

NEWSLETTER

October 2023, Issue 74

Introduction

This month I want to remind everyone of one of the other services that the Parish Council provides for its residents, the Allotments.

Purely on Thames Parish Council has one allotment site which is located across the railway bridge off Winston Way. From there the views across the valley are stunning.

In total we have 132 plots- although rather misleadingly none are called plots- the largest size that we offer is a half plot (more than enough for most) and we have 105 of these, then we have 22 quarter plots and for those that want to try out allotment life or just want something smaller, we have 5 micro plots.

Historically allotments were provided by councils to help people produce food, particularly those less well off. A Parish Council by law must provide allotments if more than 6 people within the parish make a formal request for one, but despite this not all Parish or Town Councils do provide allotments.

Rents for the plots that we offer are heavily subsidised and include the provision of water, parking, a notice board, and maintenance of the common areas as well as general administration of the site. Currently the annual rents are:

Half plots £27.00, Quarter plots £16.00. Microplots £10.00

Concessions are offered to those of state pensionable age. The rental year begins at the end of September so if you are interested in an allotment now is a good time to let us know.

Allotment holders are given an agreement which in effect is renewed each year unless either they choose to give up their plot or they are unable to keep the plot in a reasonable condition. The agreement sets out various rules and restrictions and it is fair to say that these are different in each and every Parish and have evolved from the days when allotments first started.

We have an allocation system to be fair to those within the Parish whose precept helps subsidise the allotments, so first on our waiting list are those within the Parish who do not have an allotment. We do permit others who live locally but not within the Parish

to have plots, as long as we are satisfied that they are close enough to be able to tend the plot and as long as there is no waiting list of those within the Parish for a first plot. Next on the list we offer second plots to those existing allotment holders within the Parish that may want them, and then we offer second plots to those existing allotment holders outside the Parish who may want them. By that time all allotments are generally allocated!

The waiting list does fluctuate, whilst most allotment holders remain for many years some allotment holders do give up their allotments. People move away, choose to retire from allotments, some try having an allotment and find it is not for them, but generally those that give up their plots do so with some reluctance and not because of issues on the site. So, it is always worth being on the waiting list.

From visits, inspections, and maintenance work I know how much the allotments mean to many of those that work them. It is a lovely location, very peaceful and people are friendly and helpful, the sense of pride and community is clear. We are greatly assisted with this and the day-to-day routine management of the site by our Honorary Allotment Manager.

Having said all that, we do have our share of dramas even in this peaceful corner of the Parish. For example, the delivery truck to a nearby property that demolished the gatepost and drove off and whose owners we successfully tracked down, meaning that they paid for the repair work to save the Council (and therefore you) having to do so, and more recently an unexpected visitor obviously keen to jump the waiting list!



So if you are interested in giving it a try, you don't have to be a professional, just make a commitment to keep the plot neat and tidy and not disturb or inconvenience other allotment holders why not make contact with our <u>Amenities Officer</u> to see if we have a plot for you or to put your name on the waiting list.

Chris Thompson – Clerk Purley on Thames Parish Council

Local News

Winners of the BBC Radio Berkshire Make a Difference Award - Mad Duck Café



The Parish Council congratulates the Mad Duck on winning the Great Neighbours award in the BBC Radio Berkshire Make a Difference competition

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.



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 telephone on 0118 984 4507 or email the Clerk at clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk

Grants

Purley on Thames Parish Council is pleased to announce that we will again be running our Small Grants Scheme in 2023/24.

If you consider your organisation meets the requirement specified in our Small Grants Criteria, as set out in our <u>Grants Policy</u>, then please apply.

The maximum grant we will consider is for £1000, although it is unusual for us to grant this amount.

There is a minimum amount of money available in our Small Grants budget so we may not be able to meet all requests. The more information you can supply on why you are asking for a grant the better. Also, if your application consists of several items then please itemise them in your application, as we may be able to meet part of your request if we can't meet the full request.

Applications must reach the Parish Office by 30th November 2023

Please fully read the <u>Grants Policy</u> document and make sure that you meet all the criteria, complete an <u>Application Form</u> and supply any documentation requested.

If you have any queries about Grants, please contact the Clerk.

Local Sports Activities

PURLEY JUBILEE FOOTBALL CLUB

Purley Jubilee Football Club was founded in 1977 and played its first ever football match as part of the village celebrations of the Queens Silver Jubilee, hence the significance of "jubilee" in the club's name.

This season, 13 of the club's 16 teams will be based at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground, Goosecroft Lane, off Beech Road, Purley on Thames for their home fixtures which take place on either Saturday mornings or Sunday mornings and afternoons from mid-September until the end of March.

Purley Jubilee is an F.A. Charter Standard football club which means it is compliant with all the regulations and standards that are set by the Football Association at this level of football.

