

NEWSLETTER

August 2019, issue 30

Parish Council matters

I hope that you've had a good Summer?

Every second Saturday in the month there is Purley's Farmers' Market in the Barn at Goosecroft, 8.30am to 12 noon. If you haven't ever been, why not do so? Think about all those 'food miles' accumulated by supermarket products! The Farmers' Market has stalls selling locally sourced, high quality meat, vegetables, bread, eggs and there's also a wonderful craft market. On Saturday 14 September, there will also be a Coffee Morning at the Farmers' Market in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. So why not go to the market, buy local and also support this very good cause by having a drink, a piece of cake and a chat with your friends? Oh, and if you have suggestions of anything else you would like to see on sale at our Farmers' Market, please let the Assistant Clerk know (contact details at the back of this newsletter).

Sue Briscoe
Chair of Thames Parish Council

Network Rail

The remaining dates on Network Rail's schedule for renewing the track between Tilehurst and Pangbourne are:

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

Please note that these dates may change. If you have any queries about the work, please call the 24-hour National Helpline on 0345 711 4141, or visit www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus

Springs Farm

Further to the Definitive Map Modification Order of 14 March 2019 submitted by West Berkshire Council, the Planning Inspectorate has issued a statement to say that it proposes holding a local inquiry in regard to footpaths at Springs Farm.

More information and the full statement from the Planning Inspectorate may be found on the Parish Council's web site – <http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/springs-farm/>

News from the Parish Office

Work on converting the disabled WC at the end of the Pavilion at Goosecroft to a public facility has now been completed.



There are new signs in place to guide visitors to the new public WC from the playground and car park and, on Thursday 22 August, Parish Councillor Martin Bishop (with help from the clerk, Christine Lamb) cut the “ribbon” to formally open the new public WC.



The new facility is open from 9.00am to 7.00pm daily and will be checked three times a week. It would be a great help if any issues with it are reported to the Parish Office so that they may be rectified as quickly as possible.



An additional new litter bin is to be installed at Bucknell’s Meadow. It’s hoped that having four bins in the meadow and one outside will help keep the area clear of litter.

The dog waste bin on Mapledurham Drive opposite Bucknell’s Meadow is to be replaced.



In preparation for autumn/winter and the darker days, work is to be undertaken to clear around the three street lights on Goosecroft Lane.

New speed limit signs have been put up to remind everyone that there’s a speed limit of 5 mph at Goosecroft.

Thames Valley Police

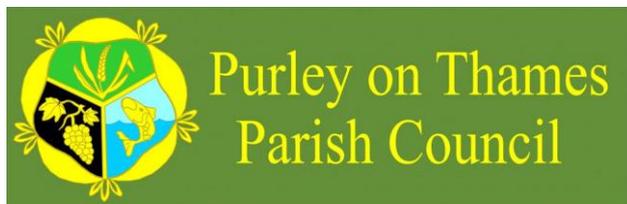
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, Matthew Barber, is seeking the public’s views about policing in the Thames Valley. The survey may be found [here](#).



On 1 August, Superintendent Nicholas John was appointed the new Commander for the West Berkshire Local Policing Area (LPA). He took over the role from Superintendent Jim Weems, who has become head of force intelligence.



On Thursday 28 August, a serious incident involving a car and van occurred on Overdown Road, near the Kentwood roundabout. Anyone with any information about this is asked to call the police on 101 quoting reference 628 28/8/19.



West Berkshire Council

Further to the item in the July Newsletter, the Climate Conference being held by West Berkshire Council (WBC) is to be held at Newbury College on Monday 28 October. The date has been selected so as to give young people from the youth protest marches the opportunity to attend during half term.

The conference will be opened by the Right Honourable Richard Benyon MP, and there will be a range of speakers as well as hour-long morning and afternoon sessions.

Further details will follow, and tickets will be available through WBC's online booking system – there will be a maximum of four tickets available per applicant and age restrictions will apply.



The West Berkshire Lottery has raised £55,000 so far in its first year. Lottery tickets cost £1.00, of which 50p goes directly to a local good cause and a further 10p goes into the community fund. The money goes to the 96 charities and causes which have signed up.

Since 21 July, anyone buying a lottery ticket has been automatically entered into an additional weekly raffle which has prizes donated by local businesses in West Berkshire, including:

- three months' membership at leisure centres in West Berkshire;
- £30 to spend on a meal at a restaurant in Newbury;
- Tea for two at the Grade I listed Shaw House.

