



# NEWSLETTER

September 2023, Issue 73

## Introduction

I had planned to provide an article for each newsletter and began with one on Pikeshaw, a wooded area that we own and manage as a facility for those within the parish. Last month however we focussed on more pressing matters for the newsletter and my facility item was held over until today.

So, this article features Bucknell's Meadow off Mapledurham Drive. This is an area of open space that the Parish Council owns and is used for recreation. There are no changing or toilet facilities and as building there would be difficult, it is used for informal recreation rather than organised sports.

Currently we have 2 goalmouths for football, an outdoor gym that was renewed 2 -3 years ago, a children's play area along with a Muga (no not the violent thief!) but a multi-use games area with goalmouth, basketball hoop, cricket stumps. We also have a zipwire and several benches, picnic tables and rubbish bins.

Over the last couple of years, we have added new items of play equipment and replaced a set of swings that were nearing the end of their working life, added a new recyclable bench, and a second means of access.

New items have been selected based on feedback that the Parish Council has sought and obtained - we want to provide what is going to be popular and used.

Dogs are not permitted in the recreation area – the playground is too big to enclose and separate from the remaining empty space both economically and practically.

Possible plans for the future include: more benches and picnic tables, an outdoor table tennis table, replacement of the zip-wire, planning of an orchard with the Purley Sustainability Group and a path around the field to make access easier for all and provide a facility for walkers and runners alike.

Since funding this facility is not cheap we have to pay to have rubbish bins emptied, to inspect, maintain, and repair equipment. So, the more that people clear up after

themselves when using the site and the less damage there is the more there is to spend on improvements.

Unfortunately, in recent weeks we have had a rubbish bin set alight, and one of the gates forcibly and deliberately removed.

So please help us to help provide you with more facilities – if you see people vandalising or damaging the equipment contact the police or the Parish Council offices.

You can also help us with feedback as to what you would like to see in Bucknell's Meadow. For example, do you or perhaps more importantly your children or grandchildren want a zip wire? Would you use a path around the inner perimeter of the field to walk or run? What do your children and or grandchildren enjoy in other play areas that we do not have?

Please email any ideas to the [clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk). We also have a number of local residents who have agreed to meet with us - if you would like to be a part of a focus group, then please email us.

*Christopher Thompson*

*Purley on Thames Parish Council Clerk*

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## Local News

### Fly Tipping

An incident took place recently where a tree surgeon, unbeknown to their client, dumped the debris from their work on Parish Council land. As well as this being antisocial it also involves the landowner in arranging to pay the cost of removing the "fly tipping". If you employ any contractors, can I ask that you please make sure that any debris is correctly disposed of. There are several open green sites in Purley on Thames, which are privately owned, and we need to keep them green and tidy and not use them as a place to dump any unwanted rubbish. This applies equally to any green waste that you need to dispose of. West Berkshire provides a fortnightly service for the collection of green waste for a small annual fee. There are also recycling sites at Padworth and Newbury that you can book and where you can dispose of most rubbish for free. See [www.westberks.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling).

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## **Alderman of West Berkshire**

On 20 July, I was pleased and honoured to cast my vote to make Rick Jones the immediate past chairman of West Berkshire Council an Honorary Alderman of West Berkshire Councillor.

In supporting this nomination, Councillor Richard Somner said,

“I'm delighted to support this nomination. From our first meeting during his by-election campaign in 2014, Rick has been nothing but supportive to colleagues and was always determined to represent his constituents and residents of West Berkshire including as Parish Chairman before his district election success.

I think it was easy for the then leadership to see just how much Rick had to offer and his collaborative approach was rewarded with portfolio holder positions from 2017. These senior positions culminated in 2022-2023 when Rick was elected as Chairman of WBC. All were thoroughly deserved, and I hope that Rick and his wife, Val, enjoy some quieter times now.”

Rick has lived in Purley on Thames since 1985 bringing up his family, getting involved with the Purley school PTA, Purley Scouts, Purley on Thames Tennis Club and Project Purley all whilst working in London.

In 2003 he became a Parish Councillor and undertook a number of roles including Chairmanship of committees before becoming Chairman of the Parish Council in 2006 and serving in that capacity until 2015. During this time, he sharpened the professionalism of the Council, management of the office and focussed on staffing, facilities, financial management improvements, communication with residents and the Village Plan. He introduced an award for Villager of the Year and a Flood Warden scheme as well as improving community safety, roads, footpaths, allotments, woodland areas and a village planning strategy.

So, it is little wonder that Rick was enticed to become a District Councillor. In this capacity he helped many residents of the village and the district holding various posts as Executive member of WBC focused on Internal Resources, Adult Social Care and Health & Wellbeing.

