

NEWSLETTER

April 2025, Issue 90

Introduction

Hello!

My name is Pamela Beddoes, and I was brought up in a lovely coastal village in Carmarthenshire, West Wales. At 18, I headed for the bright lights and studied at the University of London, graduating in Geography with Geology.

My first job was with Cheshire Education Authority in Chester, until we moved to Mumbles, on the Gower peninsular, near Swansea. I then joined the Civil Service, recruiting staff for the then newly established DVLA. A few years later, a family followed, together with a move to West Berkshire.

As the children grew up, I ran a small cake and catering business, which ideally enabled great flexibility for the school run. Later, I returned to the Civil Service, working for Border Force at Heathrow and Farnborough airports, specialising in forged documents and private aviation.

My interest in the voluntary sector began at university, organising the 'rag' to raise funds for charity. Then, when we moved to Purley, I thoroughly enjoyed organising the summer barbecues, together with live music, for the Purley Beeches Residents Association. This later developed into being an active fundraiser for the PTAs at both Westwood Farm Primary school and Denefield school, which the girls attended.

Then sixteen years ago, I joined Purley on Thames Parish Council and over the years, have had responsibility for the Barn, Burial Ground, grants, playgrounds, Villager of the Year, plus organising village events for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and the Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Currently, I represent PPC on the Pangbourne and District Volunteer Service committee and am a trustee at the Memorial Hall, where we held a children's 'tea party' for 70 children to celebrate the King's Coronation. Also, the 'warm hub' held at PMH every Tuesday morning is very popular, and you would be guaranteed a warm welcome!

Two exciting future projects I am involved with are the community shop at Goosecroft and the reinstatement of the cafe at Mapledurham Lock.

Last year, I also became a trustee on the local charity, Connecting Communities in Berkshire, which advises on rural housing, fuel poverty and village halls throughout the county. Moreover, I am an active member of the Project Purley committee, the local history society, and we are looking forward to organising an event at the Barn on Monday, 5th May to commemorate VE Day.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has volunteered to help with the above events over the years. Your help has been greatly appreciated.

Councillor Pam Beddoes

Local News

Community Champion Awards

I am delighted to share that one of our parish councillors, Pam Beddoes, has been recognised in the West Berkshire Council Community Champion awards, being Highly Commended in the Lifetime Achievement category. The awards ceremony, which

honour individuals and community groups who have gone above and beyond to support residents across



West Berkshire, took place on 18th March at Shaw House, where winners and highly commended nominees gathered to celebrate their achievements.

Since 1978, Pam has devoted her time and energy to initiatives that bring people together and make a lasting impact. In addition to serving on Purley on Thames Parish Council, Pam is an active member of several organisations, including Project Purley, the Pangbourne Volunteers Management Team, and as a Trustee for CCB.

This well-deserved award celebrates Pam's dedication and service to Purley on Thames. Well done Pam!

Sharon Way, Clerk, Purley on Thames Parish Council

At your service

Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre



Going to see the doctor, dentist, optician or attending a hospital appointment?

Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre have been providing transport for our senior citizens and less mobile neighbours since 1984.

Maybe we can help you too.

For further information contact our friendly office staff between 9-30am - 11.30am Monday to Friday on: 0118 984 4586

There is no charge for this service but we do invite donations.

Got some time to spare?

We are actively recruiting volunteer drivers and office staff. Drivers will be asked to provide two referees, have an appropriate roadworthy vehicle, a current driving licence and permission from their insurer to undertake voluntary transportation.

Mileage is reimbursed at 45p per mile.

Volunteering with the Pangbourne and District Volunteer Centre is one of the most rewarding ways of serving your community.

You are free to do as many runs as you are able and it is OK to say no.

For further information telephone: 0118 984 4586 or email: pangbournevolunteers@outlook.com

Area covered: Pangbourne, Whitchurch, Sulham, Tidmarsh, Purley on Thames,
Upper & Lower Basildon, Parts of Tilehurst,

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.

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 <u>Planning Portal</u> 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 <u>email</u>.

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 <u>Planning Committee meeting</u>.

West Berkshire Council has introduced a free online service to allow residents to check to see if planning permission is required for any possible building alterations. This service will make it easier for residents to understand if they need to submit a planning application for items such as solar panels, loft conversions, adding an outbuilding or adding a dropped kerb. You can access this new service on the West Berkshire Council "Do I need Planning Permision?" webpage.