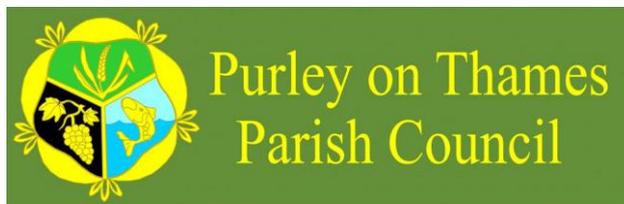
For more information about the lottery, please see www.westberkshirelottery.co.uk/.

Overdown Road

There are expected to be road closures on the Overdown Road between Dark Lane and Dell Road until 14 February 2020 while SGN carries out the replacement and reinforcement of the gas main along the carriageway.

The work is due to be carried out in two phases: phase one is from the junction of Dell Road to Tring Road; phase 2 will be from Dark Lane to Dell Road. Details of the closure may be found [here](#), and any enquiries should be directed to SGN on 0800 912 1700.

While the work is being carried out, there will be diversions in place along A329 Oxford Road, Knowsley Road, and Long Lane. Information about how this affects the bus services may be seen [here](#).



Can you help save Purley's Post Office?

After several years of negotiation, the Post Office company has now agreed to allow the Purley community to apply to take over the running of the Post Office and shop. In addition, the current postmistress, Ruchi Sandhu, has generously offered the front part of the shop premises, and to hand over the shop business to the community for this purpose.

A small group of volunteers has already started the process of working out how to set up and operate this highly-valued facility on behalf of the village, and you will hear more over the coming months as the plan develops.

The shop will need a legal entity created to be able to trade and operate the Post Office. It needs, of course, a viable business plan and a sustainable operating and staffing model. The go/no-go decision to make the move will likely be around November.

What we are looking for now is more people who would potentially be able to spare some regular time to volunteer to become part of the small management team and/or be willing to work for a period in the Post Office or shop. Volunteers for the Post Office would be specially trained, but we are assured that the work is easy to learn these days – especially for a limited operation in a community shop.

If you value this village service and would be willing to help a little, please notify us on pcommshop@gmail.com. We will then be in touch to provide more information. No heavy or immediate commitments are required but building the volunteer group is part of helping to decide whether this enterprise is possible.

Rick Jones

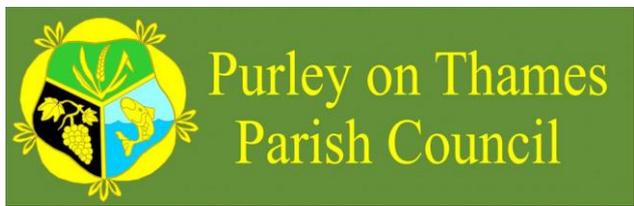
Village matters

Volunteering opportunities

Home-Start West Berkshire is looking for volunteers who can spare three hours a week to help parents in need of support. If you're organised, calm and caring and could offer support to a family experiencing hardship, please see the [web site](#) or call 01635 760310 for more information.

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Nominations for public governors of South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) will be open from 30 September to 21 October. For further details, please see the [web site](#) or e-mail getinvolved@scas.nhs.uk.



Trenthams Bowls Club

Thanks to several very generous donations from club members, Trentham Bowls Club has successfully raised the money for their appeal to install a defibrillator on site, and this will now go ahead.

Purley Residents Support Committee

Following the “Scoop the Poop” stall on Mapledurham Drive and at the August Farmers’ Market, Purley Residents Support Committee (PRSC), led by Marion Maybank, has organised a competition as a bit of fun during the last weeks of summer.

Entry is free and all you have to do is find five “Scoop the Poop” posters around Purley before Friday 11 October. The prize is a £10.00 John Lewis/Waitrose gift voucher, and further details may be found [here](#).



Further to the item in the last newsletter, the first Recreational Ranger has signed up – Marion Maybank presented Pam Beddoes with her certificate at the Farmers’ Market in August.

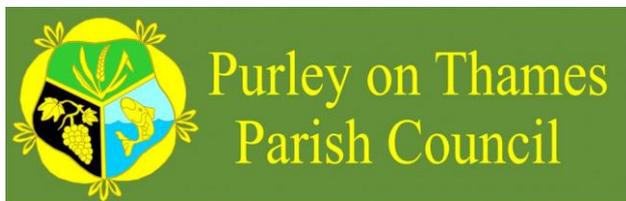


Recreational Ranger's badge

The Recreational Rangers initiative is a follow-on from the children’s section of the last Village Plan. It’s intended to encourage residents of all ages to play an active part in helping look after our outside spaces as well as protecting and encouraging wildlife. Working individually and with others, the rangers will look out for issues in the recreation and play areas. They will report problems to the Parish Office, collect litter, and so on.