Our village was proud to see him on television representing the committees involved and it was to be expected that his talents and dedication would be recognised in his elevation to Chairmanship of West Berkshire Council in which capacity he was ably supported by his wife, Val.

It is entirely fitting that he was voted by those of all political parties at West Berkshire Council, unanimously, to be made an Honorary Alderman of West Berkshire. He joins John Chapman, also of Purley on Thames, in achieving this honour.

Many congratulations Rick.

*Cllr Jane Langford - Tilehurst and Purley Ward and Purley on Thames Parish Council.*

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## 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](#).

[clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@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 telephone 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**

### **The Women's World Cup and its Influence on Community Football**

**Written by Lilly W, Darcey B and Lily B - U14s PJFC Diamonds.**

With the World Cup being in everyone's thoughts at the moment, the PJFC Diamonds have been reflecting on how the Lionesses and Sarina Wiegman have sparked a sense of community, inspiration, and pride that football brings to us as a country. We have watched as the Lionesses have been cheered on by sell-out crowds and billions of TV viewers across the world. As players in a girls' football team, we find the Lionesses' resilience, bravery and perseverance through the games truly inspiring.

The FA have recorded a recent, large improvement in attendance at women's football games, which has provoked a larger number of girls getting involved in grassroots football. Between 2017 and 2020 there was a 54% increase. We estimate this number will continue to grow. This has led to increased research into women's sport, an example of this is that Nike have released a new boot, the Luna Elites, designed for women, who are up to eight times more likely to get an anterior cruciate ligament injury, to help prevent such injuries.

Football opens doors to new opportunities, builds teamwork and important life skills, and it significantly improves mental health and wellbeing. At Purley Jubilee, our club allows players to reach their full potential and our girls' team, the Diamonds, are always looking to build from season to season. We are eager to watch on as the awareness of women's football grows and we are extremely proud to be a part of this story.

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### **Purely Sports and Social Club**

The Parish Council are happy to support the 50th Anniversary of the Purely Sports and Social Club. The Club have a programme of events scheduled for the weekend of 9 and 10 September. Please contact the Club for details.

# Local Club Events

## PURLEY BARN BRIDGE CLUB



This thriving club holds its informal Friday morning sessions at the small barn and is becoming increasingly popular with several new members joining recently. Start time is 9.45 a.m. and we play until around 12 30 p.m. with a break for coffee, biscuits, and a chat. No partner is needed - just turn up and play

relaxed bridge with a variety of partners some of whom are beginners and some more experienced but all of whom are friendly and welcoming.

The club ran a successful stall at the Barn

Coronation cream teas day on May 8th and the

summer party took place on July 21st. Our next

event is the ever-popular Bridge Drive on

September 29th in the big barn. Doors open at

12.30 and play is until 4 pm with a break for a

tasty tea. The cost is £48 for your table of 4 which will be payable in advance. There is a raffle with prizes and a donation from the proceeds will be made to Macmillan Cancer Support.



Joining a bridge club is a great way to meet and mix with sociable local people who share the same interest as you and you can try three sessions at the club for free. To find out more about joining the club or how to reserve and pay for your bridge drive table call Martin on 07746 680183 or Angie on 07979 543164 or visit the club web site [www.bridgewebs.com/purleybarnbridge](http://www.bridgewebs.com/purleybarnbridge) and click on **Future Events**

## Purley on Thames Horticultural Society

A reminder that 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.

The show 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.



Any Purley resident is welcome to enter, the closing date is 5<sup>th</sup> September – the full show schedule is available on the [PHS website](#). The schedule includes the entry form, timings for the entrants, rules and the various prizes to be awarded.

(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

**Pangbourne Neighbourhood  
Police Team**



- **Come and meet your neighbourhood policing team**
- **Tell us about the issues that matter most to you**

<b>Type:</b>	Have Your Say
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 13 October 2023
<b>Time:</b>	1700 - 1900
<b>Venue:</b>	The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Purley on Thames, RG8 8DR
<b>Contact:</b>	Pangbourne Neighbourhood Police Team

Neighbourhood Policing Working in partnership to make our community safer



May I use this publication to thank the Thames Valley Police for their extra vigilance along the Thames Path around Purley on Thames recently to keep all safe especially our younger parishioners enjoying the sunshine, freedom from exams and awaiting the results of those exams. Although I did not see them myself, I heard that Police horses were deployed along the Thames to further assist. This was in response to ongoing consultations with the Police by your local Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) of which I have been a member for some four years. The NAG asked for extra vigilance to keep all concerned safe and the Police responded readily and strongly, but with kindness and consideration to all. I thank them heartily and look forward to working with them in the future to keep our village such a lovely place in which to live work and play.

