

## NEWSLETTER

October 2019, issue 32

### Parish Council matters

We are very sorry to say “goodbye” to our Clerk, Christine Lamb who has served the Parish Council loyally for over five years. Christine is leaving for personal reasons and will, I’m sure, continue to be an active member of Purley’s community. We wish her all the best for the future. We will be recruiting a new Clerk and will endeavour to provide service as usual until someone is appointed but please bear with us.

From time to time some roads and a few houses in the lower village flood. When it happens the flood wardens put on their wellies or waders and help people cope with the situation. Residents who are unsteady on their feet or housebound welcome a friendly face and someone making sure they don’t run out of food. Being a Flood Warden is not a difficult or dangerous job, but it’s something you can do to help in the community. Usually the floods only last a short while and they don’t happen every year but we need to be ready in case. If you would like to know more or join the volunteer flood wardens, please get in touch with the Parish Office. Our website has guidance from the Environment Agency and West Berkshire Council about how to prepare for a flood situation and other related information. You can register for flood warnings from the EA Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or visit [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

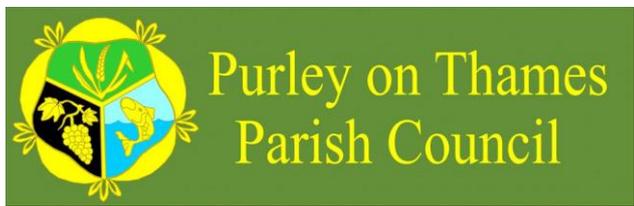
If you want to keep up-to-date with news about the future of our Post Office and the shop on Purley Rise, look at the Parish Council noticeboards and particularly the one outside the Post Office itself. We’d love you to get involved in this community project.

*Sue Briscoe*  
*Chair of Thames Parish Council*

### Thank you

We would like to thank all residents who cut their trees and hedges back from the pavements around Purley on Thames. This is a great help to everyone who walks around the village, and it is very important that it’s done on a regular basis in order to maintain good access.

If you have bushes or trees which overhang pathways and pavements, please do remember to check they’re not blocking pavements, and remember that it is your responsibility to trim them back as necessary to keep the streets passable.



**News from the Parish Office**

The External Audit for 2018/19 has now been signed off, and we're very pleased to confirm that there were no matters of concern regarding legislative compliance. The papers may be seen on the Parish Council's web site - [www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/financial-returns/](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk/financial-returns/)



The annual service of the parish clock has been arranged for early November – the clock's battery is also due to be replaced this year.

Although the clock is the responsibility of the Parish Council, it's located on the tower of St Mary's Church, and we'd like to thank those involved in making the arrangements and giving access to the contractors.



Work has now started to refurbish the WCs in the Barn at Goosecroft. It's hoped to minimise the disruption to existing bookings, and work will be phased over the next few months with the redecorating currently scheduled for January/February next year.



The annual end-of-season work to change the playing field at Goosecroft from cricket to football pitches has been completed, and the pitches are now all marked out and ready for football matches to be played.

**2019-20 Grants**

The 2019/20 Grants process is now open. The criteria and application form are available on the Parish Council's [web site](#) – please be sure to read the criteria before completing the form, and also to send all documents with the application.

All applications must be received by 31 December 2019.

**Thames Valley Police**

The ongoing issues in trying report incidents on 101, the non-emergency number, are being investigated and it's hoped the service will be improved. In the meantime, we've been advised that issues can be reported via the web site - [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/)

Crimes in progress and emergencies should still be reported by calling 999.

## Chairman's Reception



The 2019 Chairman's Reception was held on the evening of Monday 28 October in the Large Hall of the Barn at Goosecroft. This is an annual event hosted by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Sue Briscoe, for local people who have made a significant contribution to life in Purley.

Sue thanked Tim Metcalfe for 16 years of service as a District Councillor. She talked about the six individuals and four groups who had been nominated for the Villager of the Year award. The Armistice Centenary organisers, Catherine Sampson, Pam Beddoes, Marion Maybank, Christine Lamb and John Chapman, were the winners for 2019. It was felt that they had organised a fantastic programme of events, which appealed to children and adults alike.



