

NEWSLETTER

November 2025, Issue 97

Introduction

Welcome to the Latest Parish Council Newsletter

A roundup of news, updates, and opportunities in our parish.

Chairman's Reception

We recently held our Chairman's Reception, a wonderful opportunity for members of the community to come together and enjoy an evening of conversation and connection. During the event, Graham Chapman was announced as the recipient of the Chairman's Award in recognition of his outstanding work as our honorary allotment manager. Graham's dedication makes a real difference to our parish, and we are delighted to acknowledge it.

We would also like to give a special thank you to Cllrs Abrams, Beddoes and Evans, who prepared all the delicious food for the reception, and to Catherine Sampson, Chairman of Project Purley, who put together the very interesting Purley in the War boards. Their contributions helped to make the evening enjoyable for everyone.

Small Grants Now Open

We are pleased to announce that our Small Grants process is now open! These grants provide local groups with an opportunity to receive funding for projects that benefit our community. If your group has an idea or initiative that meets the criteria, we encourage you to apply. Applications must be submitted by 31 January 2026. Full details, including eligibility requirements and guidance on how to apply, can be found on our website: www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk.

Parish Boundary Survey

A quick reminder to share your views on the proposals put forward by West Berkshire Council and Reading Borough Council, which represent potentially significant changes to the local governance of our parish. Please take a few moments to complete our short survey on our website – your feedback is important and will help the Parish Council represent the community effectively.

We hope you enjoy reading about the latest news, events, and opportunities. Thank you for staying engaged and helping make our parish such a vibrant and connected place to live.

Sharon Way, Clerk, Purley on Thames Parish 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](#).

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](#).

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 Permission?"](#) 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 [pre-application advice service](#) webpage.

Are you affected by Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)?



The National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS) offers a host of FREE services to provide the information and support you need.

Online

Our website has a range of articles, stories from our community, videos, blogs and much more!

nras.org.uk



Right Start

Right Start supports people living with RA to understand their diagnosis and how it is likely to affect them.



Helpline

Our knowledgeable Helpline team offer information and support and can be contacted on 0800 298 7650 Monday to Friday 9:30am-4:30pm



SMILE-RA

An engaging and interactive online programme to help people self-manage their RA.



Information Resources

Our publications cover a range of topics, including medication, work, relationships and how to manage stress and fatigue.



"Thank you so much for your excellent information, your wonderful compassion, and a knowledgeable listening ear. It meant the world to me just to know that there may be some help, and that makes me feel a little less helpless. RA can absolutely take over your life if it isn't managed properly and chronic pain is just so debilitating physically and mentally"
- Helpline user

"Every year our knit and natter group organises a tombola for charity. I nominated NRAS as I suffer with RA and it can be soul-destroying. Thanks to NRAS, we have meds that work, information aplenty and advice on treatment options."
- Helen

Find out how NRAS can help you and your loved ones living with RA and JIA.

Could you also hold a coffee morning, bake sale or fun fundraiser to support our work?

nras.org.uk



General: 01628 823 524 | Helpline: 0800 2987650

National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS) is a registered charity in England and Wales (1134859) and Scotland (SC039721).
A private company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales (7127101).





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 Club Events

PHS Gardening Club

Dates for your diary:

