

NEWSLETTER

September 2019, issue 31

Parish Council matters

This Autumn there are lots of exciting projects getting started in our village. The Purley Village Plan 2018 demonstrated that local people value being part of a community looking after its residents in a beautiful place with lots of leisure facilities available!! If we want to guarantee all of that for the future, everyone has to play a part and not just leave it to others.

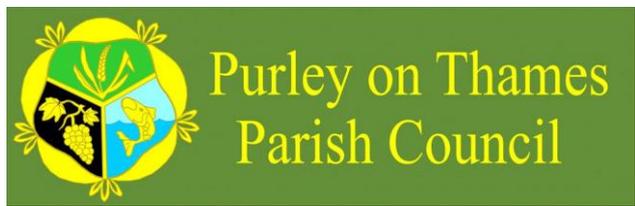
There is a small number of people who have been unsung heroes over the Summer! They have been going out regularly to clear up litter and dog waste from our public places, making them more pleasant and safe for us all to enjoy. Thank you!

You will have heard that our Post Office and shop on Purley Rise will close before too long. A small steering group of local people has been working hard to gather information about the possibilities for the community to run its own shop with a Post Office. They have some exciting ideas with projected costs, but a handful of people cannot make ideas a reality without the backing and support of the rest of Purley. There will be a Community Meeting on 11 October at 7.30pm in the Small Hall of the Barn, Goosecroft, at which you can find out what is possible and share your views or ideas. Please come. If there is no support, there will be no Post Office and no shop in the upper village.

The Parish Council has applied to West Berkshire Council (WBC) for planning permission for a change from "agricultural" to "recreational" use for land adjacent to Goosecroft. If this permission is granted, we can work to make the ground fit for sports pitches. Purley is currently short of the advised amount of land available for recreation per head of population and this venture should improve this and address one of the action points arising from the Village Plan. Those who already use the recreation and play facilities at Goosecroft will be pleased to learn that the WC situated at the far end and outside the pavilion is now open to the public during daylight hours.

As advised in previous issues of this newsletter, West Berkshire Council recently announced a Climate Emergency and is organising a Climate Conference on 28 October – for more information about the free event, please see the item below. It is hoped that everyone will contribute to tackling the climate crisis; here in Purley, we should be doing "our bit", and the Parish Council will try to be "greener" in what it does and provides. If you have ideas for how Purley can improve its "green" credentials, please get in touch with us. We welcome your input!

Sue Briscoe
Chair of Thames Parish Council



News from the Parish Office

We are sad to announce that Christine Lamb has resigned from her role as Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council.

Christine joined the council as Assistant Clerk in January 2014 and took over as Clerk in 2016 when the position became vacant. She has always been a helpful and supportive member of the Parish Council and we'll all miss her experience and professionalism. We wish Christine very well in her new ventures.

This does, of course, mean the Parish Council is now looking for a new clerk. If you or anyone you know might be interested in finding out more about the role, please contact the Parish Office for further information.



The allotment year runs from 1 October which means the annual rent for plots will be due very soon. If you are an allotment holder, your invoice should be with you shortly – if you don't receive it, please contact the Parish Office to let us know.



The WCs in the Barn at Goosecroft are due to be refurbished in the next few weeks. The work will be scheduled around existing bookings so as to keep any disruption to a minimum.



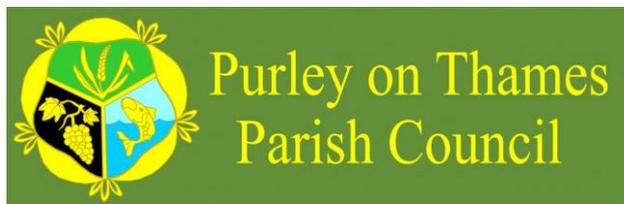
The Parish Council has made a slightly increased donation to the library service this year. We have just had confirmation that the money will be allocated specifically to Pangbourne Library as that is the site most used by people of this parish.

Springs Farm

Further to the item in the last newsletter, we have been informed that, as part of the review of new footpaths on Springs Farm land, it is intended to arrange public meetings in Spring 2020; the proposal is to hold three meetings so as to ensure as many people as possible are able to attend and give their views.



When dates and location(s) for the meetings have been confirmed, updates will be included in this newsletter, on the Parish Council web site, in the notice boards around the village, and in Purley Parish News.



Berkshire Youth meeting

On Wednesday 11 September, Parish Councillor Rick Farrow and representatives from 16 other town and parish councils across Berkshire attended a meeting with [Berkshire Youth](#) to discuss the possibility of working together, as a county, to provide improved services for young people in the area. This was a continuation of a discussion initiated in June, and the aim was to assess the feasibility of councils working together to create a bespoke youth service to support the young people of Berkshire.

