

# NEWSLETTER

August 2023, issue 72

## Introduction

Last month's newsletter started with an introduction from the Chairman relating to Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs), which are a link between the police and the local communities.

At the last NAG meeting the emphasis from the police was that it helps them if all crime is reported – even if the crime cannot be solved and offenders brought to justice, sometimes the crime report provides useful information, and also the nature and number of crime reports can have an impact on police resources.

We are lucky here to have a Neighbourhood Police Team who attend meetings, (not all councils have that), and what's more they contribute, listen, and do act on issues that are raised with them. Within days of the last meeting with them they ran an operation down by the river relating to anti-social behaviour.

Then they organised a "Have your Say" session on Tuesday 4 July. Despite the bad weather a handful of hardy parishioners turned up in the pouring rain and were welcomed into the Barn to speak to the members of the local neighbourhood Policing Team.

There was some feedback that an afternoon session and at short notice limited those that could attend. This was fed back and the response, well, it was almost immediate and the next "Have Your Say" session is now scheduled for **Friday 13 October between 5 and 7pm**, in the Barn here at Goosecroft (this is obviously subject to any last-minute urgent commitments) This is your opportunity for you to engage with your local policing team.

We have had cause to report several incidents of anti-social behaviour and the experience is that an online report is straightforward to do and does not take a great deal of time – for anyone with basic IT skills perhaps 10 -15 minutes.

Below is guidance from our local team as to the reporting options, and a reminder that some issues are not police matters but should be referred to West Berks Council



**IF A CRIME IS IN PROGRESS OR A LIFE IS IN DANGER, CALL 999**

All non-emergency crime reports and enquiries can be made online at

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

or over the phone by **calling 101**.

Some reports are best directed to your local authority:

- Fly-tipping
- Abandoned vehicles
- Nuisance noise
- Litter in a public place

Details for your local authority can be found at

[www.gov.uk/find-local-council](http://www.gov.uk/find-local-council)

# Local News

## Reporting problems

West Berkshire Council deal with the resolution of all sorts of problems from potholes, dog fouling, streetlights, graffiti, etc. You can report any issues that you have online via the WBC website. Just follow this link: [Problem Reporting](#).

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## Planning Applications

West Berkshire Council invites Purley on Thames Parish Council to comment on planning applications within the parish. The Parish Council's input is not binding upon West Berkshire Council, but comments may be considered in reaching a decision.

You can also see the details of any planning application via the [Planning Portal](#) on the WBC website. If you scroll down to the bottom of the Planning Portal webpage you will find a map showing recent planning applications in WBC. You can zoom in on the map to just see Purley on Thames. Also, an orange notice should be displayed at the boundary of any property/location subject to a planning application.

Any individual can comment on a planning application, both for and against, direct to WBC by [email](#).

The Parish Planning Committee meets about every two weeks. The meeting is open to the public and there is opportunity for you to comment on any particular application. To see the agenda for the next meeting, which details the planning applications to be considered, see [Planning Committee meeting](#).

## Allotments

Our waiting list for allotments for parishioners has reduced significantly over recent months, so if you are interested in becoming an allotment holder, please download an application form from our website and send it in to The Parish Office, Goosecroft Lane, Purley on Thames, RG8 8BW. You will then be added to the list and contacted when a plot becomes available. Please call/mail the Amenities Officer if you need further information on [amenities@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:amenities@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk).

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## 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**

(except for Bank Holidays)

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

Alternatively, you can call us on 0118 984 4507 or email the Clerk at [clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk)

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## Local Sports Activities

### Purley on Thames Cricket Club



Purley on Thames Girl's Cricket Team

Follow this [link](#) to see forthcoming cricket fixtures.

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# Local Club Events

## Purley on Thames Horticultural Society

The Purley Horticultural Society and Purley Women's Institute Late Summer Show will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road. It will be open to the public between 2.30 and 4.00pm, to admire the exhibits, take part in the raffle, enjoy tea and cake and applaud the winners.



The full show schedule is available on the [PHS website](#) and **any** Purley resident is welcome to enter, provided he/she is an amateur as defined by the rules. The schedule includes the entry form, timings for the entrants and details the various prizes which can be awarded.

Do take a look at the classes and see if you can be tempted to join in – there are also 4 classes and an award (the Golden Jubilee Cup) especially for children.

