



# NEWSLETTER

August 2022, issue 65

Looking forward to

**September**

The theme for this issue of the Newsletter is

**Tennis.**



Tennis: a racquet sport in which two players compete to see who has the shortest temper, the worst memory, the poorest eyesight, and the slowest watch.



**Hissing Sid?**

Well not really in this case SID is short for Speed Indicator Device.

This is a case of you said, we did.

You said that there are issues in the village with speeding. We have passed those on to the police and in fairness within days of doing so, a speed detection vehicle was deployed in Purley. But we can't have that all of the time. In the longer term we have identified a series of sites which are suitable for the use of a Speed Indicator Device and are currently awaiting final approval from West Berkshire council as to deployment of such a device in the village. It has taken some time, but we are nearly there.

All the evidence suggests that these devices do have an impact on the speed at which we travel. It is all too easy in cars as they are today to fail to appreciate the speed at which we are travelling until it is too late. For me personally I still need reminders from time to time as to the consequences that can come from speeding despite on more than one occasion having had to see and deal with the wreckage of both vehicles and people that can follow from speed. Hopefully seeing an indicator of the speed at which we travel prompts a thought about road safety and the consequences of bad driving – something that we are all guilty of from time to time.

As and when the sites are confirmed as acceptable for us to operate SID from it would be helpful to have some volunteers to help deploy the device. It's normally a session of about an hour in company with others including members of the Council.

In the office we have someone trained and we have access to the training package for anyone who wishes to volunteer. If you think speed is a concern and you want to do something about it this is your opportunity please contact the Parish Office on 0118 9844507 or by e-mail to [clerk@purelyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@purelyonthames-pc.gov.uk).

We are also in discussion with Thames Valley Police as to the possibility of setting up a Community Speed Watch scheme in Purley on Thames. Again, if we go down that route the Parish Council alone cannot run such a scheme and volunteers would be more than welcome.

Chris Thompson  
Clerk



How anti-social do you want to be?

Why is it that we as a society and a community are prepared to allow a small minority to spoil things for, and the reputation of, the majority?

Over the course of the summer, we have had reports from the police of anti-social behaviour from youths in Pikeslaw Woods, including drinking, taking drugs, leaving rubbish and generally being offensive to anyone that dares challenge them. At the same location we also have had issues with people dumping rubbish including garden waste. Pikeslaw Woods is an area owned by the Parish

Council and maintained at some expense for all to use as an open space. It is also used by schools with permission, as part of the learning programme for young children.

Having spent a considerable amount of money only last year upgrading the gym and play equipment at Bucknell's Meadow, this summer has seen considerable vandalism including graffiti being painted or sprayed on a number of pieces of play equipment. The playground is designed for young children. The graffiti was often offensive. Each and every one within the parish that pays council tax is contributing to cleaning the graffiti, which is money some cannot afford, and money that most people could better spend.

But it doesn't stop there. Bucknell's Meadow used to be accessible to those with restricted mobility using a radar key. Regrettably because access to these keys is not limited, we have had to stop using this form of lock, having had three or four stolen during the course of this year. The Meadow is a playground facility and sports field it is not a racetrack for those on motorbikes.

Worse still, before the rain came and in the height of the heatwave with a high risk of fire, we suffered 2 deliberate fires, one to an area of grass, and the second to a rubbish bin. In the case of the bin, it will clearly need to be replaced in order to avoid litter in a children's playground and the cost of this is likely to be around £500.00. So, with an electorate of around 5000 this is 10 pence each simply to replace a rubbish bin that was perfectly functional. And of course, we were lucky some public-spirited local residents intervened to put the fire out before it had chance to spread.

Over and above this we have had reports of groups of youths throwing stones at people and vehicles and youths confronting and even assaulting those they regard as being vulnerable.

How do you as members of the community of Purley on Thames feel about your Parish being named as the home of those responsible for the recent damage at Mapledurham?

I know that as someone who works here and is proud to do so, seeing these reports filled me with shame.

Only days ago, we have found more vandalism at Bucknell's Meadow with a road sign removed and thrown into the playing field, and items placed in a piece of play equipment that could have caused someone serious injury.

Each time we have a report of a crime relating to our property we do act, and we do report it to the police. There may be little they can do to address the crime itself without evidence, but simply by reporting each and every crime our local neighbourhood policing team gain an insight and intelligence into what is going on and it may lead to more resources being allocated to the area to try to address the issues. It's not that difficult to report crimes online and I would encourage you to do so if you witness or become aware of a crime in the area.

Purley on Thames is a lovely village and in the last 12 months almost everyone I have met in the village has been welcoming friendly and positive. It is such a shame that a handful of people misbehaving can have such a negative impact on our community. The Chairman and Chair of the Highways and Footpaths Committee are working closely with the police. Through the Chairman we have access to a security expert who advises the Government who is preparing a list of ideas which we will consider in due course. This is not a solution for this year but perhaps for next.