As well as receiving a certificate when they sign up, each Recreational Ranger will also be given a badge to wear.

If you’re interested in knowing more about Recreational Rangers, there will be a stand at the next Farmers’ Market on Saturday 14 September – and you’ll also be able to sign up!



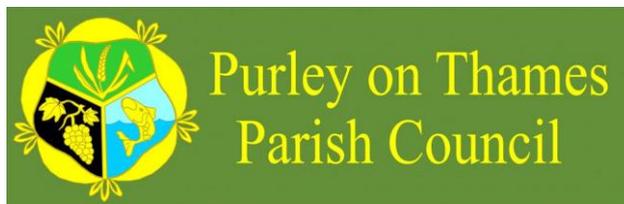
Regular activities in Purley

We are very fortunate in Purley in having three venues available for hire/use by local groups and clubs for regular meetings. They are the Barn at Goosecroft, the Memorial Hall in Glebe Road, and St Mary's Church Hall.

An outline of weekly activities in the Barn and Memorial Hall is below.

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Monday | Morning | Music for 0-5 year olds | Memorial Hall |
| | Afternoon | Yoga | Memorial Hall |
| | Evening | Slimming club | The Barn |
| | Evening | Cubs/Scouts | The Barn |
| | Evening | Dancing | Memorial Hall |
| Tuesday | Morning | Baby/toddler development | Memorial Hall |
| | Morning | Slimming club | The Barn |
| | Afternoon | Early years gymnastics | Memorial Hall |
| | Afternoon | Ballroom dancing | The Barn |
| | Evening | Singing | Memorial Hall |
| | Evening | Slimming club | The Barn |
| | Evening | Scrabble club | The Barn |
| | Evening | Community choir | Memorial Hall |
| Wednesday | Morning | Pilates | The Barn |
| | Lunchtime | Tai Chi | The Barn |
| | Lunchtime | Art group | Memorial Hall |
| | Evening | Scouts | The Barn |
| | Evening | AmDram group | The Barn |
| Thursday | Evening | Scouts | The Barn |
| | Evening | Yoga | Memorial Hall |
| | Evening | Art group | Memorial Hall |
| Friday | Morning | Bridge club | The Barn |
| | Morning | Pilates | Memorial Hall |
| | Evening | Yoga | Memorial Hall |
| | Evening | Karate | Memorial Hall |
| Saturday | Morning | Early years gymnastics | Memorial Hall |
| Sunday | Morning | Karate | Memorial Hall |

Note that some sessions do not run over the summer; it's best to check with the venue.



There are also some activities which are held once or twice a month, including:

- Lace making and crafting – second Tuesday of the month (morning, Memorial Hall)
- Women’s Institute – second Wednesday of the month (evening, Memorial Hall)
- Horticultural Society – third Wednesday of the month (evening, Memorial Hall)
- Computer club – second and fourth Thursdays (morning, the Barn)
- Scrabble – second and fourth Thursdays (afternoon, the Barn)
- Quilting group – second and fourth Fridays (morning, the Barn)
- History group – third Friday of the month (evening, the Barn)
- Farmers’ and Craft Markets – second Saturday of each month (morning, the Barn)
- Tea dance – last Sunday of the month (afternoon, the Barn)

In addition to the above, singing and amateur dramatic groups hold concerts a few times a year, and there are also annual events (such as the quiz night and the Christmas Market) organised by Friends of Purley Barn.

For further information about the above activities, please contact the relevant venue:

Memorial Hall – Booking Secretary, 18 Glebe Road – 07772 129187

The Barn – Amenities Officer, Parish Office, Goosecroft – 0118 984 4507

St Mary’s Church Hall – Bookings Administrator, hall.bookings@stmaryspurley.org.uk



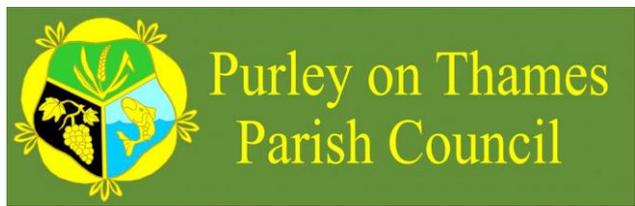
As well as all of this, we have two social clubs – Purley Park Social Club on Wintringham Way, and Purley Sports and Social Club at Goosecroft – both of which host events, and, of course, there are various sports clubs (cricket, football, tennis) based at Goosecroft, and Trentham Bowls Club.

All in all, there’s quite a wide range of activities for all ages available in Purley!