West Berkshire Council also offer planning pre-application advice service for which a fee is chargeable. More information about this can be found on the West Berkshire Council's <u>pre-application advice service</u> webpage.



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 - 2.00 pm

Thursday 2.00 pm - 5.00 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

Local Sports Activities

Cricket - there's something for everyone at Purley

Purley on Thames Cricket Club is a welcoming, inclusive club that offers cricket for everyone starting with children from 5 years old through the All-Stars programme, junior and girls' squads, women's softball cricket, senior squads and right through to Walking Cricket for the over 55s.

New players and volunteers are always welcome. The club is entirely run by volunteers and the Committee would welcome offers of help from anyone with a few hours a week to spare.

Anyone interested in joining the club can come along to the pre-season events and find out more or contact the cricket coordinators through the website www.purleyonthamescc.co.uk

What's on at Purley on Thames Cricket Club

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 April - Get Set weekend - help us get the grounds and clubhouse ready for cricket season.

Saturday 5 April - Quiz and fish & chip supper - the popular, annual quiz night always sells out, so get your tickets quickly! Booking details on the club website calendar.

w/c 21 April - outdoor training starts - check the website for details

Sunday 11 May - T20 DOUBLE HEADER: Purley on Thames vs Bradfield - come and support both the women's and the men's teams in our first double header fixture. Women's match 1.00pm, men's match 3.00pm

Friday 30 May - BBQ night at the Goosecroft - join us on the last Friday of the month over the summer

Sunday 22 June - Chairman's XI v President's XI - the annual intra-club match

Details of events and league matches on our website calendar.

Purley on Thames Cricket Club's teams:

Senior

First XI - Division 3 - Thames Valley League Division 3A, Captain - George Wheeler

Second XI - Thames Valley League Division 6B, Captain - Andrew Jackson

Third XI - Thames Valley League Division 9B, Captain - Nick Turner

Sunday XI - friendly team, Captain - Sam Harlowe

Midweek XI - Downs League, Captain - Sam Jugg

Training on Thursday evenings after Easter. Interested in joining our senior squad - contact Nick Turner, Adult Cricket Coordinator.

Women's

Women's Eagles Soft Ball Cricket (includes girls age 14+) - Division 2 - Berkshire Women's Soft Ball League, Captain - Sarah Fryer

Launched in 2023, the Purley Eagles are an inclusive, supportive team. Girls aged 14 and over and women of all ages are welcome to join - beginners welcome! Training on Friday evenings after Easter. Contact Fiona Salvage, Women's and Girls' Cricket Coordinator, for more details.

Junior (mixed) U9, U11, U13, U15

Our junior teams play softball (U9s) and then progress to hardball (from U11s). Many of our players have gone on to play for Berkshire and the MCC Hub. Training on Mondays and Tuesdays after Easter. Contact Steve Musson, Junior Cricket Coordinator, for more details.

Girls- U9 and U11 – softball, U13 – hardball, U15 - hardball

Over 30 girls play cricket at Purley, and we're keen to welcome more - complete beginners welcome. Outdoor training on Friday evenings after Easter. Girls have gone on to play for Berkshire and the MCC Hub. Contact Fiona Salvage, Women's and Girls' Cricket Coordinator, for more details.

Walking Cricket (over 55s)

Walking Cricket for Life (Longevity, Inclusion, Friendship and Exercise) returns outdoors at the Goosecroft on 23 April. Walking Cricket is for all over 55s and is a slower version of the game providing good exercise in a social and enjoyable environment.

The sessions are from 11am to 1pm each Wednesday throughout the summer, ending with a cuppa and chat.

We welcome all - men and women, experienced players and complete beginners - if you are interested, please contact Karen on 07849 203780.

Get in touch

Visit <u>www.purleyonthamescc.co.uk</u> for more details of our teams and events. Contact us at <u>purleyonthamescc@hotmail.co.uk</u>.

Come along to the Goosecroft (Goosecroft Lane, off Beech Road, Purley on Thames, RG8 8BW) and see us play!

Local Club Events





Project Purley

Friday 25th April at 7.30pm
The large Barn at Goosecroft.