## **From Your Parish Office**

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](mailto:clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk)

Dates for Council and Committee Meetings can be found on the [Purley on Thames Parish website](#) and are subject to change.

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## ***What's On in Purley***

***"Dogs are good for us!"***

For those that have had a dog, will know that anyway!



Come and hear how this charity makes the most of this relationship: this could be help with physical disabilities, autism, dementia, community involvement or simply sharing advice and support.

-  *Greet the dogs who provide this help and support*
-  *Meet those who have an assistance dog in their lives*
-  *Hear from those who socialise the puppies and start them on their amazing journey*
-  *Discover how the dogs are trained*
-  *Have a cup of tea and a piece of cake!*

Please come along to our

**Open Talk**

on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm at

The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Purley on Thames, READING, RG8 8BW.

[www.dogsforgood.org](http://www.dogsforgood.org)

Reg. Charity no. 1092960

*We make life-changing differences for people with disabilities through the power of expertly trained dogs.*

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### **New Play Equipment at Bucknell's Meadow**

Following feedback and suggestions from Parishioners and Park Users the Parish Council Recreation Committee has now provided 2 additional pieces of equipment in Bucknell's Meadow for younger children.



Funding for this was from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CILs) and funds for Village Plan improvements within the Recreation Committee budget.



Please if you use or have children or grandchildren that use the playground, would you consider joining a focus group? You could help us with your opinions on future playground improvements- what do your children or grandchildren want to see and play on? We would value your opinions and input. If you are interested contact our clerk on 0118 984 4507 or email [clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk).

**Are you or someone you know feeling  
lonely or isolated?**

## **We Can Help**

If you or someone you know are over 18 and

- are at risk of loneliness and isolation or
- have a long term medical condition or
- are experiencing mental ill-health or
- have a physical or learning disability,

then please get in touch with us.

Our charity will help support people to connect with their local community through community activities and by making new friends and support networks. We will help to build confidence and encourage them to do things that will make them feel good and stay active for longer.

 **07985 404302**  
for an informal chat

 **cs@eightbellsnewbury.co.uk**

**Eight  
Bells**  
*Community Strength*  
Supporting Individuals,  
Strengthening Communities





# VILLAGE



SINCE 2015

## CONCERTS

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**St Mary's, Purley on Thames RG8 8BJ**  
**7pm Doors & Bar, 8pm Music**

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### **Steve Hewitt**

#### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022**

Hailing from Kent – Steve Hewitt is an emerging singer songwriter pushing the boundaries of folk-roots genres. Entering into a new chapter of his journey as a songwriter & performer, Steve has been focusing on creating his follow up and second album 'Never Two Days The Same'. This collection of new material originally developed in 2020 is currently being finely tuned with Rob Townley and will be the result of a successful crowd-funding campaign. Fans and followers can expect the album to be unveiled later this year, with more singles planned in the near future.

*"It's hard to pigeon hole Steve Hewitt into one genre - he is a country/ folk/ Americana and/or acoustic rock artist. Hewitt's guitar playing and songs are of a very high standard."* **Maverick magazine**

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### **Sam Carter**

#### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2022**



Midlands-born guitarist & songwriter Sam Carter has earned a reputation for vivid, narrative-driven song-writing & captivating live performances. He is a highly-regarded instrumentalist, renowned by many as 'the finest English-style fingerpicking guitarist of his generation' (Jon Boden). Over the past fifteen years, Sam has toured the world, won a BBC Folk Award and made appearances on national TV, including a spellbinding performance on Later... with Jools Holland. Sam has recorded and performed with some of folk's leading lights, including Richard Thompson, Eliza Carthy, Martin Simpson and Nancy Kerr.

*"A brilliant guitarist & songwriter who combines the observational with social comment & personal reflections."* - **Songlines**

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**Tickets: Earlybird Adult £12, Youth £8; Full-price Adult £15, Youth £10**  
**[www.villageconcerts.co.uk](http://www.villageconcerts.co.uk)**





The countryside charity  
**Berkshire**

Berkshire Branch Charity No. 210734

## **HISTORICAL LUNCHEON**

at

**Goring & Streatley Golf Club**  
**Rectory Rd. Streatley-on Thames. RG8 9QA**

on

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022**  
**at 12 noon (11.30am for coffee and biscuits)**  
**£35 per person**  
**(including a two course lunch and coffee)**

## **COLLEGE GARDENS & HISTORY**

a talk by

**Dr Ann Benson**

*Historian, Author & Lecturer & Visiting Fellow, St John's College, University of Cambridge*

*Oxford has its quads but Cambridge has its courts- all is explained as Ann describes how the early history of Cambridge produced colleges with tennis courts and bowling greens attached to buildings grouped around lawns and leafy spaces – this is richly illustrated throughout the talk – the history & heritage of how the grounds have changed across time due to their association with Kings & Queens and notable members such as Sir Isaac Newton at Trinity and Charles Darwin at Christs and from responses to changing fashions and financial pressure*

To reserve a place and obtain a ticket please fill in and return the slip below to the Branch Secretary Gloria Keene 0118 930 6756 or email: [cpreberkshire@btopenworld.com](mailto:cpreberkshire@btopenworld.com)

**Historical Lunch at Goring & Streatley Golf Club on Tuesday 1st November 2022**

Please send me.... tickets at £35 each. Cheque enclosed for.....made payable to **CPRE Berkshire.**

Name..... Address.....

