



NEWSLETTER

May 2022, issue 62

Looking forward to

June



The Month which marks

70 Years Reign of

Her Majesty the Queen

The Spotlight this month must only be on her.

But as everyone knows all there is to know about the most famous lady in the world, Spotlight this month, has a little twist – please see below for more.



Your Parish Council welcomes its newest Councillor Virginia White who has lived in Purley for almost 40 years with her husband Alan. They have 2 daughters and 8 grandchildren. They both take a keen interest in local matters and Virginia is currently chair of the Goosecroft Community Shop steering group whose main objective is to open a locally resourced retail outlet for the benefit of our community. Virginia sings in her local catholic church choir and is also a Eucharistic Minister. Like me and Cllr John Chapman she worked for Fujitsu Services UK

for 20 years and headed up the client satisfaction programme on behalf of the CEO. She was responsible for a large department of interviewers and this meant spending a lot of the time visiting many parts of the world. Virginia retired in 2007 and, like so many retirees, spends a lot of time gardening. Over the years Alan and Virginia have had several dogs and currently have 2 cockapoos which they enjoy taking for long walks.

by Cllr Jane Langford



Our Neighbourhood

Villager of the Year 2022

It is the time of year to nominate your candidates for Villager of the Year 2022.

This award is intended to recognise outstanding efforts by a villager or village group/organisation, in any capacity, which have benefitted the community of Purley on Thames over the previous year(s).

The nomination form is available in this edition of Purley Parish News, on the Parish Council website, and in the Parish Office.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 29th July 2022 and they should be posted or hand-delivered to the Parish Office or emailed to clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk.

This is an opportunity for you to thank those you feel have made a particularly valuable contribution, so please do get voting!



Your Village Matters

Home Security

As the clocks go forward and we enjoy the longer days it is important that people remain mindful of their home security.

With the weather improving, more people leave windows open and doors unlocked whilst they are out in their gardens, putting them at a higher risk of being burgled.

There are a number of simple steps that can be taken to minimise the risk to your home:

- Lock your doors while working in the garden
- Close your windows in areas that are accessible to a thief, such as a flat roof or rear window next to garden furniture that can be used as a climbing aid
- Close the downstairs windows or doors after they have been opened in hot weather
- Keep an eye on neighbours' homes when they are on holiday. Consider agreeing to opening and closing their blinds for them and collecting their mail

For more information on how to keep your property safe please visit the 'Crime Prevention Advice' section of the Thames Valley Police website.



Your Village Matters

Village Concerns HS2 or High Speed Too!



Pavements are for People

We make no apology for having repeated messages about parking in the village in this Newsletter. It is an issue raised so often by the parishioners and a few irresponsible or thoughtless people have an unfortunate ability to create difficulty or even misery for others by their actions. On some occasions poor parking actually creates an additional road safety risk.



Vandalism

It isn't just parking though. In recent weeks there have been acts of vandalism – a hole cut in the fence around Goosecroft, the removal of the chain and padlock to the entrance to Bucknell's Meadow, the removal of the padlock and chain to Pikeshaw. All of these mindless acts of anti-social behaviour require the Parish Council to spend YOUR money protecting the assets of the Parish Council.



Litter

We all welcome the improvement in the weather but as sure as night follows day the improved weather has seen a significant increase in litter in and around the village. Your Parish Council provides both litter and dog-bins and pays for emptying of them. Please try to use them or to take rubbish home so as not to spoil our lovely village.



Speeding

However over and above these issues the highest number of complaints received by the Parish Council over recent weeks has been in relation to another motoring related issue- SPEEDING.

Reports of vehicles traveling at high speed in the village in particular in St. Marys Avenue and of course on the A329 have come into the office over recent weeks as well as more general complaints of speeding. The Parish Council has no control over road safety or motoring offences. West Berkshire Council is the highways authority for this area and of course any matters of a criminal nature are for Thames Valley Police.

However, the Parish Council is trying to support those in the village in trying to ensure the roads are safe for those using them. Some have suggested that reduced speed limits might work – but some are of the view that this would not improve the situation.

