

## NEWSLETTER

November 2019, issue 33

### Parish Council matters

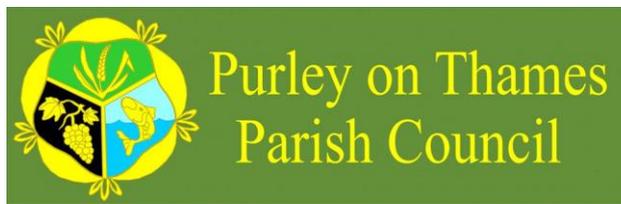
As I write this, the river level is rising by a few centimetres a day and the lowest lying land is already puddled from ground water. Perhaps the lower village residents will be wearing waders by the time you read this! Hopefully not, but the Flood Wardens are as ready as they can be and we monitor the river conditions several times a day. If you want to receive Flood information, register free online at <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>. If you need help, contact the Parish Office. We'll also keep you updated on the noticeboard outside the Colyton Way Shop. If we do have flooding on our roads and you really need to drive through, please drive slowly otherwise you will increase the risk of water washing into local homes.

With icy weather in mind, the grit bins around Purley have been checked and all are well stocked. If we should have a period of bad weather, please let our Amenities Officer know on [amenities@purleyonthames.net](mailto:amenities@purleyonthames.net) if your local grit bin is running low. It may take a day or two to get it replenished.

You will know by now that our local post office on Purley Rise has closed permanently. We are working with the Post Office Management to try to get an outreach service for Purley. Unfortunately, this is unlikely to be in place before Christmas but hopefully soon after. An outreach service is when an employee from one of the post offices in the area comes once or twice a week to one of our public buildings such as the Parish Office. We will let you know details as soon as we have them via noticeboards, Purley Residents Facebook Page and the Parish Council newsletter. Meanwhile, the Community Shop Steering Group is continuing its work to try to provide a community shop with post office counter for the village. This project very much needs your support. If you are interested in helping with this in any way, please contact [pcommshop@gmail.com](mailto:pcommshop@gmail.com).

Well, have a dry, warm and happy Christmas season and very best wishes for 2020!

*Sue Briscoe*  
*Chair of Thames Parish Council*



## Parish Office – public open hours

From now until 6 January 2020, the Parish Office will temporarily open for the following, shorter hours:

Monday	4.00pm to 6.00pm
Thursday	9.30am to 11.30pm

This is because of staff shortages and it would be a great help if visits could be arranged to fit in with these times.

Next month, the office will be closed over the Christmas period from Monday 23 December 2019, and will re-open on Monday 6 January 2020.

## News from the Parish Office

Applicants for the position of Clerk to the Parish Council have now been interviewed and we are pleased to announce that the new post-holder is due to take up the role in early January 2020.

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Please note that problems with blocked drains should be reported to [West Berkshire Council's Streetcare Team](#). It's particularly important given the recent heavy rainfall that drains are kept clear in order to try to minimise the risks of potential flooding.

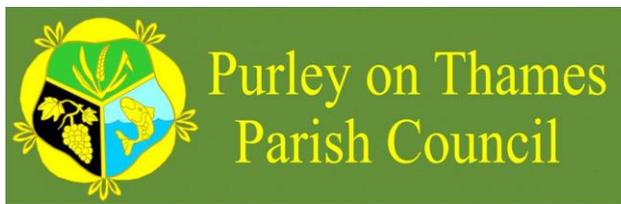
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The Parish Council web site is currently being upgraded, and it's hoped that the new site will be up and running in the next month or so.

## 2019-20 Grants

The deadline for grant applications is Tuesday 31 December 2019. Any forms reaching the office after this date might not be considered.

The criteria and application form is available on the Parish Council's [web site](#).



## West Berkshire Council

The first West Berkshire Climate Conference on Monday 28 October was attended by over 300 people from across the district, as well as by some neighbouring local authorities. This was very encouraging as everyone will need to play a part in helping West Berkshire Council (WBC) achieve its carbon-zero target. The keynote speaker was Tom Heap, the Rural Affairs Correspondent of BBC News. Anyone not able to attend can find more information about the event and watch Tom Heap's address [here](#).

Feedback from the day is currently being analysed to inform next steps, and WBC's draft environment strategy is being developed following the conference, and will go out for public consultation shortly.

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The nominations for the [Community Champion Awards](#) closed on 25 October, and there will be a celebration at Shaw House in December to recognise the achievements of the winners.

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This is the time of year when the district council looks at setting its budget for 2020/21. WBC is currently waiting for the detail in the Local Government Financial Settlement for next year (usually issued around Christmas-time), but favourable announcements have already been made about the continuation of New Homes Bonus and on special educational needs funding, so the position is looking more positive than it sometimes does at this time.

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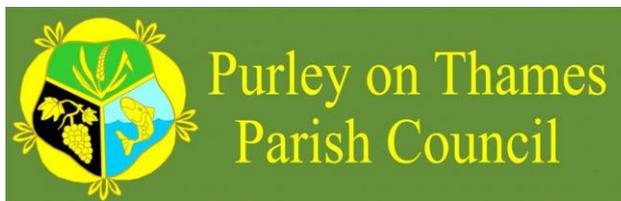
WBC is carrying out a survey of leisure centre users to find out how well its centres are performing and to identify areas for potential improvement. Anyone over the age of 11 who uses a WBC leisure centre to take part in or to watch an activity, to use another service (such as café or business service), or to attend a non-sporting activity (such as a meeting or a party) is encouraged to give their feedback.