Tel. No.....

I am unable to attend, but enclose a donation of.....

PLEASE RETURN TO CPRE Berkshire Branch Office, Englefield Estate Office Annexe,  
Englefield Rd. Theale, Berks. RG7 5DZ. Tel: 0118 930 6756

*(Cancellations can only be reimbursed if notified by Monday 25th October 2022)*



### **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](mailto:FitnessPilatesTilehurst@gmail.com)

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### **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](mailto: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 **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** 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](mailto: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](#)**

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## Victims of Crime

### about us

Victims First is dedicated to making sure that all victims of crime receive the support they need to cope and recover from the impact of their crime. We care about those affected by crime and work continuously to improve services and support for victims.

Victims First provides free emotional and practical support to all victims and witnesses of crime, as well as family members of victims. It is available across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and can provide help regardless of whether or not the crime has been reported to the police.

### How can Victims First help?

You can contact Victims First to access tailored support based on your individual needs.

When you contact us you will be allocated a Victims First Officer who will discuss any emotional or practical needs you may have. You will work together to put in place a support plan which could involve referring you to one of our specialist services for further support.

### Our Services

We have a number of specialist services which include help for victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse. We may refer you to one of our specialist services depending on your needs. The type of assistance available includes:

- **Telephone support**
- **Face to face support**
- **Advocacy, including, help to access other services such as sexual health clinics, drug and alcohol services and legal services**
- **Support through the criminal justice system (if you have reported the crime to the police)**
- **Therapeutic Counselling**

## Contacting Victims First

You can speak to a Victims First Officer about any of our services and receive support by:

Phone: 0300 1234 148

Monday and Wednesday - 9am to 5pm, Tuesday and Thursday - 9am to 7pm and Friday 9am to 4.30pm

Or

Complete our [online referral form](#)

Victims First is managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley. For further information about the commissioning of services to support victims of crime, please visit the Police and Crime Commissioner website

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The tennis club has been in existence since around 1970 and originally the Parish Rooms were used as the Tennis clubs own pavilion with entrance directly onto the tennis courts and for a period there were also floodlights for the courts.

Since that time, the clubs' facilities have reduced to our own equipment shed, with the Club using the sports and social club or the Barn for its events/functions.

The courts were however re-laid around 4 years ago, with new fencing erected and the courts provide a good surface to play on, as well as a great location with views over the local AONB.

Membership is currently around 100 this year and we have benefited from having 2 coaches this year – Edwin and Greg. Edwin is providing group/individual coaching at weekends with Greg providing some coaching in the week.

We run a men's, ladies and a mixed team in the local summer and winter leagues.

We have regularly provided free tennis sessions for the village primary school and the cubs/scouts ranging from a six-week Friday morning session to a two-day session linking into the school's sports week and have been pleased to be involved with the annual free sports days/jubilee celebrations.

We are currently looking to finalize weekly coaching sessions for a local Special Educational Needs school as part of a national campaign to provide sessions to more disadvantaged groups. We are hopeful that this may start in the autumn.

We are a friendly club, open to all abilities and are happy to provide free taster sessions before any formal joining is needed. Our subscriptions are very low e.g., adults £58 pa., seniors £33pa and juniors/students £24pa- family memberships are also available.

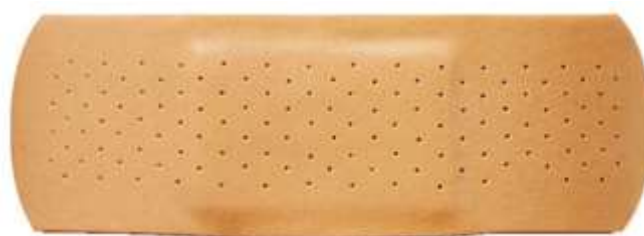


One court is made available to the public outside of any club sessions, subject to prior payment of £5 per hour and arrangements for access being made.

If you would like further detail, please either look at our website [www.purleyonthamestc.co.uk](http://www.purleyonthamestc.co.uk) or contact Colin on 07495 271906.

We look forward to continuing to welcome new members - please do not be shy! We get great pleasure from seeing the steady progress that new novice members make with the help and support of the coaches and our supportive club members.

Article by Colin Moses



**The Next Repair Café at the Mad Duck**

**On Saturday 10 September between 3:00pm and 5:00pm**

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## Thought for the Month.



**"The depressing thing about tennis is that no matter how good I get, I'll never be as good as a wall."**

Mitch Hedberg

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***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 20<sup>th</sup> 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*