(The PSG Community Lunch is taking place in the Memorial Hall grounds, from 12.00 midday on 9<sup>th</sup> September)

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We would like to provide information of any activities that local clubs or societies are undertaking within the village or that might be of interest to residents of Purley on Thames. These can be regular or one-off events. If you would like us to include a bit about your event, please email [Cathy our Administrative Clerk](#) with the details.

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## Other Events



Did you know that there is access to a foodbank in Purley on Thames?

St Mary's Church are partnered with Readifood and distribute food parcels to a small number of residents, but to receive this assistance you would need to have gone through official channels.

The official channels to obtain support are that you would need to be referred to Readifood by an agency such as Reading Borough Council, Social Services, the Job Centre, a Doctor, School, or indeed any professional body/agency who will be able to vouch for your need. The agency referring will have to vouch for a genuine need on your part and provide Readifood with some information that you must be willing to have disclosed.

However, if you are in a position to donate food, they also have a Readifood collection box stationed under the church porch. Every couple of weeks the contents are delivered to the Readifood warehouse.

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## Repair Café



**The Repair Cafe in Purley on Thames operates monthly on the second Saturday of each month from 3 – 5pm at the Mad Duck Cafe where refreshments are available**

### **Forthcoming Events**

**Saturday 12th August** "Repair Café - 3pm - 5pm - Mad Duck Café  
Bring any broken items for free advice, repair and learn how to fix yourself

**Sunday 13th August** Teracycle - 7 Beech Road RG8 8DR - 8am - 4pm

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## **Purley Memorial Hall – Coffee Morning**

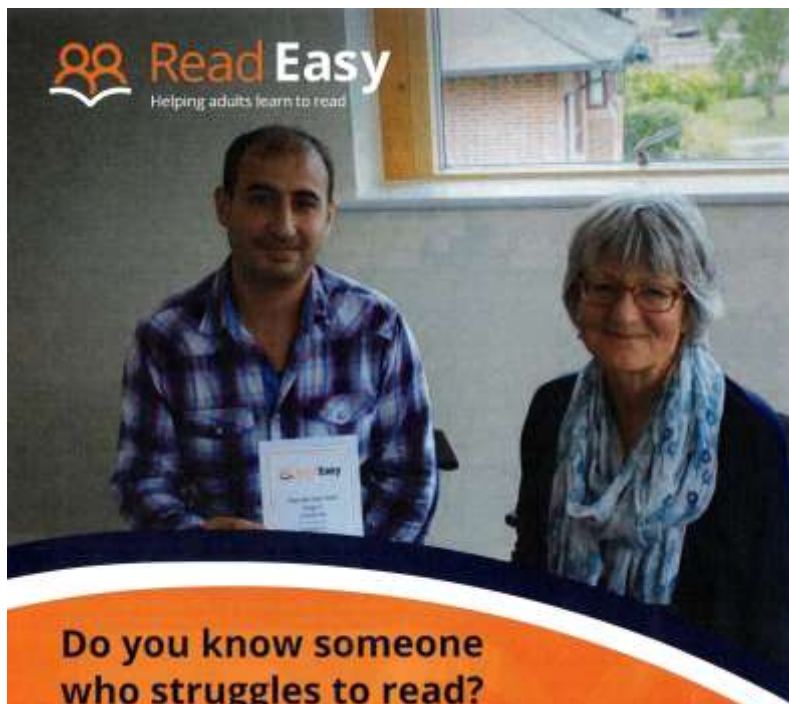
Open for Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

Come and have a chat, exchange a book or meet up with friends

Every Tuesday from 10:30am till 12:30:pn

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## Do you know someone who struggles to read?

**Read Easy provides free and confidential  
one-to-one reading coaching for adults.**

People can learn to read or improve their reading skills at their  
own pace and without pressure. It's friendly, flexible and fun!

**To find out more,  
please contact:**

Read Easy - Swindon & West Berkshire

Please contact:

Mark Ingvorsen, Team Leader, 07748 276959

Email: [swbleader@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:swbleader@readeasy.org.uk)

**[readeasy.org.uk](http://readeasy.org.uk)**

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**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**



***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 Word (12 pt Calibri) and/or picture format. Submissions as pdfs may be rejected. Please email your copy to the [Cathy](#) 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 Cathy Gainsford – Administrative Clerk, Purley on Thames Parish Council*