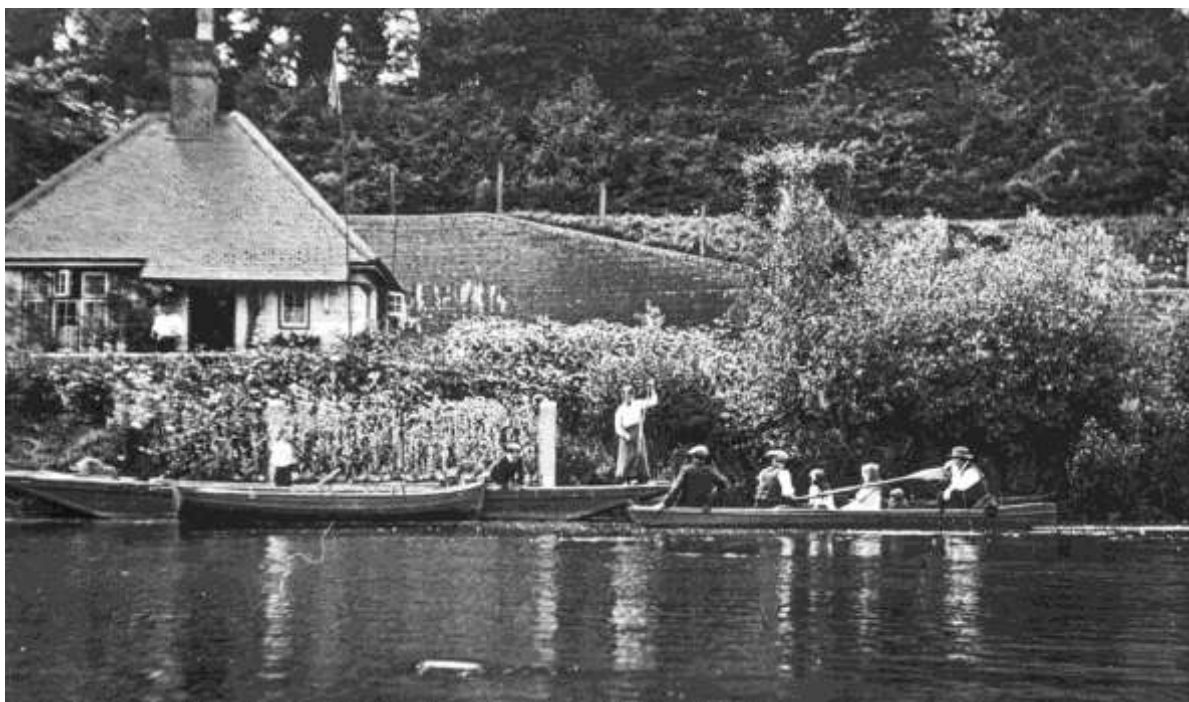
On 19th November @ 7.30 for 8.00 pm, Iain Tolhurst of Tolhurst Organic will tell us about Stockfree Organic Vegetables.

All our events are held at the Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, RG8 8DP. Guests are very welcome and will be asked for a £2 contribution towards the cost of speakers and overheads.

New members are very welcome – join at the Trading Store, or at one of our events; membership is only £4.00 per year and attracts discounts at Englefield Garden Centre and Collins in Pangbourne. Members can also obtain 50% discount on seed purchases from Suttons.

As an RHS affiliated society we hold a card that provides a 50% reduction on the normal adult rate to any of the RHS gardens for one paid -up member of the PHS gardening club and one guest. If you require further details or would like to borrow the card, please contact Tom Gallagher on 07806 507576.

Project Purley



Along The Thames and Railway from Tilehurst through Purley – a talk by Gordon Adams

Friday 21st November

7.30pm

The Large Barn, Goosecroft, Purley on Thames

Members free, non-members £5

This talk will initially look at the appointment of the Thames Commissioners to improve navigation on the River Thames, resulting in the building of the pound lock at Purley and the introduction of a horse ferry to overcome a gap in the towpath. It will then move on to the coming of the railway and the later opening of Tilehurst Station. We will then look at the links between the GWR and leisure boating on the River Thames, and end by looking at more recent changes to the railway through Purley on Thames.

Guests and visitors very welcome. Membership of the Society costs just £26 for two people at the same address or £18 for one person and lasts until the end of December 2026.

Berkshire Family History Society

As usual, we have a busy events programme ahead. Events are open to members and non-members alike and I have highlighted two of November's below. Full details of all can be found at <https://berksfhs.org/>

Berkshire Family History Society CIO is a registered charity, number 1204390.

