



NEWSLETTER

January 2023, issue 68

Looking forward

The New Year

with

New Beginnings.



What's On in Purley



Berkshire Family History Society

The society is offering a packed programme of events in February and March, some of which are featured below. Pre-booking is required for some events, at others you can just turn up. The society is a registered charity, number 283010.

To find out more about all of the society's events and to book places – visit the society's website at: website <https://berksfhs.org>

Thursday 9th February 2-3.30pm Talk: The hidden history of Reading's War Graves and Memorials with Liz Tait (tickets £5)
venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, 2nd Floor,
Reading Central Library

Saturday 11th February 11am – 1pm Workshop: WW1 Navy Records for Family Historians with Richard Marks (tickets £10)
venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, 2nd Floor,
Reading Central Library



Thursday 23rd February – 2-3.15pm Talk: **Titanic Effort! RMS Carpathia's dash to save a stricken**



liner with Paul Barnett (tickets £5) Zoom

Tuesday, 28th February – 2.30-3.30pm Tour: **Holy Trinity Church, Reading** with Ron Cutting (tickets £5)

Titanic survivors on the Carpathia, 1912

Monday, 6th March (1st of 6 sessions) –7-9.30pm 6-week Course: **Beginners' Family History** with Chad Hanna & Gillian Stevens (tickets £35) Zoom

Thursday, 9th March – 2-3.30pm Talk: **Tracks to the Trenches** with Mike Hurst (tickets £5) venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading Central Library

Trentham Bowling Club

2022 was one of Trentham Bowling Club's most successful years for so many reasons. Our men won their divisions in both the KL (Kennet League) and the KLV (Kennet Over 55) Leagues, while our ladies also won their division in the TVLL (Thames Valley Ladies League). All our teams will be promoted to a higher division next season. Trentham were also represented in several County competitions and were successful in reaching the semi-finals of the mixed fours. This was a fantastic day with lots of members turning up to cheer on and support our team. We also have our very own Lauren Coles who was successful in getting to the Bowls England finals at Royal Leamington Spa, representing the under 25's.

In addition to the league games, we played many friendly games, both at home and away, as well as in-house competitions and fun days, all in all, a very busy season for our bowlers. Our summer trip to Worcester was a great success and we played 4 games against teams in that area over the long weekend. However, the season turned out to be over far too quickly and we were sad to see it come to an end.

We are pleased to say that Trentham is a thriving bowling Club and membership remains high. Quite a few new members joined us this year, we always welcome new bowlers to our Club, whether experienced or never bowled before, all are welcomed.

Purley on Thames WI

Guests and new members are always welcome at our regular meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm in Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley. Alternatively, our programme is available via our webpage on the WI's national website thewi.org.uk or get in touch via purleyonthameswi@berkshirewi.com or by telephone: 0118 9428448, Marilyn Hoare (President)

Project Purley

Project Purley, Purley's local history society, meets monthly in The Barn at Goosecroft.

Our February meeting is on Friday 17th starting at 7.30pm. Our speaker for the evening is Richard Marks who will be talking about the "History of Sutton Seeds".

Suttons Seeds was an iconic institution in Reading for decades and many of us will be familiar with its products. Richard will explain how it all began and what it was like to work for the company. He will talk about how the company built its global reputation for reliable seeds and plants which were guaranteed across the world.

Non-members are very welcome to join us for the evening and we just ask for a donation of £3.00 to help towards costs. Our membership year begins in January, so this is a great time to join. This is £23 for two people living at the same address or £16 for single membership. If you enjoy history and would like to discover more about the history of Purley's and the local area – why not come along and either try us out or join on the night.

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 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 regularly meet with some of the community groups regarding use of the Barn here at Goosecroft.

In a meeting with the Scouts, we were 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.

If you could volunteer to help and want to be put in touch with the team who manage the local scouts please email us and we will pass your detail on to them.