Having for the first time in over 40 years of motoring been caught on camera last year, I completed a speed awareness course. It was a worthwhile and humbling experience that taught me a lot about speed restrictions, risk and behaviour when driving, and in particular the need to just think before embarking on any car journey rather than just jumping in the car as a matter of routine and not appreciating what is involved in good safe careful driving.

There is evidence that education can help. Therefore, the Parish Council has identified some sites where both historically and recently there have been issues raised as to speeding and will in the very near future be submitting reports to West Berkshire Council with a view to being given the opportunity to deploy SID on those sites. And no, it's not a roadside snake, hissing SID (Speed Indicator Device). These devices can be deployed to indicate to people the speed at which they are travelling or the fact that they are travelling over the speed limit.

Any deployment requires the approval of the sites from the highway's authority in conjunction with Thames Valley Police. It also requires some volunteers. One of the team in the office has undertaken the training on use of the SID and the Parish Council has access to the training package for any volunteers. So, if you have some spare time, are concerned about speeding, and would like to volunteer please contact the office.

We will keep you posted as to progress in our efforts to try to improve the approach to speeding within the village.



Neighbourhood Policing

Also, it should be said that although police resources are of course stretched, that when the Parish Council has raised with our Neighbourhood Policing Team concerns (The Parish Council along with other local Parish Councils meets with them regularly) they have responded, and this has seen the deployment of speed detection vans on several occasions in Purley on Thames. We are lucky in this parish to be supported by a Neighbourhood Policing team that do listen to what we say, that are visible and spend time in our community and that do, where they can, take action in response to issues raised.



What you can do:

- send us photographs of Parking on Pavements;
- report speeding;
- volunteer to assist with SID;
- report anti-social behaviour.

Report all of these to:

- the relevant authority be it
- Parish Council;
- West Berkshire Council;
- Thames Valley Police.

If we don't know about it, we can't do anything about it!

Article by the Clerk to the Parish Council Christopher Thompson.



A Life in the Month of your Parish Chairman

Article by Cllr Jane Langford



I would like to thank a number of people for their assistance during the busy month of April:

- the Clerk and his team, most notably Cathy, for organising the Chairman's Reception and Pam for her assistance with it too. I believe it was appreciated by our guests and was an example of working closely with the Parish;
- the Clerk and his team, for organising the Parish Assembly (PA) on 26.04.22 and gaining the assistance of the WI;
- Pat Roper and her WI team members for producing much welcome tea and biscuits at "half time" during the assembly – no orange slices for us!!
- Councillor Judy Evans for getting the PSG to give a presentation;
- Pat Crowder for her interesting and informal talk about matters concerning the Purley Sustainability Group;
- Pam for her talk about the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Purley;
- The Clerk, Vice Chair, and Committee Chairs Cllrs Bishop and Collier for their input into the Parish Report;
- The Clerk and his team for organising others to distribute the Parish Report and for doing some distributions themselves often in their own time;
- The Vice Chair for doing the lion's share of input and design for the Parish Report.

Date	Activity	Outcomes/Notes	Thanks to...
04.04.22	Friends of Purley Barn		
	Open Forum	It has been agreed to hold this twice a month at 1700 hrs before Planning at 1600 hrs. And to focus on forward planning and emergencies.	
	Planning		
09.04.22	Purchasing Tickets for the Platinum Jubilee	If the atmosphere in the Large Barn simply to purchase tickets for the event is anything to go by, Purley's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations will be outstanding. The Large Barn was beautifully and patriotically decorated.	
11.04.22	Chairman's Reception		
26.04.22	Parish Assembly	Talks on Parish Business by Cllrs Langford and Rolfe. Talk by Purley Sustainability Group Talk on the Platinum Jubilee Planned events by Cllr Beddoes	
03.05.22	Planning	Cllr George Nyamie elected Chairman	
10.05.22	Full Council Meeting		
During the period	Preparation of Article for Parish Magazine		
	Preparation of Newsletter		
	Preparation of Parish Report		



Your Parish Office

“When life seems hard, the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat; instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future.”

Queen Elizabeth II

The last months have been busy with the success of the Chairman's reception in early April, with the preparation and distribution of the Annual Report to over 98% of households within the Parish in the time leading up to the Annual Parish Meeting on 26 April.