*Cllr Jane Langford - Tilehurst and Purley Ward and Purley on Thames Parish Council.*



## **MedicAlert and Thames Valley Police: Introducing Safe and Found**

There are currently 944,000 people living with dementia in the UK. On average, around 40,000 are reported missing every year.

**The MedicAlert Foundation, in partnership with Thames Valley Police, have launched a dementia safeguarding programme, Safe and Found. This new initiative supports those living with dementia and other memory or cognitive conditions.**

Safe and found is available nationally and enables people living with dementia to securely store their Herbert Protocol form digitally. This document contains information that aids a missing person search, giving the police a better understanding of who they are looking for, what they have done previously and what they may be likely to do in the future. It includes places of importance, routines and habits, their connections, medical details and more.

The Herbert Protocol is a proven strategy in reducing search time and increasing the chance of the individual being found safe and well. MedicAlert is helping to speed up the process by providing quick access to this critical information in an emergency.

**Chief Superintendent Mike Loebenberg from Thames Valley Police said:** “When a family member or friend goes missing, it is an incredibly distressing time for those desperate to know where they are. This fear and distress is exacerbated when that individual is living with dementia.

“Completing and keeping an up-to-date Herbert Protocol form printed or saved and easily accessible is really important, but we know this can be challenging. MedicAlert is a service that can help, by storing information and working to keep it up to date and accessible for officers if it is needed.

“As a MedicAlert member myself, I know this partnership will provide loved ones with peace of mind that Thames Valley Police can access important information quickly and save time in the search for those missing. I hope this offers reassurance to those living with dementia and their families.”

The support of The McLay Dementia Trust makes the Safe and Found programme even more accessible.

**MedicAlert and The McLay Dementia Trust will be providing the first year of MedicAlert membership free to anyone living with dementia in the UK.**

“The MedicAlert charity is making dementia a priority. We are very proud to work with Thames Valley Police and The McLay Dementia Trust. These partnerships ensure you can feel safer and more comfortable to continue being active, socialising, and living well

with dementia. Wherever you go, we will be with you.” says Mark Hacker, MedicAlert CEO.

“MedicAlert has also launched the Carer ID and storage of Emergency Care Plans to support carers. This ensures that, should a carer have an accident, their loved one receives appropriate and continuous care.”

To find out more about Safe and Found or how to apply for free membership through The McLay Dementia Trust grant, please visit the links below:

- [medicalert.org.uk/mclay-dementia-trust](https://medicalert.org.uk/mclay-dementia-trust)

- [medicalert.org.uk/safe-and-found/](https://medicalert.org.uk/safe-and-found/)

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Can you help  
Read Easy support  
local people who  
want to improve  
their reading?

**Volunteer with us**

Read Easy is a volunteer organisation that provides free and confidential one-to-one reading coaching for adults. We have exciting opportunities for volunteers to join the team running Read Easy locally.

**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](https://readeasy.org.uk)**

© Read Easy UK. All Read Easy groups are legally and financially independent local organisations, affiliated to Read Easy UK (Registered Charity: 1181386).

# Repair Café



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

## Forthcoming Events

Saturday 9th September Community Lunch - This will be held at the Memorial Hall in Glebe Road in the outside grassed space from 12 Midday to 2.00pm.

Saturday 9th September “Repair Café - 3pm - 5pm Mad Duck Café Bring any broken items for free advice, repair and learn how to fix it yourself.

Sunday 10th September Teracycle - 7 Beech Road RG8 8DR - 8am - 4pm

[See Parish Council website for more details.](#)

**PURLEY ON THAMES  
OUTDOOR COMMUNITY LUNCH**

**MEMORIAL HALL, GLEBE ROAD | SAT 9TH SEPTEMBER | 12PM ONWARDS**

Purley Sustainability Group are delighted to invite you to join us at the Memorial Hall for a free, community lunch before the Purley Horticultural Show\*. We will serve dishes created using the produce grown on our allotments. Also, you can learn more about PSG and visit the allotments.

\* show opens at 2.30 pm  
For information, email: [purleysustainability@gmail.com](mailto:purleysustainability@gmail.com)

**Free LOCAL LUNCH**

Please walk or cycle as **parking** is limited

If able, please bring a picnic chair/blanket and a re-usable cup

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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:pm

### *Purley Memorial Hall*

# Special Sale -5<sup>th</sup> Sept

10:30 till 12:30

New "end of line" school clothes (girls and boys)

New "end of line" pyjamas (ladies, girls and boys)

New "end of line" girls, boys, ladies and men's  
clothing

**CASH ONLY**

All proceeds to Duchess of Kent Hospice

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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 Word (12 pt Calibri) and/or picture format. Submissions as pdfs may be rejected. Please email your copy to [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*