Tuesday 18th November – 2 – 3pm – St Michael and St Mary Magdalene Church, Easthampstead Tour - £5 – pre-booking required



Join us for this guided tour of the parish church of Easthampstead. First mentioned in 1159, learn about this church's long history through the dissolution of the monasteries and the Civil War to the present day. Learn about the events and people closely entwined with the church and parish.

Thursday 27th November – 2pm - Online Talk “A Walk on the River Thames, Pangbourne to Marlow” by Bill King - £5 – pre-booking required



This talk describes the walk downstream past Reading, Sonning, Wargrave, Henley, Hurley and Bisham to Marlow through water meadows and some of the most beautiful and historic parts of the Thames valley. Bill is a popular speaker to the Society and his journey along the Thames is richly illustrated with images.

Thames Vale Singers

Christmas Concerts

'Make We Joy'

Musical Director - Katherine Walkem
Accompanist - Peter Bernard



Friday 5 December - Tilehurst Methodist Church, RG31 5AN
Profits to be donated to **Safes!**

Saturday 6 December - Purley Memorial Hall, RG8 8DP
Proceeds from the raffle to be donated to **Save the Children**

Doors open 7.30pm, concerts start 8.00pm

Tickets: £12 under 16s: £6
On sale from Tuesday 4 November 2025
From: 0118 942 4372 or
email: tickets@thamesvalesingers.org.uk or
online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/thames-vale-singers
(booking fee £0.50)

www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk



CHRISTMAS MARKET

SAT 29th NOVEMBER 2025
10.30AM - 3.30PM
FREE ENTRY

**AT PURLEY BARN and PSSC,
GOSECROFT, PURLEY ON THAMES RG8 8BW**





Santa & his Reindeer - Christmas stalls
Cake - Mulled wine - Refreshments - Games
Live Music from Pangbourne Silver Band
Silent Auction - Grand raffle

In aid of Friends of Purley Barn

In association with:





Join us for a spectacular celebration
of live music



Conductor: Victoria Benjamin

Featuring some of our all time favourites:

Riverdance, John Williams Swings,
Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, When the Saints Go Marching In

St Mary's Church, Thatcham
Sunday 23rd November
4.30pm

Tickets including refreshments



£12.50 adults
Group (9+) £10
£2.50 under 16s
Under 5s free

B BEENHAM
WIND
ORCHESTRA
25TH ANNIVERSARY
Registered Charity No. 1087848

www.beenhamwindorchestra.org

Purley Memorial Hall



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 22nd November
11:00am to 2:00pm



CASH ONLY
Refreshments

AVON
STALL

**New & Nearly New Clothing At Greatly
Reduced Prices**



*(Underwear, Pyjamas & Slippers donated by Tesco Extra,
Portman Road)*

**Raffle, Bottle Tombola, Jewellery, Lucky Dip,
Toys, Books, Plants, Christmas
Items & Home Preserves.**



FREE ENTRY – ALL WELCOME

All proceeds to Duchess of Kent Hospice

**Purley Memorial Hall is located in Glebe Road,
RG8 8DP**

Purley Sustainability Group



COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Let's Grow Together: Help Us Start a Community Orchard!

Imagine a place in Purley where fruit trees bloom, we learn about nature, and in future fresh apples are a few steps away. That's what we envision with a *Community Orchard* in Bucknells Meadow — and we need your support to make it happen

Why a Community Orchard?

✓ **Greener, Healthier Environment**

Fruit trees improve air quality, reduce heat, and support pollinators like bees and butterflies

✓ **Stronger Community Connections**

From planting to harvesting, an orchard brings us together. It's a shared space where everyone belongs

✓ **Hands-On Learning**

Kids and adults alike can learn about growing food, sustainability, and healthy eating

✓ **Peace of Mind**

Green spaces reduce stress and provide a calm, beautiful place to relax or walk

How You Can Help

- **Volunteer:** Plant trees, help maintain the orchard, or organise community events
- **Donate:** Funds go toward buying trees, tools, soil, and signage
- **Spread the Word:** Share our vision with friends, schools, and local businesses

Let's grow something beautiful — for our neighbourhood, our planet, and our future.