Attendance at that meeting was down on previous years but that may well be due to the fact that recent meetings were of course on Zoom. Already there are innovative ideas for encouraging more people to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in 2023. As always, the Parish Council and the office are looking to learn lessons, consider innovation and, where it is appropriate, embrace change.

On 10 May the Annual Parish Council Meeting took place. As with all Parish Council meetings members of the public are welcome to attend, but this meeting is usually very much about process and procedure. The meeting saw the re-election of both the Chairman and Vice- Chairman for a further 12 months. However, in terms of the committees we have seen some change with the loss of some experienced councillors as Chairmen of committees, but encouragingly there were volunteers from recently recruited councillors to step into those roles. Councillor George Nyamie is the new Chairman for Planning who replaces Acting Temporary Chairmen of Planning Councillors Farrow and Rolfe. The new Chairman of Highways and Footpaths is Councillor Maria Abrams who replaces Councillor Collier who has given long years of service in this appointment. The Council thanks them for their freely given commitment, knowledge and professionalism. We wish them well and have no doubt that they will see ways to help us on our journey of continuous improvement.

We also have the luxury of a full complement of councillors, which means more to share the workload and to work for you. Things do change though, so if there is anyone who is interested in joining the Council do get in touch with the Office. There are working parties you could join to help the Parish Council, and this can give you a flavour of what the Parish Council does. Or you can simply go on a waiting list in readiness for the next vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

On a practical note, after careful and long enquiries to assess both quality and cost, to ensure value for money, we are undergoing a major IT upgrade which will increase both efficiency and resilience for the team in the office. However, in the short term over the next few weeks, it is likely to lead to some disruption, so please bear with us during this period of change.

We are also working hard to support the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee event, dealing with a host of logistical issues, from arranging additional waste collections and cleaning to putting up notices and arranging other services such as additional security insurance etc. We all hope this will be a hugely successful event for the village and a fitting tribute for the Queen in her 70th year on the throne.

Amidst all this there is of course business as usual to be undertaken and we are busy, having welcomed cricket back to Goosecroft, and with an ever-increasing number of enquiries for

the use of the barn. We have taken some regular bookings from new groups within the community who will now have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of this historic building.

We also have to complete work in readiness for the end of year audit.

In June there are 3 meetings.

The Planning Committee meets on both Monday 6 and Monday 20 June at 6pm in the Large Hall of the Barn under the new Committee Chairman Councillor George Nyamie.

The planning committee considers all the applications for development in the Parish and makes representations to the planning authority, West Berkshire Council. Just a reminder, the Parish Council is not the planning authority and cannot advise on planning application or allegations of breaches of planning. These are matters for West Berkshire, the planning authority.

The other June Meeting is the Parish Council Meeting which is due to take place on Tuesday 7 June at 7pm in the large hall of the Barn. This is likely to be a busy meeting already with a number of resolutions to be discussed.

Don't forget the team in the Office are happy to help where we can. Office opening hours are now:

Monday 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

Thursday 2.30 pm – 6.30 pm

(other than Bank Holidays)

However, it is a good idea to phone ahead if you want to see someone to avoid a wasted visits in the event of the team having other commitments.

Alternatively, you can call telephone on 0118 984 4507 or email the clerk at clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk

Please note that all meetings are subject to change if circumstances dictate.

Please see the [Purley on Thames Parish website](#) for any other details of which you may need sight.



How is your **Green** Village

“It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and to cherish is much more difficult.”

Queen Elizabeth II

Your Parish Council is keen to support **Green** Initiatives so please tell us what you are doing to be **Green**

Emails please to the Editor – jane.langford@purleyonthames-pc.co.uk

“You’ve all seen pictures of the earth taken from space. Unlike all the other planets in the solar system, earth shimmers green and blue in the sunlight and looks a very pleasant place to live.”