Christopher Thompson

Clerk

Purley on Thames Parish Council

clerk@purleyonthames-pc-gov.uk

Vacancy for Clerk to Governors, Purley CofE Primary School

Purley CofE Primary School Purley Village, Purley on Thames, RG8 8AF We are looking to appoint a Clerk to Governors Up to 170 hours per annum Pay Grade E £10.59 - £11.69, gross per hour (Depending on experience) Are you: – an efficient and effective administrator, – highly organised, confidentiality aware and able to keep to deadlines, – an effective communicator with strong literacy, numeracy and IT skills, – able to work flexibly, at home as well as at school? Would you like to: – work alongside a committed, professional governing body and staff, – develop a career that supports our flourishing school, – make a difference to the lives of young minds? Then we might have the job for you at our school where we “learn to love, love to learn”! Knowledge and experience of school governance and the education sector is preferable but not essential. Clerking support and training will be available. Closing date: Applications considered upon receipt Interviewing: By arrangement Further details are available from our website: www.purleyprimaryschool.co.uk Tel: 0118 9842384, Email: recruitment@purley.w-berks.sch.uk Visits to the school are welcomed Our School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks along with other relevant employment checks. We are committed to securing genuine equality of opportunity in all aspects of our activities as an employer and education provider



From Your Parish Office

Towards the end of last year a number of people contacted us with concerns around safety for children attending Purely Primary School. They focused on several issues:-

- 1) The lack of space for safe walking and crossing of the roads to get to the school on foot, with the pavement being narrow and only on one side of the roads leading to the school.
- 2) Inconsiderate parking of cars by people dropping children off for school and either blocking the road, being on the pavement, or being in a position restricting the vision of other road users -both vehicle drivers and pedestrians.
- 3) Speeding vehicles- some clearly rushing to drop children off at school or leaving having dropped of their children and others trying to get passed the school traffic.

The Parish Council were asked to look into this and consider speed cameras, speed bumps, a designated crossing, barriers etc. As a result of these enquiries the Parish Council have carried out their own observations. It is clear that there are some people who are speeding through the village in the area of the school. It is also clear that there is some really inconsiderate and even at times dangerous parking and stopping. One example is of a parent realising they had not given their child something they needed for school and literally stopping in the middle of the road, holding up all the traffic and ambling across to their child to hand them the bag, ambling back to their car before making some dismissive gestures to those held up behind him and who dared to complain.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council is not the Highways Authority. West Berkshire Council is not only the education authority with responsibility for schools and safety around schools, but also the highways authority with powers relating to the roads, pavements and signage.

The Parish Council has considered trying to undertake some speed watch activities near the school, but can't unless the site is approved, and we understand that for various reasons the site is not deemed suitable for speed watch activities.

So, we are making these requests:-

- a) To parents with children at Purley Primary School, please consider if you really do need to drive to the school to drop off or collect children. Could you walk? If you do have to drive, please try to make sure that you stop and or park somewhere that is safe for you, your child or children and for other road users, in particular children.
- b) Please do not speed on the roads around the school doing so puts children like yours at risk.

For our part as a Parish Council we will be taking up the issues of road safety around the school with West Berkshire but the more people that raise this issue with West Berkshire the more likelihood there is that something will happen.

We have also raised this matter at the local Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) meeting which unlike many NAGS always has a police presence. Our local Police Neighbourhood Team have yet again taken on board the comments and are proposing to take some action to monitor issues around the school and try to educate drivers.

Elsewhere in the village at locations that have been approved we will be deploying speed watch and if anyone wants to volunteer to join us, please feel free to do so- contact the Parish Office to discuss.

After all the issues that arose last summer with anti-social behaviour along the riverbank and elsewhere in the village is now the time to prepare for this summer? Is there any merit in considering Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the village?

If anyone is interested, please contact the Parish Council Office and we can provide you with details of who to contact to try and set up a scheme.

The Parish Council is delighted to hear of yet another excellent initiative by the Mad Duck.

Following their provision of a warm space for those in need they have achieved 'Safe Place Status'

As Mandy and Donna explained this means that both residents and visitors to Purley can call on the café for help and support if they are anxious, scared or feel at risk whilst out and about.

For example, if you are out alone walking and for some reason feel unsafe perhaps because you think you are being followed, you can call the café who will send two members of staff to meet you, and take you back to the café where you can arrange someone to meet you or they may even be able to help get you home.

If you suffer panic attacks and one occurs, you can call them. A member of their staff suffers panic attacks and knows exactly what to do -so you are not alone there.

If your children come to the river on a hot summer's day, be sure to put the Mad Duck number in their phone. Then if for any reason they need help or somewhere to feel safe, they can call the Mad Duck and again their team can be there for them. As a parent you have peace of mind.

Feel Anxious - Scared - Threatened - At Risk

Log the Mad Duck number in your phones!

07429232316

Ask for Mandy or Donna and just say 'SAFE' state your location and DO NOT hang up stay on the phone.

This is a brilliant service available to those in Purley provided by one of your local businesses.