A talk by Peter Halman "Amusing the Victorians – how entertainment developed"

Guests and visitors - £5

Members - Free

Queen Victoria may not have been amused, but her subjects certainly hoped to be. This talk will explore how leisure activities transformed from simple local pastimes to the grand spectacles of music halls and popular seaside holidays.

VE Day 80th Anniversary in Words, Images and Music – Project Purley and other local organisations & individuals



Monday 5th May
2 - 4.30pm – doors open 1.45pm
The Barn, Goosecroft



Tickets £5 per person from Marjorie Butler on 0118 941 8856 or at a Project Purley meeting Pre-booking required

Doors open at 1.45pm and our event begins at 2pm. Discover Purley during the Second World War. Find out where spitfire parts were made in the village, how we welcomed children, families and businesses evacuated from London, how Purley Park River Estate expanded into a village within a village and read about the eventful bops in their community hall. Discover the stories of

those who served in the armed forces and on the home front and our connections to the "Great Escape" and the infamous Thai-Burma Railway. Maybe you'll find a former resident of your home served in the war?

There will be an exhibition, Pathe Film news clips, music, images and a talk, in two halves, by historian Mike Cooper on "The Collapse of Germany in 1945". The ticket price also includes tea/coffee and cake.

The afternoon will end about 4.30pm.

Pre-booking is required as numbers are limited.

VILLAGE



CONCERTS

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

Chris Cleverley in Concert Saturday 5th April 2025



Chris Cleverley's boundary-shattering 'Dream-Folk' song-writing sits on the cutting edge of modern folk. A true guitar-man, his elaborate alternate tunings, percussive rhythms and ambient sound design flow beneath a visceral lyrical style inspired by the Lo-fi American Greats, Elliott Smith & Sufjan Stevens; a curious tapestry weaved from the hazy psychedelia of the 60s folk revival and the soulful oblivion of 90s Pacific Northwest. Awarded FATEA Male Artist Of The Year 2019 & 2022, we are delighted to welcome Chris Cleverley to Village Concerts in April 2025!

"Rather lovely Electro-Folk' -Mark Radcliffe & Stuart Maconie – BBC 6 Music



Emma Stevens in Concert Saturday 4th October 2025

Life has been something of a whirlwind for the down to earth surfer chick from Guildford, since embarking on a solo career in 2012 and bursting onto the scene with her distinctively catchy pop melodies, fused with folk instrumentation and a touch of country. Bringing a refreshing glimmer of hope and an abundance of heart and positivity, Emma Stevens' music breathes life and honesty. After 4 radio 2 playlists, an iTunes single of the week, and over 40 synchs on TV in the UK, Emma's profile then exploded in China following her track, A Place Called You being featured on a prime-time TV show watched by over 75 million viewers. The late great Sir Terry Wogan and Chris Evans have been fans - we're sure you will be too!

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

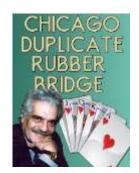
PURLEY BARN BRIDGE CLUB

The social club that plays bridge





This popular club meets at the historic Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Purley every Friday at 9 40 a.m. for a morning of social bridge with neighbours and friends from Purley, Pangbourne, Whitchurch, Tilehurst and round and about. The club is the nearest official club to Pangbourne and Tilehurst with regular sessions twice a week. You don't need a partner nor do you need previous experience to play and free coaching at convenient times is available if you want it



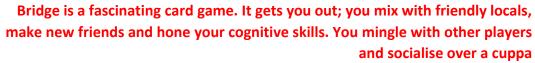
The club has recently held its AGM where it was confirmed that there had been a significant increase in membership since 2024. The members thanked outgoing chair Alex Meikle for his leadership during the year and elected Angie Grindley as the new chair. Angie is a local resident who is a parish councillor and also a member of Friends of Purley Barn – the home of our club. Many new members have highlighted how they enjoy the informal social aspect of the club where the Friday morning focus is on Chicago bridge. This enables members to move from table to table

meeting new faces and catching up with old friends. As Omar Sharif – a top class player in his day - would confirm there are different versions of bridge but it is the Chicago format which makes Purley Barn so popular compared to other more formal clubs.