Queen Elizabeth II

What's On in/near Purley



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in Purley on Thames 2 – 5 June 2022

Pam Beddoes, Christine Collier, Judy Evans, Simon Jackson, Marion Maybank, Catherine Sampson



The jubilee is almost upon us – hopefully you are now sorting out the bunting and planning on how you will decorate your house for the celebrations. Keep an eye out for some very special decorations of a knitted kind appearing in the village!

In this update we have a reminder of some of the events planned (a free guide will also be hitting your door mats soon, if you haven't yet received it) plus details of how you can get more involved. The full souvenir programme is available to buy at the Mad Duck Café for £4.00.



Getting involved

Firstly – getting more involved. Could you spare a few hours to help on Thursday 2nd June?

We need more people willing to spare a few hours (or more) to help at the Extravaganza please. There are a number of roles we still need to fill – mainly taking tickets for rides, car park marshalling, helping steward and helping clear up afterwards. If you can help – please contact Judy or Pam at email: purleyonthamesplatinum@gmail.com

A reminder of events:

Goosecroft Extravaganza – organised by the Purley Platinum Jubilee Steering Group



More Events

Thursday 2nd June 12 noon – 5pm, Goosecroft Recreation Ground, tickets £2 adult, £1 children, £5 family – buy in advance or pay at the door



There will be rides and activities for all ages, from flying aeroplanes to bucking bronchos, alongside traditional games, displays and children's activities. We have stunning live theatre featuring a giant tree puppet - Arbor, Punch and Judy, a small animals farm, birds of prey, arm painting, displays, market stalls, live music, scarecrows, an historical exhibition, refreshments, a variety of food stands, ice creams, candy floss and much, much more.

Many of the activities will be free, others will have a modest charge – please do bring plenty of change and small denomination notes with you, as this is largely a card-free zone! Tickets from outlets and events across Purley.

A Celebration in Flowers – planted container competition organised by Purley Horticultural Society

Saturday 4th June 10am – 2pm, Purley Memorial Hall



Open to all, with the colours themed on the Queen's racing colours – purple, red, gold and black. Full details of how to enter and entry form (to be returned by 1st June) from PHS's website www.purleyonthames.org.uk/PHS Come down on the 4th to see the entrants and enjoy refreshments. Sunflower-planting table for children.

A Musical Extravaganza – proudly presented by Thames Vale Singers

Wednesday 1st & Thursday 2nd June, 7.30pm (doors open 7pm), St Mary's Church, tickets £10 (£5 under 18s)



Join Thames Vale Singers for an extravaganza of music from every corner of the British Isles, alongside flag-waving favourites such as Handel's coronation anthem Zadoc the Priest, Land of Hope and Glory, Jerusalem and of course the National Anthem. Tickets from 0118 942 1880 or email tickets@thamesvalesingers.org.uk

Afternoon Tea and Fashion through the Queen's Reign – courtesy of Project Purley

Friday 3rd June 3-5pm, The Barn, Tickets (£12) now sold out.

Coronation Fever – a play by Purley Players

Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th June, 8pm (door open 7.30pm), Purley Memorial Hall, tickets £8 (£6 concessions)



Join the cast of Purley's talented amateur dramatic society for one of two performances during the Jubilee weekend of this topical comedic play about a village's attempts to plan their Coronation Day celebrations. Tickets can be purchased from Jean on 0118 942 4372.

Laughter in the Village – courtesy of Purley Women's Institute

Wednesday 1st June, 7pm – pre-performance drinks and nibbles, talk starts at 7.30pm, Purley Memorial Hall, Tickets £5 (no charge for Purley on Thames WI Ladies)



An entertaining evening with speaker Bob Harding-Jones, a seasoned poet, humourist, raconteur and speaker, with his unique take on village life and modern living. Pre-performance drinks and nibbles included in the price. Tickets from Alison on 07900 420758.