Sue Briscoe and  
Tim Metcalfe

Purley is very fortunate in having a large number of people who organise a huge variety of events, clubs and organisations, and Sue expressed the gratitude of local residents to all of them.

## Message from the Clerk

I will be leaving my role as Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council at the end of this month. As I leave, I wanted to thank the Parish Council for all the support it has given me while I have been Assistant Clerk from 2014 and then Clerk from 2016. I have really enjoyed the challenges and rewards of this role and it has been a difficult decision to decide to leave. In particular, I would like to thank Cllr Sue Briscoe who has been a huge support to me as Clerk and has become a real friend.

I have no doubts the next Clerk will enjoy the role as much as I have, and I wish them and the Council the very best for the future.

With sincere thanks, Christine Lamb

## Fireworks and bonfires

The season for fireworks is now underway, so here are a few things to bear in mind when holding or attending private displays.

The [laws](#) covering fireworks say they must not be set off or thrown (including sparklers) in the street or other public places, and they must not be set off after 11.00pm or before 7.00am except on certain days (such as Bonfire Night, when the cut-off is extended to midnight).

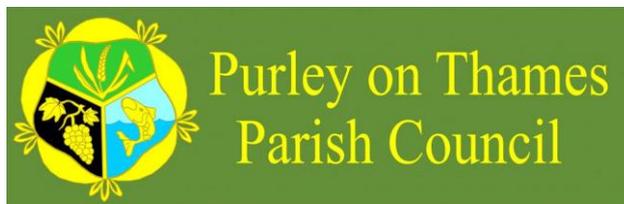
There are four categories of firework in the UK: F1 is considered the safest and includes things like fireworks safe in confined spaces; F2 and F3 are intended for private displays and may be bought and used by adults (over the age of 18); F4 fireworks are for professional use only. Further information on the different categories and advice on how to use fireworks safely is available [here](#).

Many people find their pets are scared of fireworks – advice on ways to help them is found on the [RSPCA's web site](#). Fireworks can cause stress not only to pets, domestic and farm animals, but also to wildlife – please do try to use fireworks considerately, bearing in mind any animals which may be living in the area.

It's also worth considering the environmental impact of traditional fireworks, which emit large amounts of smoke, unused chemicals, and metal by-products (from the colourants); all of these are contaminants. Some of the toxins can remain in the atmosphere for hours, or even days. Others never fully decompose or disintegrate, while chemicals such as some perchlorate oxidisers (used to provide oxygen) can dissolve in water, contaminating rivers, lakes and drinking water. On a positive note, however, more environmentally-friendly fireworks have been developed and produce lower levels of atmospheric pollution. They have a clean-burning nitrogen-based fuel, so no perchlorates are needed, and there is little smoke so much smaller amounts of metal salts are required to produce brilliantly-coloured pyrotechnics. Their packaging is also more eco-friendly so as to reduce their environmental impact. Unfortunately, they do cost more to buy, but it's hoped that

If you're having a bonfire on 5 November, don't forget to check no small mammals, such as hedgehogs, are living in it. Further information on how to make your bonfire environmentally friendly may be found in this [article](#).

Last but not least, the day after your bonfire or fireworks, please do check the area and make sure you clear up all debris.



## West Berkshire Council

The period for trialling extended facilities and longer opening hours at Padworth Recycling Centre proved very successful, with usage by residents more than doubling. As a result, West Berkshire Council (WBC) has decided to extend the trial until March 2020, so the centre will be open from 8.00am to 6.00pm seven days a week until then.

More information about Padworth Recycling Centre may be found [here](#).



District and Parish Councillor Rick Jones was present at the formal re-opening of Pangbourne Library in mid-October. An extensive refurbishment has given the library a lighter, fresher feel, and it is being used by more locals than previously.



WBC's Children and Family Services have been pioneering the Family Safeguarding for the last two years, during which time some grant funding has been gained from government. The method, which aims to reduce interventions to children vulnerable to neglect resulting from parental mental illness, substance misuse and/or domestic abuse, has proved successful in West Berkshire and the council is now looking at how to sustain this model permanently.