At the meeting, David Seward of Berkshire Youth explained that around a billion pounds of funding had been removed from youth services nationwide since 2012; this, together with a lack of volunteers, meant that very few viable youth work services remained in place at local government level. As a result, most of the councils represented suffered from varying degrees of anti-social behaviour, and it was felt that the police did not have adequate resource to deal with this.

Going forward, Berkshire Youth would like to develop a county-wide professional youth service with help and support from local councils. One concern was that the costs of this might be prohibitive, but it was hoped that group funding by councils might make it possible to introduce a sustainable youth service across Berkshire.

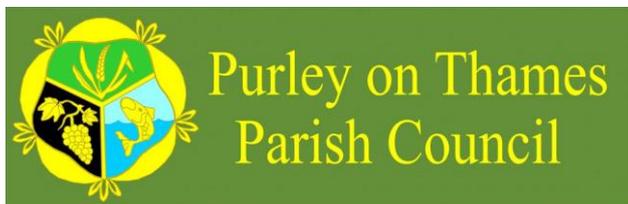
The next step would be to produce an estimate of the costs to reinstate and run such a service, after which there would be further discussion as to whether this would be feasible.

West Berkshire Council Climate Conference

West Berkshire residents are invited to attend the Climate Conference, which will be held from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Monday 28 October at Newbury College. The event is free but admission must be booked in advance [online](#); there is a limit of four tickets per application.

The conference has been organised by West Berkshire Council (WBC), and will explore different ways West Berkshire residents, businesses, organisations and council can help tackle the climate crisis.

More information about the event will be published on WBC's [web site](#), on its [Facebook page](#) and on its [Twitter page](#).



Thames Valley Police

Matthew Barber, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, is launching a series of meetings across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire to discuss how safe residents feel in their community, and to explain his priorities for the Thames Valley Police.

The first of the meetings will be held in Didcot, Oxfordshire, on 14 October; as and when we're advised of meetings in Berkshire, we will include the dates in this newsletter.



Neighbourhood Watch has been warned of some fraudsters operating in the Thames Valley. They pose as officials from the Home Office and use documents with "Department of Home Affairs" on the letterhead to support their claim that they're confirming everyone has valid ID for the 2021 Census.

There is no Government initiative of this kind; these well-presented fraudsters are moving around the area attempting to rob properties.

For information on types of fraud and how to report an incident, please see the Action Fraud web site – www.actionfraud.police.uk/

Autumn

There are two different methods for determining the seasons in the UK. The meteorological definition simply divides the year into four seasons of three full months each, so autumn starts on 1 September and ends on 30 November every year. The astrological definition is based on the equinoxes so, for example, the autumn equinox will always fall between 22 and 24 September, but won't always be on the same date. This year, astrological autumn starts on 23 September and runs to 21 December.

Whichever method you prefer, though, autumn has now definitely started!



New train timetable

Great Western Railway (GWR) has announced that, from 15 December 2019, it will be introducing the biggest timetable change on the network since 1976. This is intended to lead to improved rail links, more seats, and faster, more frequent journeys from West Berkshire stations to popular destinations, including Reading and London. The significant changes to the timetable will, however, mean that trains will arrive and depart at new times and might also stop at different stations.

As a result, all train users, including regular customers, are advised to check train times and routes in mid-December to make sure they're aware of any changes to their journeys.

GWR will be publishing more information about the new timetable [here](#).

Older Drivers Forum

The Older Drivers Forum is made up of road safety experts from across the Thames Valley and Hampshire, and includes representatives from charities, community groups, local authorities, businesses, and the emergency services, including the police. It is dedicated to keeping the mature motorist on the road safely and for longer, and also offers practical and informative advice to those who might be thinking of retiring from driving, as well as advising family and friends who have concerns about an older driver.

A free event is being held from 9.30am to 3.00pm on Friday 4 October at the Kennet Centre in Newbury to help promote and raise awareness of the forum. Advice will be given on areas including:

- Brushing up on driving skills and booking a driving assessment;
- Health and other issues which could affect driving ability;
- Renewing a driving licence at 70;
- Alternatives to driving while staying independent.

For information about the forum and the event, please see <https://olderdriversforum.com/>

Village matters

Friends of Purley Barn's Summer Stroll

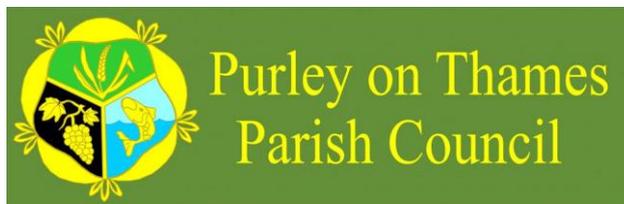
On Sunday 8 September, Friends of Purley Barn (FoPB) held its second community walk – the leaders were delighted to be joined by 28 people and two dogs for an afternoon amble around the village and along the river.