Purley on Thames Scarecrow Festival – organised by Purley Sustainability Group

From 26th May onwards, in gardens throughout the village



Open to everyone – if you missed entering your scarecrow into the official trail, you can still pop one into your front garden to share with neighbours and passers by. Scarecrows may be a traditional Worzel Gummidge or depict people or characters from the 70 years of the

Queen's reign. Download the trail map from www.purleyonthames.org.uk/Jubilee

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party – courtesy of Purley Sports and Social Club

Thursday 2nd June, 2.30pm, part of the main Goosecroft Extravaganza event - sold out

Treasure Hunt – courtesy of Purley Pathfinders



Open to everyone, free, just for fun - the Treasure Hunt can be downloaded towards the end of May from the Purley Jubilee website - www.purleyonthames.org.uk/Jubilee or from Purley Pathfinders website, <http://www.purleypathfinders.co.uk>

This Treasure Hunt will take you through the village to discover fun and historically interesting facts as you look for clues. Will you solve them all?

Purley During the Queen's Reign – Exhibition by Project Purley

Thursday 2nd June 10am – 5pm and Friday 3rd June 10am - 12 noon, The Barn, Goosecroft, open to all, free. On Friday morning – Simon Jones of Jones and Jacob Auctioneers will be offering advice on antiques and collectibles for a small donation to the Jubilee fund.



Discover more about life in Purley during the last seventy years. We will be showing lots of images – many never displayed before – you might even spot a familiar face or two in them! The exhibition is supported by Purley on Thames WI, Purley Sustainability Group, Home Farm, Purley on Thames Cricket

Club, Purley Horticultural Society and Jones and Jacob Auctioneers. Refreshments are available all-day Thursday.

Party for the Queen with Singing for Fun

Thursday 2nd June - St Mary's Church, Free, Members only



An afternoon party with sandwiches, cakes, laughter, fun and lots of flag-waving. Also, of course, singing and music. This is Singing for Fun's regular meeting for its members with lots of special added touches.

Platinum Jubilee Beacon – courtesy of St Mary's Church Community



Thursday 2nd June - 9pm onwards (Beacon lit at 9.45pm), St Mary's Church, free - an official Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon

Join the countdown as Purley's beacon is lit on top of the church tower. We anticipate that refreshments will be available to purchase and there will be communal singing. Feel free to bring your flags to wave.

Open Day at Trentham Bowling Club

Friday 3rd June - 10am – 5pm, Trentham Bowling Club, Bowling Green Lane, Free, just turn up, all ages welcome, Any enquiries to mail@trentham-bowls.co.uk



Whether you are an experienced bowler or never tried it before, you are assured a warm welcome. Come along and have a “roll up” on the practice and training green. No special clothes or equipment is needed. Just no heels please, trainers are good! Coaching staff and experienced members will be available to introduce you to the game.

Cricket on Goosecroft – come and watch Purley on Thames Cricket Club in action



Saturday 4th June, 1pm start - Purley on Thames Cricket Club Saturday 1st XI vs Falkland Cricket Club

Sunday 5th June, 10am start - Purley on Thames C. Club Under 15s vs Hurley Cricket Club Under 15s

Sunday 5th June, 2pm start - Purley on Thames Cricket Club Sunday XI vs BBC Caversham Cricket Club

Spectators are warmly welcome, and seating is available around the cricket pitch.

Picnic in the Meadow organised by the Mad Duck Café

Saturday 4th June, 2pm onwards, Blounts Meadow, behind the Mad Duck Café, just turn up



Bring your own picnic and chairs and join the team at The Mad Duck for food, and family-friendly fun and games. The Mad Duck Café will also be open serving a reduced menu. Please note the field surface can be uneven, so please wear appropriate footwear, field entered at own risk.

Jubilee Disco – organised by Purley Park Social Club



Saturday 4th June, 7pm, Purley Park Social Club, free – no booking required – just turn up.

A Civic Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church

Sunday 5th June, 10.30am, St Mary's Church, all welcome



Join the community of St Mary's Church for a civic service of celebration for the reign of Her Majesty The Queen.

The church bells will be rung in celebration and refreshments will be available afterwards.

Platinum Jubilee Flotilla

Sunday 5th June, 3.30pm, River Gardens, free, all welcome



Our finale event appropriately takes us to the stunning stretch of the river Thames, which we all enjoy so much, for a flotilla of boats. Expect lots of bunting and flags and possibly the odd whistle or two.

Sunday is also the day of the Jubilee lunch. So how about planning a street party with your neighbours? There may be some permissions needed before the day – and there are street party goodie packs you can order in advance. Find out more on our website (details below) or in the souvenir programme.