## Post Office

The Post Office and shop on Purley Rise are likely to close by Christmas 2019, and we'd like to thank Ruchi Sandhu, the Postmistress, for her service to the community over the years.

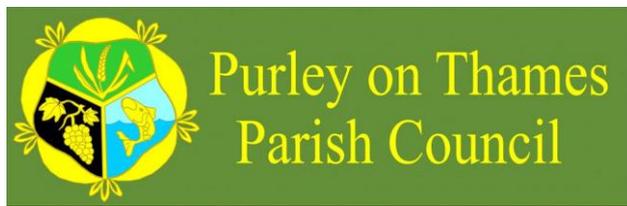
A small group of residents has already been exploring ways of replacing the shop and Post Office, and has engaged the consultancy services of the [Plunkett Foundation](#), a charity organisation which has helped other villages set up similar facilities. It's hoped that Purley will have a community-run shop selling predominantly local produce, and to add a Post Office counter, funded and supported by the Post Office Ltd.

On Friday 11 October, a public meeting was held in the Barn, Goosecroft. A presentation showed the achievements of other villages, and a basic business model was referenced to demonstrate that such a facility could be economically viable. The villagers present endorsed the proposals and supported the project overall.

Some key issues do, however, still need to be resolved, including:

- location and premises;
- funding – is required to set up; once established, the facility is expected to pay for itself;
- steering group and support – more volunteers are needed set up and run the shop.

If you have ideas about where a community shop/Post Office might be located, what it might provide, or would like to volunteer to support this initiative and the steering group, please contact [pcommshop@gmail.com](mailto:pcommshop@gmail.com)



## Village matters

### Volunteering opportunity

Long Lane Primary School has a vacancy for a governor on its Governing Board.

The Governing Board meets roughly twice per school term and has three core functions: to set the school's vision and strategic direction; to hold the head teacher to account for the school's educational performance; and to ensure financial resources are spent well.

The term of office for all governors is three years; induction training and governor skills training are offered free of charge. Nominations from anyone with financial management skills would be particularly welcome.

If you're interested in this opportunity or would like more information, please e-mail Joanna Cundy, Clerk to the Governors, at [clerk@longlane.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@longlane.w-berks.sch.uk)

### Friends of Purley Barn – Christmas Market, Sunday 24 November

This year's Christmas Market organised by Friends of Purley Barn will be from 11.00am to 3.00pm on Sunday 24 November in the Barn at Goosecroft, off Beech Road.

The stalls, which will be in both halls of the Barn, will sell a wide range of items, such as toys, confectionery, textiles, cards, crafts, accessories, books, jewellery and glassware. There will also be a grand raffle, mulled wine and refreshments, and Father Christmas will be there to meet the children. Entry and parking are free, and there is access for wheelchairs.

As with all Friends of Purley Barn's events, all proceeds raised will go towards improving the facilities in the Barn itself. For more information see [www.fopb.org.uk](http://www.fopb.org.uk)

### New café/tea room

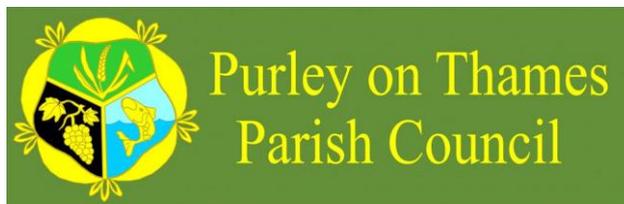
There will soon be a new café and tea room on Wintringham Way, to the rear of Purley Park Social Club. The Mad Duck is intended to be a place where locals can gather, and parents, children, workers and walkers – with or without dogs (and mud!) – will all be welcomed.



As well as a children's play area and library, there will be an outside seating area – with a basket of blankets for those who want to enjoy the view on chillier days. There will also be a child-free "work from home" area for anyone wanting a change of scenery while they work.



We don't yet have an opening date but believe it's likely to be in the next few weeks so do keep an eye out for The Mad Duck when you're in the area.



