

## NEWSLETTER

January 2020, issue 35

### Parish Council matters

New Year, new Clerk! Welcome to Claire Thompson who started work in the new year. Claire is a Purley resident and is keen to be a part of shaping our community. If you want to discuss any matters with our officers, Claire, Sarah and Colin, come to the Parish Office next to the tennis courts at Goosecroft off Beech Road. Alternatively, phone 0118 984 4507. Our public opening hours are Monday 2.30-6.30pm and Thursday 9.30am-2.30pm.

In April, the Parish Council will be publishing its Annual Report for 2019/20. This will detail the work we have done on your behalf and how the public money we manage has been spent. Every household will receive a copy of the Report but, in order for this to happen, we need a band of volunteers to deliver. If you can spare a little time in late March to deliver copies to one or two roads in Purley, we would be most grateful. Please contact the Assistant Clerk on [asstclerk@purleyonthames.net](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames.net)

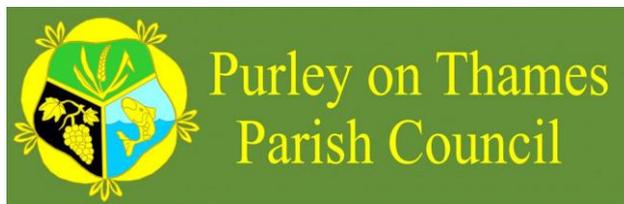
Every three months, Purley hosts the local Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG). The group is made up of representatives from local parish councils and the Neighbourhood Police force, sharing issues such as anti-social behaviour and crime. We discuss ideas and proven good practice for tackling problems. This forum for pooling information can help the Neighbourhood Police to prioritise issues that are troubling our overall community. At January's NAG, the police gave us the latest reported crime statistics for our parishes. In Purley, since October there were no thefts from or of a vehicle, four reports of criminal damage, four burglaries (domestic) and one burglary (non-domestic). This level of crime is in line with that of our neighbouring parishes. In order for crimes to be included in these statistics, all incidents must be reported to the police. They are then officially logged and police time can be organised to ensure officers are scheduled to make regular visits to areas where they are most needed.

*Sue Briscoe*  
*Chair of Thames Parish Council*

### Fly posting

Over the past couple of months, there has been quite a bit of fly-posting around Purley on Thames. This was reported to West Berkshire Council (WBC), who confirmed that it does not allow advertising on the public highway and no permission had been given for posters in the village. Generally, anything attached to street furniture such as road signs, lamp posts, pedestrian railings, bus stops, etc, is likely to be on WBC property and should be reported.

Members of the public should not remove any posters, but should notify WBC's Traffic and Road Safety Team – [trafficandroadsafety@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:trafficandroadsafety@westberks.gov.uk) – or the Parish Council office.



## News from the Parish Office

We're very pleased to report that work on refurbishing the WCs in Barn, Goosecroft, is now complete.

The facilities in the Small Hall and in the foyer between the halls have all been fitted with new hand basins and vanity units, have new flooring and tiles, the pipework's been boxed in, and walls and woodwork have been repainted. Overall, the WCs look very clean and smart now.

We would like to thank Friends of Purley Barn for raising and donating £3,000 towards the refurbishment; the sum was match-funded by the Good Exchange.



The Grants Working Group met during January to discuss the 13 applications received for the 2019/20 year. The group's recommendations will be presented at the February Parish Council meeting, after which all applicants will be contacted to confirm whether or not they have been awarded a grant.

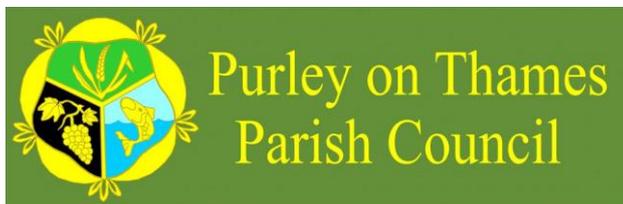
## Flood update

An official Flood Warning was issued by the Environment Agency in the week before Christmas and was in place until Boxing Day. Some gardens in lower Purley flooded but no homes or roads. West Berkshire officers and Environment Agency staff liaised with our Flood Wardens and made regular inspections of the area. A repair was necessary to one of the valves on the bund in Blount's Meadow, behind Wintringham Way. The Flood Warden procedure came into action and the Wardens visited homes that were in potential risk of flooding or residents inconvenienced by floodwater. Fortunately, nothing more was necessary on this occasion.

There is information on our website about flooding and how to contact your local Flood Warden.