This is a brief summary of our planned events. Find out more in the souvenir Programme, on our website - www.purleyonthames.org.uk/Jubilee/ via Facebook and on our parish notice boards.

These are just a few of the many events which are planned for the special Jubilee weekend. Find out more in the souvenir Programme, on our website - www.purleyonthames.org.uk/Jubilee/ via Facebook, on our parish notice boards or in next month's Parish News.

NEW Fitness Pilates Classes

Would you like to join a fun and friendly fitness class that welcomes new beginners?

Have you had a long break from exercise and need help getting back into the routine?

Are you looking for an exercise class that doesn't involve jumping?!

My name is Helen and my new Fitness Pilates classes could be perfect for you. Fitness Pilates is ideal if you're looking to improve your core strength, mobility and flexibility. You don't have to be super flexible to get started!

Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Rd

Thursdays

6.15-7.15pm

Email me if you would like to know more at FitnessPilatesTilehurst@gmail.com

The Scouts

We have recently been meeting with some community groups regarding use of the Barn here at Goosecroft.

In a meeting with the Scouts, we have been made aware that we share with our neighbours in Pangbourne a really fantastic group of volunteers who provide activities for local children of various ages in the Scouting movement. They tell us that they have more demand than they can fill at the moment.


What they need is volunteers to help run sessions if you are interested and think you could help and would like to be put in touch with the local Scouts management team, please email us and we will forward your details to them.

Christopher Thompson

Clerk

Purley on Thames Parish Council

clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk

Do you need help with facing the end of life? If so, we'd  to help?

Introducing the Anne Robson **Helpline** - If you or someone close to you is dying, we are here for you. At the Anne Robson Trust we believe that everyone deserves support and having somewhere to turn to if they or a loved one is dying. We know that facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone.

Our free national helpline is confidential – 0808 801 0688.

Lines are open Monday – Friday 12 – 6pm

Our volunteers are here for you to offer vital confidential support, a listening ear and a lifeline when you may need someone to talk to. We are also here if you want to start having conversations with your loved ones about your wishes but might not know where to start. Please visit www.annerobsontrust.org.uk to find out more.

We  Our Burial Ground here at Purley

It is a place of peace and tranquillity, dedicated to loved ones.

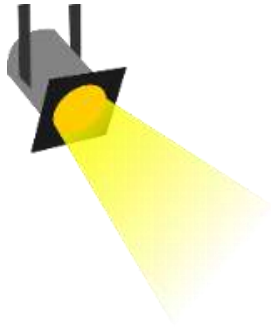
**If you sadly want to use this space, you can do so either via your
funeral director or by contacting the Parish Office**

clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk or phone 0118 984 4507.

Bookings are now being managed by Chris Thompson our Parish Clerk;

“Grief is the price we pay for love”

Queen Elizabeth II



Do you remember what you were doing on

2nd June 1953?

Most of my readers were not even born then!

So, may I say to them:

“No age group has a monopoly on wisdom, and indeed I think the young can sometimes be wiser than us. But the older I get, the more conscious I become of the difficulties young people have to face as they learn to live in the modern world.”

Queen Elizabeth II

However, there are some benefits of being older!

“Though we each lead different lives, the experience of growing older, and the joys and emotions which it brings, are familiar to us all”

Queen Elizabeth II

“I believe that young or old, we have as much to look forward to with confidence and hope as we have to look back on with pride.”

Queen Elizabeth II

“With age does come experience and that can be a virtue if it is sensibly used.”

Queen Elizabeth II

“Good memories are our second chance at happiness”

Queen Elizabeth II

So readers, young and not-so-young, may I share my memories of that amazing day 2 June 1953 with you.

Picture me, in a grey flannel skirt with straps to hold it up over my six-year-old unshapely body, two front teeth missing, ankle socks and black lace-up shoes. Not a pretty sight. The boys in the group among which I was sitting, wore grey flannel short trousers and knee-length grey socks, some with holes. I noticed for the first time that boys have square knees!