## Local news and events

Reading Lions is holding its fireworks display at Scours Lane, Reading, on the evening of Saturday 2 November. More information may be found on the club's [web site](#).

If you'd like to have a different view of the fireworks, Thames River Cruises is running a cruise from Caversham Pier to Scours Lane, where the boat will hold position in the river to watch the display.

The cruise will depart promptly at 6.30pm and is expected to arrive back in Caversham at around 8.00pm. For more information and ticket prices, please see [here](#) – part of the ticket price will be donated to Reading Lions.



On Sunday 3 November, Friends of Purley School is holding its annual Thameside Fireworks Fiesta near Mapledurham Lock – thanks to the support of Mapledurham Estate and Tim Metcalfe.

As well as the firework display over the river, there will be music, glow novelties, hot food and a licensed bar. Gates will open at 5.30pm with the fireworks starting at 7.00pm. Tickets and further details are available on the web site – [www.thamesidefireworkfiesta.co.uk](http://www.thamesidefireworkfiesta.co.uk) – or may be bought from Purley Primary School office, Barn Owl Day Nursery, or the shop on Colyton Way.

All funds raised will be used in support of Purley Primary School.



If you're thinking ahead to Christmas, you might be interested in going to the Berkshire Christmas Fair at Beale Park. It's being held from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 November. More information may be found [here](#).

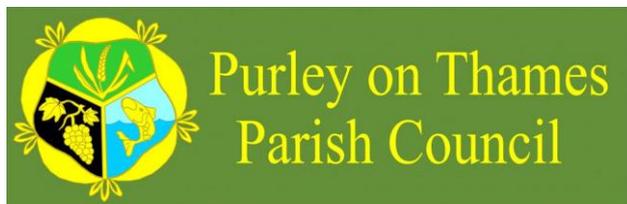


The monthly farmers' and craft markets will be held in the Barn at Goosecroft from 8.00am to noon on Saturday 9 November. As well as the new cheese stall, there'll be the longer-term traders selling vegetables, meats, bread, and eggs and, for the next two months, local honey will also be on sale.

The craft market in the Small Hall of the Barn is also worth visiting and offers some lovely ideas for presents in the run up to Christmas.

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





The Remembrance Sunday Service will be held in the Memorial Hall on Glebe Road on Sunday 10 November. It will start at 10.30am and will be led by St Mary's Church.



On Wednesday 20 November, Purley Horticultural Society (PHS) is hosting a presentation by Tony Watson called "Thames Crossings – from ford to a flight", which will cover many of the ways of getting over, across and under the River Thames over the years. The talk will be held in the Memorial Hall on Glebe at 8.00pm (doors open at 7.30pm).

Please see PHS's [web site](#) for further information.



Friends of Purley Barn is holding its annual Christmas Market from 11.00am to 3.00pm on Sunday 24 November in the Barn at Goosecroft – see the item above for further information.



The November coffee morning in the Memorial Hall will be from 10.30am to 12.00 noon on Tuesday 26 November. Coffee and a biscuit cost £1.50, and this is a lovely opportunity to socialise, play the games available, or make use of the book exchange. Children are welcome as well, and there's a toy and colouring corner for them to enjoy.

If you need help with transport to and from the hall, please call 07729 871493.

Please note, this is the last of the scheduled coffee mornings and unless there's a good turnout, it's unlikely any further dates will be arranged for the time being.

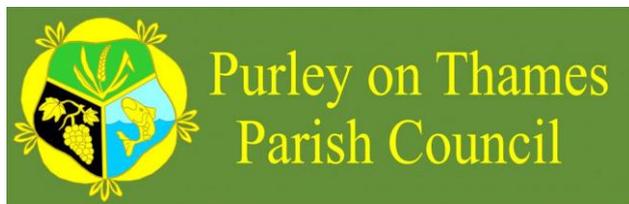


Thames Vale Singers will be performing its Christmas Concerts in Friday 6 December in St Mary's Church, Purley on Thames, and Saturday 7 December in Pangbourne Village Hall.

See the web site for further information – [www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk/](http://www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk/)



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.net](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames.net). 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.net](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames.net) giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.