The most reliable way to find out flood status is via Floodline so if you want to register free for Flood Alerts and Warnings you can do this either through the Environment Agency's web site – [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) – or by calling Floodline on 0845 988 188.

Also, if at any time you notice blocked drains at the roadsides, please report them to West Berkshire Council via its online Streetcare map.



## West Berkshire Council

Following the declaration of climate emergency in July 2019 and the Climate Conference in autumn 2019, West Berkshire Council (WBC) has been working on a [draft Environment Strategy](#) with input from the Environment Board and Environment Advisory Group. The draft strategy covers the period from 2020 to 2030 and details the different ways in which WBC can contribute towards tackling the climate crisis and achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. WBC recognises that it needs to engage more with the local community, schools, town and parish councils, local environment groups and the business community in order to secure a safer, greener environment going forward.

WBC is currently seeking feedback on its draft strategy. The public consultation period ends on Friday 21 February 2020. If you would like further information or to take part in the consultation, please see <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/draftenvironmentstrategy>



Proposed school term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021/22 have now been through WBC's internal consultation process and are available for public consideration. For further information, the proposed dates, and to take part in the consultation, please see <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/termdates2022>

## Smart motorway, M4

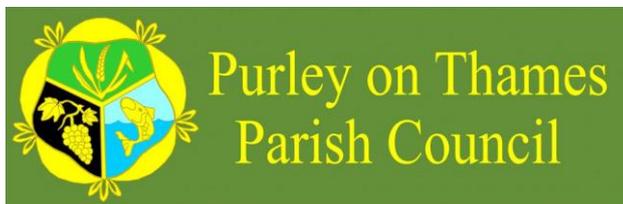
Old Slade Lane bridge near junction 4b of the M4 is due to be demolished over the weekend of 21 to 23 February. The work is expected to be complete early on the Sunday morning so that the motorway will be reopened ahead of the Six Nations match at Twickenham in the afternoon.

For more information, please see [here](#).

## Trentham Bowls Club

Last year, Bowls England replaced its "Club of the Year" award with a new "Story of the Year" award, intended to recognise the work of bowls clubs and volunteers around the country. The emphasis for the inaugural competition was on recruitment and, following its very successful recruitment campaign last year, [Trentham Bowls Club](#) submitted an entry – and was awarded second place overall!

For more information about the award, please see [here](#)



## Volunteering opportunities

The Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice Befriending Service is looking for befrienders to make visits in the local area. Befrienders visit a Sue Ryder patient once a week for an hour or so to provide company, emotional support and practical help.

If you have an hour or two spare a week and might be able to help, please contact Befriending Coordinator, [natasha.saunders@suerydercare.org](mailto:natasha.saunders@suerydercare.org), 0118 955 0443, for an application pack, which includes a full role profile.



Saving Abandoned Fly-grazing Equines (SAFE), a small registered charity whose mission is to support local landowners legally to rescue and re-home abandoned and neglected horses in the Berkshire and Surrey areas. It is currently in need of regular volunteers at its horse rescue based between Wokingham and Reading.

If you're able to give time regularly each week and are aged 16 years or more and would like to help, please see the web site – [www.safe-horses.co.uk](http://www.safe-horses.co.uk) – for more information.

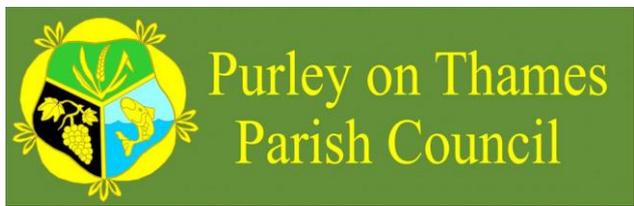
## Happy Chinese New Year!

Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival, is a celebration that takes place at the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. The first day of the New Year always falls on the new moon between 21 January and 20 February. This year, Chinese New Year fell on Saturday 25 January, and the festival will last until 8 February.

The Chinese Zodiac attributes an animal to each year in the calendar on a twelve-year repeating cycle; 2020 is the Year of the Rat.

## Burns Night

Saturday 25 January also marked the anniversary of the birth of the Scottish poet Robert Burns, who was born on that date in 1759. Traditionally, Burns Night is held to commemorate his life, and to celebrate his contribution to Scottish culture.



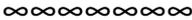
**Local news and events**

From 3.45pm on Friday 31 January, the Ferryboat, Whitchurch, will be holding an after-school event to include watching a U certificate film and a buffet tea (pizza, chips, etc). This is a regular event held on the last Friday of each month and costs £5.00 per child.