One reason for the huge popularity of bridge has been the internet. Most clubs play both face to face and on line and there are also many on line bridge sites which you can sign up to and play hands nonstop with players from all over the world. Or, keep in touch with friends and family and play with them across continents.



Most clubs – including Purley Barn have an on line duplicate session. At Purley this takes place every Tuesday at 7 pm for 2 hours and is more competitive than the Friday morning social bridge and where a partner can be arranged if needed. The software is easy to use; you log on, see and chat to your opposing pairs and then let the computer take over. Easy!



Purley Barn Bridge Club: ample free

Call Martin on 07746 680183 or visit: https://www.bridgewebs.com/purleybarnbridge/

parking, disabled facilities and all mod cons

AFFILIATED CLUB

P.S STOP PRESS! At the AGM the Treasurer confirmed that membership fees would not be increased this year! 'Say that again' we hear you say. It's true! Your grocery bill goes up in price but your bridge costs stay the same. What's not to like? See you up at the Barn!





Join us at

PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL Glebe Road, Purley on Thames



SUNDAY 11th MAY 2025

Grounds Open 12 noon - 5pm

BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC





DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON A

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

Berkshire Family History Society

Based on the second floor of Reading Central Library, Berkshire Family History Society runs a research zone there to help people research their family history. It also holds regular events both there and on Zoom, most of which are open to members and non-members alike. The Society is a registered charity (CIO) number 1204390. You can find out more about all these events, plus reserve your place, on our website: berksfhs.org.

Here's a few of our events coming up in April:



On Thursday 10th at 2pm, our face-to-face talk in The Centre is by Richard Stowell "From the White Man's Grave to Cemetery Junction: the story of Mary Smart". Mary Smart was just 17 years old when she died in 1849 to become one of the earliest people buried at Reading's London Road Cemetery. Who was this 'pious African girl', and why was she in Reading? Richard Stowell has unearthed the fascinating story of Mary's brief life, the time she

spent in England, and the family she left behind in West Africa. Tickets cost £5 per person and include tea/coffee and cake afterwards. You can pay at the door, subject to availability.



Our monthly Zoom talk is on Thursday 24th at 2pm. **David Cufley** will be talking about **Ratcatchers**! The 19th century saw a rapid rise in urbanisation, often resulting in overcrowding and congestion. This not only made things difficult for humans but created an enticing environment for rodents. As a result, a new profession arose – the rat catcher. This new industry was highly sought after, and in turn gave rise to modern rodent control. Speaker David Cufley will describe how the

ratcatchers plied their trade and earned their money, including sporting events involving rats that took place in pubs. Prebooking is required and tickets cost £5 per person.

Please see our website, berksfhs.org, for full details.

Purley Sustainability Group

Being sustainable in the garden

Purley sustainability has in the past, provided ideas and tips and hints for sustainability in the home (can be found www.purleysustainability.co.uk/sustainhome), but as we move into Spring, we thought sustainability in the garden may help. Remember, gardening can be big or small and can be enjoyed regardless the size of your space. Also, remember that you will also receive the benefits of the sunshine and the exercise – and social interaction.

Have a plan – this doesn't have to be grand or elaborate – but think about what you may want to achieve and what tools and equipment you may need ahead of time. If you go into any garden centre, they are full to the rafters of stuff. Some items are essential – but are they always? Before buying new items, do you have any friends or family that may have items you could borrow? Also check out library of things https://www.libraryofthings.co.uk/heatmap/reading.

For the items that you know will be used over and over, check out second-hand shops and websites too. Buy Nothing in Purley is a great Facebook page which may have what you need.

We understand that sometimes buying new is required but do choose carefully. Try to find items that are sustainably made, easily recycled or biodegradable, and where possible avoid the plastic. Perhaps purchase locally too – please see below for details about the local Horticultural Societies in our communities.

As part of the plan, think what you may have already; be creative and reuse and recycle, and give things a new lease of life. Basic items like washing up bowls can be turned into planters, bird baths or mini ponds. Broken bricks or pots can be used as crocks in other containers, chipped saucers can become bird baths for example.

Some household waste can be repurposed too – for example toilet roll tubes can be used for starting seeds.

Reduce waste

Your pile of fallen leaves can be made into leaf mould to use as mulch.

Try to keep an area of your garden undisturbed with leaves, twigs etc. for wildlife to forage in and build nests.