The group met at Goosecroft and walked down to Purley Village via the footpath alongside the allotments. At Purley Lodge, Catherine Sampson gave a brief talk on some of the historical aspects to be seen, then the walk continued along Mapledurham Drive to the lock. From there, the route followed the Thames Path a short way along the river before turning south at the end of Springs Farm. The group then took the permissive path beside the railway before heading back up to Goosecroft.

FoPB's first Summer Stroll ended with homemade cakes and tea, served in the Small Hall of the Barn.

Although not quite as well attended as the Bluebell Walk earlier in the year, it was a lovely late summer day for the stroll, which was enjoyed by all the walkers (and dogs!).



Silver Surfers Computer Club

Silver Surfers is a computer club for people who'd like a better understanding of technology and how to make best use of it. Members meet in the Small Hall of the Barn at Goosecroft from 10.00am to 12.30pm on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, and the sessions restart after the summer break on 10 October.

The club offers talks, group sessions, and one-to-one sessions as well as hands-on help for specific issues. Topics covered can range from "iCloud" storage to configuring Windows 10, from using formulas in Excel to restoring old photographs.

There is an annual membership fee of £45.00 which includes attendance at all meetings (and refreshments). More information is available on the web site – www.inspire4life.me.uk – or you can e-mail club@inspire4life.me.uk or call Graham on 0118 941 7247 (please ring only between 10.00am and 4.30pm).

Purley on Thames Memorial Hall

Purley on Thames Memorial Hall is holding its Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 3 October in the downstairs office of the hall (access is via the rear of the hall). If you're a resident of Purley on Thames you are eligible – and welcome – to attend the AGM, although only those over the age of 21 years may vote at the meeting.

This is an opportunity for parishioners, particularly those who enjoy using the Memorial Hall, to support and participate in its management, so it would be very positive to have some residents in attendance.

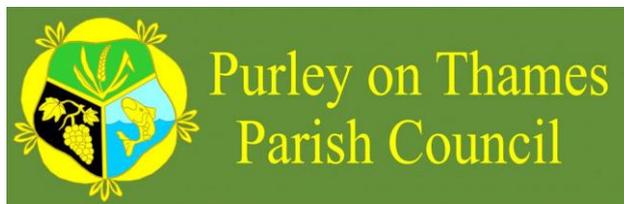
∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞

Disappointingly, attendance at the monthly coffee mornings in the Memorial Hall has been rather low recently. It's been decided to try holding them on a different day to see if more people attend so, from this month, the coffee mornings will be on Tuesdays – the first being on Tuesday 24 September.

The following dates are Tuesday 29 October and Tuesday 26 November. If numbers remain low, it might be that no further dates will be set so, if you would like to see the coffee mornings continue, please do try to go along to them.

∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞

If you're interested in finding out more about the Memorial Hall and its history, please see the web site - www.purleyonthames.org.uk/MemHall/



Purley farmers' market

The monthly farmers' market at Goosecroft was originally introduced as a result of requests in the first Village Plan in 2004. For the past 15 years, it's been organised by [Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative](#) (TVFM), a not-for-profit organisation based in Wantage.

TVFM began operating in 1999 and, in 2003, became a co-operative which means all its trader-members can have a say in how it is run. The funds raised through

Thames
Valley
Farmers' Market
Co-operative



membership and stall fees are all reinvested in TVFM. Its aim is to enable farmers and small producers to sell their produce directly to local people; most of the food and drink sold is produced within a 30-mile radius of the market. TVFM now runs FARMA-certified markets in 13 towns across Berkshire, Oxfordshire and South Buckinghamshire, including those in Reading and Newbury, as well as the one in Purley.

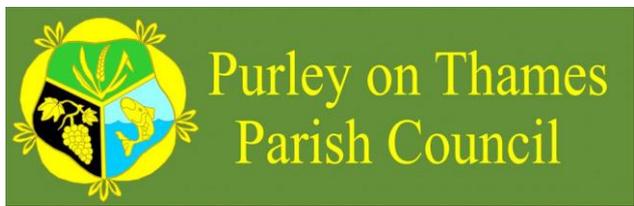
Our market is held on the second Saturday of each month and, as well as regular TVFM traders, there's a craft market, and refreshments provided by the Women's Institute and by the Scouts. Occasionally, there are also special events such as the Macmillan Coffee Morning in September.

Although the market has provided a valued and popular amenity for many local people over the years, sadly, there seems to have been a decrease in numbers of visitors recently – this has led to fewer traders which, in turn tends to mean fewer customers, and so on. As a result, Purley's farmers' market has not been covering its costs and has had to be subsidised by other, more successful markets.