Anyway, this mixed group of children were sitting around a tiny nine-inch black and white television watching a remarkable and record-breaking reign officially begin in the pouring rain. I remember watching the horses and the (black and white) Golden Coach clatter along shiny, rainy streets.

There were only two televisions in the entire village where I lived and they belonged to the two landlords of the two pubs. It had been agreed that all the children in the village should be divided into two groups so that each group could go to one of the pubs, to watch the Coronation on television. I was sent to the Red Lion. Thus began my life-long enjoyment of pubs!

Later that day was a fancy-dress parade and the whole village turned out in floats (tractors and trailers), bicycles, prams, and by foot to parade through the village finishing up in the Recreation Ground for a fete, a much more modest version of the Purley Extravaganza.

My Mother went as Charlie Chaplin. At 4ft 10 inches she had the right build and it was an easy thing to obtain false moustache, bowler hat and walking stick to twirl. My rendition was made by my Father. He had turned my, by then, defunct pram into the Steam Ship Queen Elizabeth, which I pushed through the village in the parade. I had the distinct advantage on this rainy day of being able to wear wellies and my dark blue gabardine mac., complete with Captains' rank rings drawn around the cuffs in gold chalk.

My Father had made it during the night. The story about this, I was later told, was, that on the eve of the Coronation, some of the men in the Village had decided to meet up in the pub. My Father set off, but the spirit of the village was such that he never got there. First one, and then another, of our neighbours came out to invite the growing group of men in for some home-made beer or wine, which, as everyone knows, is always stronger than the stuff they sell in pubs. He got home much later when I was in bed fast asleep and very much the worse for wear. And, oh dear, he still had the promised ship to create using my pram. Poor Daddy!

By dint of drinking copious cups of tea, he sobered-up and the ship took shape. Straws were used for the ship's rails, tobacco burned in shoe polish lids creating smoke to safely rise out of the two cardboard funnels and cardboard, painted battle-ship grey, formed the main shape of the ship. It was a triumph. I knew it. And I (or more accurately he) won first prize in the children's fancy-dress competition. My Mother too won first prize, but the organisers who presented the prizes at the dance in the Village Hall, that evening, found it difficult to match the beautiful woman in a pretty pink, ballerina-length full-skirted, dress with the Charlie Chaplin figure from earlier in the day. They kept on calling for "Charlie Chaplin", overlooking the woman in front of them who had gone up when Charlie Chaplin was called to receive a prize. I saw my Father, (who would not wear fancy-dress) dance for the first time. He could waltz and quick-step with the best. An art sadly only seen on "Strictly", these days, but one most men of his generation had as part of normal social skills, his sisters having made him go to regular lessons as a teenager.

It was a wonderful day and my memories of it are vivid and happy. I wish the same for our Platinum Jubilee celebrations (not the Coronation weather though). Thank you, Reader, for allowing me this "second chance of happiness".

If you would like to share your recollections of the Coronation or any of the Jubilee celebrations since, then do please drop me a line to:

jane.langford@purleyonthames-pc.co.uk

and I will include your stories in future Newsletters during this Platinum Jubilee Year.

Article by Cllr Jane Langford



Goosecroft Extravaganza: 2 June 2022 between 12:00 and 5:00pm

The Next Repair Café is at the Mad Duck

On Saturday 11 June 2022 between 3:00pm and 5:00pm

Thought for the Month.



“Let us not take ourselves too seriously.
None of us has a monopoly on wisdom.”

Queen Elizabeth II



If you have feedback to give Your Parish Council or wish to provide an article on what interests you: an item or person of interest, a plea for a Charity or Not-for-profit business but not a commercial business, your input would be most welcome, subject to editorial rights. It would be very helpful, if possible, if you could supply any copy in Calibri, 12 point and Word and send your copy to the Parish Office by close of play on the 20th of the month.

Many thanks - Editor

The Purley on Thames Parish Council does not take responsibility for articles provided by non-Council Members and would encourage you to go to the website for the article provider and check dates, times and details.

The Editor is Councillor Jane Langford – Chair of Purley on Thames Parish Council

The Technical Editor is Councillor Graham Rolfe – Vice Chair of Purley on Thames Parish Council