Purley Players

Purley Players, the local amateur dramatics group, is looking for new members to help both on-stage and behind the scenes. If you’re interested and would like to find out more, please call 0118 442 4372 or e-mail mail@purleyplayers.org.uk.

The group’s next performance, the Great British Bump Off, will be held in the Barn on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 September – see below for more information.



Local news and events

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. This is a lovely opportunity to catch up with friends, or to play cards, scrabble or Mah Jong. There's also the book exchange and a toy and colouring corner for children to enjoy.

If you'd like to go to the coffee morning but would like help with transport, please call 07729 871493.



Purley Horticultural Society and Purley Women's Institute are holding their Late Summer Show on Saturday 7 September in the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road. The show will be open to the public from 2.30pm to 4.00pm, and refreshments will be available.

Please see www.purleyonthames.org.uk/PHS/ for further information.



From 10.00am to 4.00pm on Saturday 7 September, Community GreenFest will be taking place in various locations in Hampstead Norreys, including the Church, shop, village hall, school, pub, and so on. For this one-day event, a number of villages in West Berkshire come together to arrange the activities – such as talks, demonstrations, workshops and displays about all things green, ideas and solutions for being more environmentally-friendly, and advice on how better to look after our planet. There's also a programme of talks, activities and games for children, from toddlers to teens.

For more information and to plan your visit, see www.communitygreenfest.weebly.com

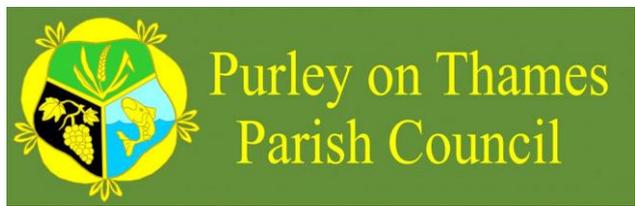


The Pangbourne Hasler Canoe Race is a national event in the canoeing marathon race calendar, and will take place on Sunday 8 September from 9.00am to 4.00pm on the River Thames near the Dolphin Centre in Pangbourne. The main race times will be between around 10.00am and 12.00 noon. Refreshments (tea, coffee, cakes, barbecue) will be available.

There will be some good quality racing to watch, and competitors are likely to be mostly from clubs based in the southern region.

For further information, please contact info@adventuredolphin.co.uk





Also on Sunday 8 September, Friends of Purley Barn (FoPB) is holding a Summer Stroll around Purley; as well as taking in some of the historic parts of the village, there will also be a stroll along the Thames to enjoy the wildlife and countryside.

Anyone wishing to join the walk should meet in the car park at the Barn, Goosecroft, at 2.30pm. The walk will be mostly on level ground and well-behaved dogs are welcome. Please do wear sensible shoes and bring a bottle of water with you.

There's no need to book but there is a fee of £3.00 per person which includes refreshments at the end of the walk. All funds raised will be put towards maintaining and improving facilities in the Barn.



The next Farmers' and Craft Markets will be held in the Barn at Goosecroft on from 8.00am to noon on Saturday 14 September. This month, as well as the usual markets, there will also be a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

For more information see www.tvfm.org.uk/purley-on-thames/



This year's [Royal County of Berkshire Show](#) will be held from 8.00am to 6.00pm on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September at Newbury Showground.



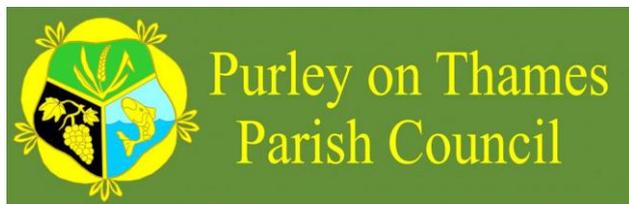
Purley Players will be performing a light-hearted comedy/mystery, [The Great British Bump Off](#), from 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm) on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 September in the Barn at Goosecroft.

As baking fever hits the country, organisers of the village fête in the sleepy village of Crabblebottom are delighted when celebrity chef Eduardo D'Angelo takes up residence in the village and agrees to judge the annual cake competition. This year, however, there is a change of plan as the bake-off turns into a bump-off ...

If you'd like to help Detective Sam Nelson unravel the clues to find the identity of the murderer, tickets cost £16.00 including dinner and are available by calling the Box Office on 0118 442 4372.



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/



Contact

More information about local issues may be found on the Parish Council web site – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk.

To contact us, please call 0118 984 4507, or e-mail asstclerk@purleyonthames.net. You are also very 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.net giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.