Join us at a Residents' Meeting,
to learn more and ask questions

Saturday 15th November
2.30pm – 3.30pm

Purley Memorial Hall
Glebe Road, Purley on Thames



WWW.PURLEYSUSTAINABILITY.CO.UK

[EMAIL: INFO@PURLEYSUSTAINABILITY.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@PURLEYSUSTAINABILITY.CO.UK)

Purley Sustainability Group

I think it's fair to say that in the history of PSG over the last five years, we've never had such a busy month!

We kicked things off with the community lunch, where almost 70 people gathered to enjoy a feast prepared with produce from the allotments. Just days later, a few committee members attended the BBC Make a Difference awards ceremony, where we were proud to receive a Highly Commended Award. While recognition is always encouraging, it's a reminder that the real heart of community work isn't about awards—it's about the difference we create together. Every step forward, big or small, helps us build something meaningful. PSG is deeply grateful for the encouragement and support of our community, and we remain motivated to keep working toward a more sustainable future. Some of you may also have caught Richard Coates talking about PSG on Radio Berkshire earlier this month!

We had the monthly Repair Café at the Mad Duck, and our volunteers thankfully repaired the elastic strips on our gazebo roof following the gusty winds at the lunch! The next evening, we joined Wild Tilehurst and around 30 residents for a Bat Walk near the lock. We were lucky enough to see Soprano Pipistrelles swooping gracefully over and under the little bridge by the fish pass. It was a magical evening, and we're thankful to Wild Tilehurst for hosting—check our website for details of future Bat Walks.

On Saturday 20th September, our allotment volunteers rolled up their sleeves for a working party. Jobs included clearing beds, emptying compost bins, tidying plots, and checking equipment. This was the first of several sessions, so if you'd like to get involved, head to our website for details of other sessions.

Sunday 21st September, we teamed up with PAWS for a fantastic Apple Pressing Day. Blessed with sunshine, the event drew families, friends, and neighbours of all ages. Everyone brought along apples—an amazing variety!—and the press was in constant use (with just a couple of quick repairs thanks to the ever-handly Repair Café volunteers). The waste was barrowed to Whitchurch allotments for composting, and countless bottles were filled with delicious, fresh apple juice. By the end, the area was spotless, with everything tidied away.

Although the winter months will be a little quieter, there will still be plenty happening with the Repair Café and the Recycling. Keep an eye on www.purleysustainability.co.uk to find out more and get involved.

Dates for the diary:

Repair Café – Saturday 8th November 3pm to 5pm at The Mad Duck, Wintringham Way.

Recycling/ Terracycle – Sunday 9th November at 7 Beech Road.

Residents' Meeting for the Orchard – Saturday 15th November at 2.30 – 3.30pm at the Memorial Hall

Wreath Making Workshops – Sunday 7th December – check website to make a booking

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 events.

**PURLEY
SUSTAINABILITY
GROUP**

**PSG A12/K4
WINSTON WAY
ALLOTMENTS**

ALLOTMENT

NO TIME FOR YOUR OWN ALLOTMENT?

FEELING OVERWHELMED BY UPKEEP?

If you still enjoy the social side and satisfaction of growing fresh produce, we'd love to hear from you!

PSG are looking for occasional helping hands with planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting.

It's a wonderful way to share your skills, stay active, enjoy the outdoors, and be part of a friendly community of growers.



What's In It for You?

- Fresh, organic veggies to take home.
- The opportunity to share your knowledge or learn about gardening and sustainability.
- A sense of connection with your community.

**CONTACT: WWW.PURLEYSUSTAINABILITY.CO.UK
INFO@PURLEYSUSTAINABILITY.CO.UK**

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.

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