The Parish Council and TVFM are now considering the future of the farmers' market and looking into ways of generating more interest. As part of this, we would like to hear from you – do you use the market (if not, is there a reason for that?)? Are there stalls you'd particularly like to see, perhaps those which would encourage you to visit the market? Do you know of any traders who might be interested in attending the market?

It would be really good to see our farmers' market thrive again, and your input and feedback would be a great help in trying to achieve that. If you have any thoughts or ideas about how to rejuvenate the market, please contact the assistant clerk – asstclerk@purleyonthames.net

On a positive note, we are very pleased to announce that there will be a new stallholder, a cheesemaker, at the next market on Saturday 12 October; please do visit if you can!



Berkshire Family History Society

Berkshire Family History Society is running a Beginners’ Family History Course at the Centre for Heritage and Family History on the second floor of Reading Central Library. This course is designed for those who are new to researching their family history, and it gives guidance on where to start, how to progress, and how to follow good research practice.

There will be four sessions, all from 1.00pm to 3.00pm, on Wednesday 9 October, Wednesday 16 October, Wednesday 13 November and Wednesday 27 November.

Places for this course are limited and must be booked in advance. Tickets for all four sessions cost £30.00 (£24.00 for society members) and may be booked [here](#).

Local news and events

Purley on Thames Memorial Hall’s Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 3 October in the downstairs office of the hall (access via the rear of the hall). See item above for further information.



A free Older Drivers Forum is being held from 9.30am to 3.00pm on Friday 4 October at the Kennet Centre in Newbury – see item above for further information.



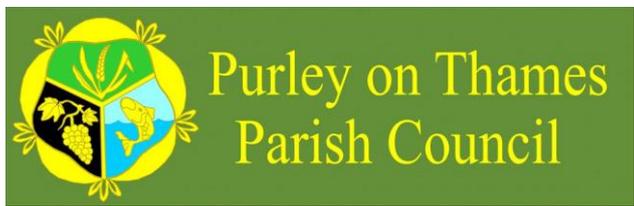
On the evening of Friday 4 October, Friends of Purley Barn is holding a quiz in the Barn. It will start at 7.30pm and there will be a savoury supper, as well as a cash bar selling both alcoholic and soft drinks.

For more information, please see the web site, www.fopb.org.uk, or e-mail quiz@fopb.org.uk



This year’s Oktoberfest Reading will be held on Thursday 10, Friday 11 and Saturday 12 October at a new venue, Hills Meadow in Reading. For more information and to book tickets, please see the web site - www.oktoberfestberkshire.com/.





A Community Meeting to discuss the future of the Post Office in Purley on Thames will be held from 7.30pm on Friday 11 October in the Small Hall of the Barn at Goosecroft. This is an opportunity for local residents to find out more about the options available and to offer their backing and support to the venture.



The monthly Farmers' and Craft Markets will be held in the Barn at Goosecroft from 8.00am to noon on Saturday 12 October. For more information see "Purley farmers' market" above, or TVFM's web site, www.tvfm.org.uk/purley-on-thames/



On Wednesday 16 October, Purley Horticultural Society is holding a talk by George Lockwood on "Plants to encourage wildlife". It will be held in Purley Memorial Hall on Glebe Road and the doors will open at 7.30pm, with the talk starting at 8.00pm.

More information about this and other talks and events arranged by PHS may be found on the web site – www.purleyonthames.org.uk/phs.



As part of Halloween, from Saturday 26 October to Sunday 3 November, one child in fancy dress can enter Beale Wildlife Park free of charge when accompanied by a full-paying adult. For further information, please see [here](#).



Don't forget the clocks change overnight on Saturday 26/Sunday 27 October. At this time of year, they go back, so 1.00am on Sunday becomes 12.00 midnight.

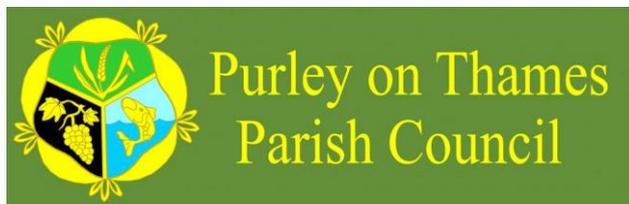


If you'd like to do something active for Hallowe'en, there's a Run for Halloween in Prospect Park on Sunday 27 October. All ages and abilities are welcome, the only requirement is that everyone wear fancy dress. For more information and to enter, please see the web site, www.racespace.com/gb/cactus-events/run-for-halloween.



A West Berkshire Climate Conference will be held from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Monday 28 October at Newbury College. More information about the conference and how to book places may be found in the item above.





The coffee morning in the Memorial Hall will be on Tuesday 29 October from 10.30am to 12.00 noon. 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.



Information about these and other events may be found on the "[What's on](#)" page of the Parish Council web site - www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk

Contact

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.