We want volunteers to join a focus group as to the recreation facilities in the village- we already have a handful of volunteers but if anyone else is interested in influencing choices of play equipment please contact the office by email to clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk or 0118 984 4507.

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

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 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](#)



Spotlight on Project Purley

By Catherine Sampson

Project Purley was founded in 1982 and is the local history society of Purley on Thames. The society is committed to researching, recording, preserving and sharing the history of our village. Most people join because they want to find out more and because they enjoy history generally. As you can see from the date, Project Purley has just celebrated its 40th birthday!

A regular programme of monthly meetings is held at The Barn in the Goosecroft Recreational Ground, off Beech Road, at 7.30pm on the third Friday of the month. These usually include a talk on an aspect of local or social history – covering Purley and the wider local area. Recent topics have included: the landscape of Purley Hall, the River Thames before time, Reading’s lesser-known industries, and Jane Austen’s Schooldays. Anyone can come to our talks, although occasionally pre-booking is required, if the evening also includes a meal. Talks are free to members, and we request a donation of £3 from non-members. This includes tea, coffee and biscuits after the talk.

At Christmas the society holds a party, which invariably includes food and a quiz – the last few years the food being curry with accompaniments – which has been very popular.

In the summer, there is a programme of visits and activities. One is usually a trip that is further afield and via coach, another a more localised visit or walk. Last summer, members and their guests enjoyed a vintage fashion show and afternoon tea, and a tour round Purley Church and the marina, followed by a cream tea. Other visits have been to places such as Bletchley Park, Littlecote House, Portsmouth Royal Dock Yard, and the villages of Ewelme and East Hendred. On occasion,

trips have been even further afield, with a five-day visit to the First World Battlefields of France and Belgium in 2017, during which members laid poppy wreaths on the graves of some of Purley's fallen. The society usually also holds either a barbecue or fish and chips supper in the summer.



Littlecote House and grounds



Inside East Hendred Manor House



A number of the society's members are involved in research and contribute articles to their thrice-yearly journal together with other publications. The society's archive, a mixture of collected items and donations, is very extensive and includes an excellent electronic archive of historical photographs of Purley, including this one on the left, which show Pond Field (with pond!) looking across to Ivy Cottage, taken about 1900. New items are always welcomed

Some of these photographs were included in the society's first big publication *Purley in Old Images* (2010, £20 – available from secretary@project-purley.net). The society's smaller publications include a substantial number of individual booklets on aspects of Purley's history, such as place names.



Mrs Mary Baylis, then Lord Lieutenant for the Royal County of Berkshire, was guest of honour at the launch of *Purley in Old Images*

Since 2005, Project Purley has hosted performances by the Rain or Shine Theatre Company in The Barn. This is a professional travelling theatre company and what began as a once-a-year visit, is now usually two. As well as supporting this talented group of actors, the performances have brought much pleasure to audiences over the years and the profits have helped local good causes. Almost £15,000 has been raised to date, with the beneficiaries including Singing for the Brain, Alzheimer's Research, Duchess of Kent Hospice, Launchpad, Purley Park Trust, Deaf Children's Society and West Berkshire Stroke Care.



David Downs presenting a cheque to Larry Grady of Purley Park Trust



Tim Metcalfe of Home Farm with old farming implements at Project Purley's Platinum Jubilee Exhibition

Since its formation, Project Purley has organised, or contributed to, many exhibitions including: The Opening of The Barn, 1995, A Wilder Celebration, 1997, Millennium Exhibition, 2000, The Golden Jubilee Celebratory Exhibition, 2002, St Mary the Virgin Church Exhibition, 2006, Diamond Jubilee Exhibition, 2012, Armistice Centenary Exhibition, 2018, and Platinum Jubilee Exhibition, 2022. These are usually free to enter so that everyone can share in the amazing heritage we have in Purley.

If you're interested in the history of Purley, you'll probably enjoy exploring the society's

website, which has a large number of articles and photographs – see below for website address. You may also be very interested in joining Project Purley. It's a thriving society with a large and friendly membership. Membership is £23 for two people living at the same address or £16 for single membership. You can join at a meeting or get in contact with any of the committee via our website: www.project-purley.net



The Next Repair Café at the Mad Duck

On Second Saturday in the Month between 3:00pm and 5:00pm

Thought for the Month.



Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.

Albert Einstein

Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today.

Thich Nhat Hanh Vietnamese Monk

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 you 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