3.00pm there’ll be a fun dog show, as well as classic cars to see.

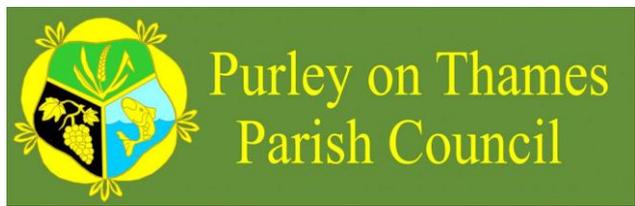
Entrance costs £1.00 for adults (children under 15 enter free of charge) and there’s free car parking.



From Friday 2 to Tuesday 6 August, Circus Zyair will be performing in a big top in Prospect Park, Liebenrood Road, Reading. This is a circus experience for all the family and includes jugglers, acrobats, magic, high wire, wheel of death and other colourful acts. There will be two performances at 3.00pm and 7.00pm every day except 6 August when there will be only one, at 3.00pm.

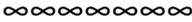
For more information and to book tickets, please see [here](#).





The next Farmers' and Craft Markets will be held in the Barn at Goosecroft on from 8.00am to noon on Saturday 10 August.

For more information see [www.tvfm.org.uk/purley-on-thames/](http://www.tvfm.org.uk/purley-on-thames/)



A Different World Festival 2019 will be held from 11.00am to 8.00pm on Saturday 10 August at Reading Abbey Rugby Football Club, Rose Hill, Emmer Green. Back for its third year, this festival is designed for young people and adults with additional needs and brings the music festival experience to an audience which finds mainstream events difficult to access. As well as rock, folk and alternative music, there will also be stalls, refreshments and workshops.

More information may be found [here](#).



The first ever Reading Fake Festival will be held on Saturday 10 August from 11.45am to 11.00pm in Prospect Park, Reading. Six tribute bands will perform throughout the day there will be a licensed bar inside the marquee and food traders outside, along with a variety of stalls. For more information and to book tickets, please see [here](#).



The Reading Thai Food and Crafts Festival will be on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 August in Prospect Park, Reading. Please see [here](#) for more information.

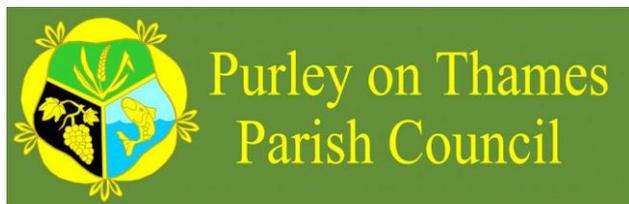


The [2019 Reading Festival](#) will be held from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 August at the Richfield Avenue site.



The Englefield 10k Run will take place on Sunday 25 August – this is its tenth year, so the organisers have changed things around to create a new challenge and perspective. Entrance costs £16.00, or there's a race for the under 16s which costs £6.00 to enter. For more information and to register, please see [www.inglefieldrun.info/](http://www.inglefieldrun.info/)





The monthly coffee morning in the Memorial Hall will be from 10.30am to 12.00 noon on Friday 30 August. Coffee and a biscuit cost £1.50 and everyone is welcome to play cards, Mah Jong or scrabble, or simply to enjoy the opportunity to catch up with friends. There's also the book exchange and the toy and colouring corner for children.

If you'd like help with transport to the Memorial Hall, 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's 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.