Goring Gap Boat Club is holding a “go row” day on Sunday 2 February. Anyone interested in taking up or returning to the sport is welcome to attend the event which will be held at the clubhouse off the A329 near Lower Basildon from 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

For more information, please see the club’s web site – [www.goringgapbc.org.uk](http://www.goringgapbc.org.uk)



On Wednesday 5 February the British Modern Military History Society has organised a talk by a British spy who infiltrated the Nazis’ intelligence agency during the Second World War. Walter Dickens, who’s codename was “Celery”, told the Germans he wished to defect and join their cause whilst, in reality, he remained loyal to Britain.

The talk will be from 7.30pm in Woodcote Village Hall. Entry costs £8.00 which includes refreshments and a charitable donation. More information may be found on the web site, [www.bmmhs.org](http://www.bmmhs.org)



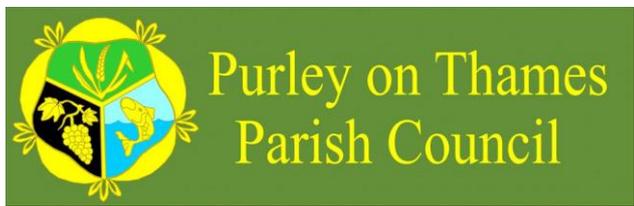
On Thursday 6 February, the Berkshire Family History Society is holding a talk “Caversham Court and its history” by Dr John Evans. It will be held at the Centre for Heritage and Family History on the second floor of Reading Library from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, and booking is recommended.

For more information and to book tickets, please see <https://berksfhs.org>



The monthly Farmers’ and Craft Markets will be held in the Barn at Goosecroft from 8.00am to noon on Saturday 8 February. For more information see TVFM’s web site, [www.tvfm.org.uk/purley-on-thames/](http://www.tvfm.org.uk/purley-on-thames/)





Village Concerts has organised a performance by Sam Kelly and Jamie Francis on Saturday 8 February. It will be held at St Mary's, Purley on Thames, and doors will open at 7.00pm with the music starting at 8.00pm.

For further information about this and other concerts, and to book tickets, please see [www.villageconcerts.eu](http://www.villageconcerts.eu)



Long Lane Primary School - [www.longlane.w-berks.sch.uk/](http://www.longlane.w-berks.sch.uk/) - is holding a Race Night at Purley Sports and Social Club, Goosecroft, from 7.00pm on Saturday 15 February. All race profits will go to the school.



Also on Saturday 15 February, Goring Chamber Choir will be performing Duruflé's Requiem and seasonal motets in Douai Abbey. The concert will start at 7.30pm and further information, including how to buy tickets, is available [here](#).



From Monday 17 to Friday 21 February, the Make and Do Holiday Club will be available at the Learning Centre of the Corn Exchange in Newbury. The club is suitable for children aged between four and eight years old. For more information and to book tickets, please see [here](#).



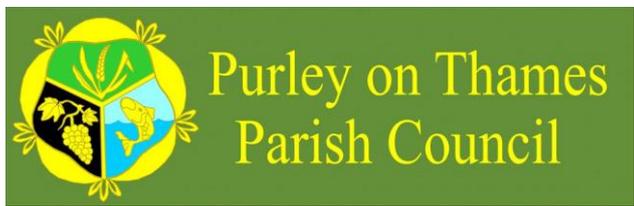
Purley on Thames Horticultural Society (PHS) is holding its Annual General Meeting from 7.45pm on Wednesday 19 February in the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road.

More information about this and other events organised by PHS may be found on the [web site](#)



On Friday 21 February, Friends of Purley Barn and Purley on Thames Bridge Club are holding their second Bridge Drive (Chicago format). For further details, please see the item above or [www.fopb.org.uk](http://www.fopb.org.uk)





From 2.00pm to 3.30pm on Sunday 23 February, there'll be a baby and children's market at Meadway Sports Centre in Tilehurst. Entry costs £1.50 for adults and is free for children. If you're interested in buying or selling nearly-new items for children, please see <https://www.babyandchildrensmarket.co.uk> for further information.



The monthly Tea Dance will be held from 2.00pm to 6.00pm on Sunday 23 February in the Large Hall of the Barn at Goosecroft. For more details, please e-mail [happi.feet@outlook.com](mailto:happi.feet@outlook.com)



Looking forward, entries are now open for this year's Goring 10km race on Sunday 15 March. For more information, please see [www.goring10k.com](http://www.goring10k.com)



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](http://www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk)

## Contact

To contact us, please call 0118 984 4507, or e-mail [asstclerk@purleyonthames.net](mailto: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](mailto:asstclerk@purleyonthames.net) giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.