The survey may be found [here](#) and should take around 15 minutes to complete. Responses will be used to help improve the services provided and to guide future investment. Anyone who completes a survey and provides their contact details will be entered into a prize draw to win a year's membership to WBC's leisure centres.

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WBC has teamed up with Veolia, its waste management services partner, to run a trial scheme for recycling a selection of harder-to-recycle waste materials such as sweet wrappers, crisp packets, and small plastic toys.

The scheme is part of Veolia's recently-launched [Procycle service](#), and the initial trial will be run in Newbury. If it proves successful, the council will consider whether to continue the scheme, to roll it out to more locations, or to increase the scope of materials collected for recycling.



## Flu jab

Each year, the NHS makes the 'flu vaccination available to adults and children most at risk, and people aged over 65, pregnant women, and anyone with an underlying health condition or weakened immune system are strongly encouraged to protect themselves by having the free vaccine via their GP or chemist.

For further information about the vaccine, please see [here](#).

## M4 Smart Motorway project

The M4 will be closed between junctions 6 and 8/9 over the weekend 29 November to 2 December for the demolition of bridges and associated works.

## Rail timetable changes

The new rail timetable will be in place from 15 December so please do remember to check your journeys before travelling. Further information and the new timetables may be found on the GWR web site - <https://www.gwr.com/plan-journey/timetable-2019>

## Village matters

### Local news and events

The ice rink in Forbury Gardens, Reading, is now open until 5 January 2020. Reading Winter On Ice is open from 11.00am to 10.00pm and is free to enter, although there is a charge for some of the activities.

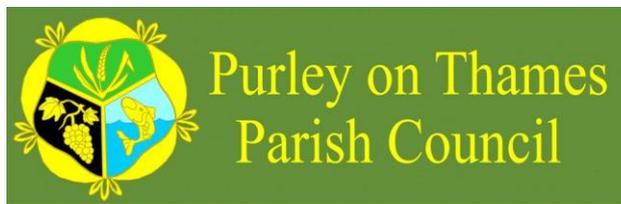
For availability and to book tickets, please the web site - [www.readingwinteronice.co.uk](http://www.readingwinteronice.co.uk)

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From Saturday 30 November, there will be a range of festive entertainments and events taking place in Reading. These include, the Christmas lights on Broad Street, a Santa's Grotto in Broad Street Mall, and an advent calendar of events taking place in various venues around the town.

A full list of what's happening, where and when may be found at [www.magicalreading.co.uk](http://www.magicalreading.co.uk)

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After a five-year hiatus, The Backhouse Club – a jazz club for lover of bebop, blue note and contemporary jazz – has reopened with a permanent venue in the upper backroom bar at Zizzi's, Henley-on-Thames, where it will be hosting The Kit Massey Trio from 8.00pm on Thursday 5 December.

For more information and to buy tickets, please see [www.thebackhouseclub.co.uk](http://www.thebackhouseclub.co.uk)

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Thames Vale Singers will be performing its Christmas Concerts on 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/)

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On Saturday 7 December, Village Concerts has arranged a performance by [Smith and Brewer](http://www.villageconcerts.eu/smith-brewer/) at St Mary's Church. Doors will open at 7.00pm with the music starting at 8.00pm.

More information and ticket booking are available at [www.villageconcerts.eu/smith-brewer/](http://www.villageconcerts.eu/smith-brewer/)

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From 6.30pm on Thursday 12 December, there will be a Civic Carol Service hosted by Reading Minster of St Mary's, in St Mary's Butts.

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Greenham Trust, together with Visit Newbury, has organised a free evening of festive fun from 6.00pm on Friday 13 December in Newbury Market Place. There will be performances by local school choirs, Cold Ash Brass Band and The Cromwell Singers, as well as the chance to sing-along as tribute act Re-Take That performs some of Take That's greatest hits. Everyone attending will also have the opportunity to make a difference to a local charitable project by entering the Golden Ticket draw – terms and conditions may be found [here](#).

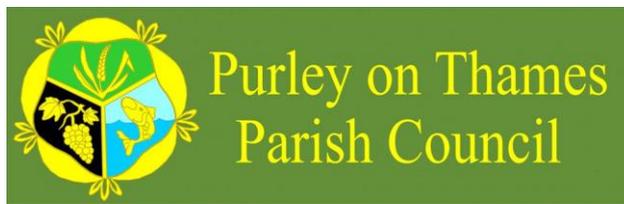
For more information or to register your interest in attending, please see the [web site](#).

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The monthly farmers' and craft markets will be held in the Barn at Goosecroft from 8.00am to noon on Saturday 14 December.

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

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On Friday 24 and Saturday 25 January 2020, Purley Players will be performing its annual pantomime in the Barn at Goosecroft. This year there'll be plenty of swashbuckling fun and excitement for the family as the Darling children head to Neverland in a festive production of *Peter Pan*.

Performances will be at 7.30pm on Friday and at 2.00pm and 7.30pm on Saturday, and tickets cost £9.00 for adults and £7.00 for concessions. Please call the Box Office on 0118 941 3259 to book tickets.



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).

Temporary office opening hours are currently in place – see item above – and the office will be closed for Christmas from Monday 23 December until Monday 6 January 2020.

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.