If you have excess items pass them on to people who need them. The Mad Duck Café has a seed swap so please make use of this.

Remember grass clippings and other plant waste can go on the compost heap or in your Green Bin (if you subscribe to the service).

Grow your own food and cut flowers

Some of the fruit, veg and flowers in the shops have an astonishing carbon footprint. Where you can, reduce your impact by growing your own, even in small spaces. Grow herbs on a windowsill, tomatoes in hanging baskets and strawberries in containers, or slot some food crops into your existing borders. Remember your own fruit and veg straight from your tastes delicious. Try to plant flowers/plants that will attract pollinators as well.

Be water wise

Rainwater is better than the tap. It's also cheaper and healthier for your plants too. Install a water butt or any large containers to catch. Alternatively, save your bath or shower water – known as grey water, it's safe for garden plants despite the soapsuds, though it's best to avoid using on edible plants.

Growing plants that don't need too much water/drought resistant may be wise too.

Mow lawns less often

Reducing your lawn cuts will increase your impact on the environment and allows grass to grow a little longer and wildflowers to bloom, providing valuable food and shelter for wildlife. It will also save energy, fuel and your time.

Avoid chemicals

Chemicals damage soil health, pollute water sources and harm a whole host of wildlife. Try to create a balanced ecosystem in your garden, offering food, shelter and plants that attract wildlife throughout the food chain.

Make your own compost

To make compost, mix layers of soft 'green' material, like grass, flowers and kitchen peelings, with drier, harder 'brown' material, like small sticks, dead stems and bits of cardboard. Composting saves the energy used to produce shop-bought, plastic-wrapped compost, and avoids the transport costs and greenhouse gasses associated with plant and food waste going to landfill.

Grow your knowledge

PHS Gardening Club operates a small trading store, for members, with a stock of regularly used gardening products such as composts, fertilisers, pest control products, flowerpots and a small range of garden tools. Larger gardening items may be ordered. In the spring, discounted purchase of Sutton seeds and other products is available.

Membership is currently £4.00 per year per member. You can join at the Trading Store next to Purley Memorial Hall in Glebe Road and is open from 10:00 to 11:00 every Saturday during the months February to October and on Wednesday evenings between 5:00pm and 6:00pm, from April to June. PHS host talks and meetings, details can be found on their website.

Your membership card may be used to get discounts at various gardening suppliers including Englefield Garden Centre and Collins Hardware in Pangbourne.

For more information, visit www.purleyonthames.org.uk/PHS/

The Tilehurst Horticultural Association (THA) aims to provide to the gardeners of Tilehurst, sundry goods in realistic quantities and reasonable prices and increase the knowledge of and interest in, gardening in general. They also have a <u>Trading Shed</u> situated in Gratwicke Road, open Sunday Mornings for members (Membership is by Annual subscription of £6.00 per year, or £3.00 for seniors).

THA also host regular talks by experts on various Horticultural and gardening topics. These are held at the village hall in Victoria road and are free to members.

Visit tilehurstha.org.uk/ for more information.

Purley Sustainability Group (PSG) is a community sustainability group for Purley on Thames. We are passionate about enhancing community wellbeing through projects that bring people together to improve our local environment and encourage sustainable living.

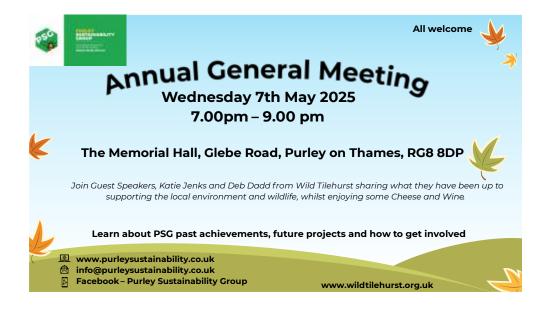
For more information:

www.purleysustainability.co.uk

info@purleysustainability.co.uk

Facebook - Purley Sustainability Group & Purley on Thames Repair Café

Please do get in touch if you want to learn more or become a volunteer at the allotments, or at the repair café or want to subscribe our newsletters and keep abreast of our events.





Repair Café



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

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 20th of the month.

Many thanks - Editor

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.

Purley on Thames Parish Council is not responsible for the content of third-party websites.

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