The club seeks to provide coaching, training and match day football activities for boys and girls from Purley and the surrounding areas.

The football club has a "Management Committee" which ensures that the club remains financially stable and is run in the best interests of the 200 plus young players within its charge.

This season Purley Jubilee Football Club will be running 16 teams ranging in age from U7's up to U17's. The club also runs a Development Squad on a regular basis for the youngest age groups in order to provide qualified coaching for beginners.

Organised sports activities within the local community can often be beneficial to young children in respect of their general wellbeing. The Goosecroft Recreation Ground is the local hub for organised sports activities whether it be football, cricket or tennis.

If you would like to find out more information about Purley Jubilee Football Club then please contact Steve Chinn, the club Chairman, on 07823 559190 or visit the club website.

Local Club Events

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.

Other Events

Pangbourne Neighbourhood Police Team



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

Type: Have Your Say

Date: Friday 13 October 2023

Time: 1700 - 1900

Venue: The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Purley on Thames, RG8 8DR

Contact: Pangbourne Neighbourhood Police Team

Neighbourhood Policing Working in partnership to make our community safer





Repair Café



You can find further information regarding dates and times for the Repair Café/Other Events and Recycling on the PSG website.





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



Jake Morley Saturday 7th Oct 2023

Jake Morley has earned a reputation as one of the best lap-style guitar players in the world. Combining guitar, piano and drums into one instrument with seemingly impossible dexterity, he is an artist to be seen as well as heard.

With influences from Paul Simon, Newton Faulkner, Elbow & Gotye, Jake is one of the UK's most distinctive & interesting songwriters at the top of his game and we cannot wait to welcome him back to Village Concerts!

Thomas Heppell Saturday 18th Nov 2023



Thomas Heppell, now based in Windsor, plays Blues, Jazz and also his own compositions. He has been playing guitar and singing for over 10 years, and has performed with Chicken Shack, been on the Voice and performed at festivals such as Swanage Blues and Broadstairs Blues Bash – and even recently supported Anton du Beke at Melbourne Hall in Derby. Thomas will get your foot tapping to some good old classics, with a few familiar favourites and some originals.

"Thomas has the old school acoustic blues sound down and it's evident he is a writing and singing natural." - Johnnie Walker BBC Radio

Tickets: Earlybird Adult £12, Youth £8; Full-price Adult £15, Youth £10 www.villageconcerts.co.uk



Could you support a family in need? Volunteer for Home-Start West Berkshire

"What gives me the most satisfaction is the knowledge that supporting the family will have a positive impact.

This is the most crucial stage to offer support as a preventative measure."

Home-Start Volunteer



This exciting and rewarding voluntary activity requires energy, commitment, reliability, creativity and good organisational skills. Our volunteers support families in their own homes once a week. Full training is provided.

Training Course dates:

Introductory Session	About the Course (online)	Friday 29th September	10-11am
Session 1	The Role of a Home-Start Volunteer	Friday 6th October	9.30-12.30pm
Session 2	Values, Attitudes and Listening	Friday 13th October	9.30-12.30pm
Session 3	Supporting Parents and Meeting Children's Needs	Friday 3rd November	9.30-12.30pm
Session 4	Safeguarding and Confidentiality	Friday 10th November	9.30-12.30pm
Celebration Session	Bringing the Course to a Close	Friday 17th November	10.30-12.30pm

Home-Start volunteers tell us...

"I am beginning to realise that my knowledge of just being a mum and all the training you are giving me should hopefully be enough to get me started."

"Parenting provides you with a wide range of skills and knowledge. Volunteering with Home-Start is an opportunity for you to share your parenting skills and experience with a family that really needs it".

For more information or an application pack, please contact our office on 01635 760310 or email office@home-startwb.org.uk



Rainbow Trust comes to Reading

School holidays can be a challenging time for all parents. But sadly, these challenges can sometimes reach seemingly impossible proportions for families living with a very sick child. And this is where we at the Rainbow Trust can help. We're a charity that supports the families of children with life limiting or terminal illness. We're here not just for the school holidays but throughout the year to provide emotional and practical support 24/7. From organising medical appointments and providing safe transport through to support during bereavement and grief, we're here to help ease the burden.

We've recently opened a new branch in Reading from where our wonderful team will be bringing this support to your community and beyond. You can find out more about our work, including how to refer a family to us via our website www.rainbowtrust.org.uk. Please also get in touch if you are interested in volunteering with us as a Volunteer Driver or Volunteer Support Worker, or if you're a business which is interested in partnering with us. Please contact our Family Support Manager, Natalie for an informal chat on 07749 416062 or via email.

If you have feedback to give Your Parish Council or wish to provide an article on what interests you: this could be 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 20th of the month.

Many thanks - Editor

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The Editor is Cathy Gainsford – Administrative Clerk, Purley on Thames Parish Council