



# NEWSLETTER

June 2026, Issue 103

## Local News

### Community Shop Project Ends

After much debate and research over the past 3 months, the Goosecroft Community Shop Ltd. (GCSL) group have reached the very difficult and sad conclusion that the proposed Community Shop and Café project cannot be made successful in any meaningful time and cost framework. We have therefore decided to halt the project and close the Community Benefit Society company.

Since late 2018/2019 a small group has been working to replace the old Post Office & Shop in Purley Rise with a new Community PO & Shop. A site near the Goosecroft was identified, and pre-planning was discussed with W. Berkshire Council. An extensive search of grant-funding bodies was initially encouraging, and we had success this year with a significant offer of funds from Greenham Trust and assistance from Sulham Estate on a site.

However, applications beyond that were not successful. In the current financial climate, organisations have refocused their grants onto areas of deprivation and poverty, and many have reduced or stopped their funding altogether. The cost crisis also made our plan to offer the village a CBS (community) share issue very problematic. Costs continue to rise above inflation, and the investment target keeps escalating.

We looked at how shopping has changed since we started the project in 2019 – many more people use delivery services, takeaways and couriers than when we started. We concluded that: -

- Need for the shop has eroded almost completely. Purley people have got used to alternatives.
- There is still a level of interest for a café in the upper village, but that is a commercial endeavour in our opinion and far from the original aspirations for a Community Shop.
- Since COVID, the small retail landscape has changed and continues to change rapidly and is extremely challenging even for established businesses.

Thus, it is our conclusion that the project is proving very challenging, and that the commercial success of the intended community business is now unlikely and very risky. We do not want to put other people's effort and money at such risk.

Needless to say, we are immensely grateful for your support over many years. We deeply regret that this support has not resulted in a successful asset for the village but feel it is the correct decision.

I'd like to especially thank our three chairs – Sue Briscoe, Virginia White and Rick Jones – and the other volunteers who have expended large amounts of their time on this project.

### **Outreach Post Office**

An Outreach Post Office runs at the small Barn on Monday's from 14:15 till 16:15. Initially it proved quite popular, but footfall has reduced over time to the point where its viability may need to be considered. For the time being the Outreach Post Office will continue in the Barn, subject to a review by the new owners of Pangbourne PO in 6 months' time. So, if you don't want to lose it, use it.

*Councillor Rob Wallace*

---

### **New Community Award Scheme Launched**

The Parish Council is today launching a new Community Award Scheme. The objective of the scheme is to recognise the individual or team who volunteer their time generously to provide outstanding activities for the enjoyment and benefit of the village and community of Purley on Thames.

We are now looking for nominations for the award, so if you wish to nominate a person or a team for the award then please complete a nomination form which will provide all the information needed.

A Nomination Form can be found at the end of this Newsletter

---

## Dates for the diary

The following table gives advance notice of dates for some events that may be of interest to you.

Date	Time	Event	Location
6,13,20 & 27 June 2026	9.00 – 16.00	<a href="#">Newbury Saturday Markets</a>	Market Place, Newbury
13 June 2026	12:00-19:00	<a href="#">Pangbourne Village Fete</a>	Pangbourne Meadows and Recreation Grounds
23 July 2026 – 26 July 2026		<a href="#">Heritage Live Concerts 2026 – Englefield Estate</a>	Englefield House, Pangbourne, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 5EN
12 September 2026	12:00 - onwards	<a href="#">PSG Community Lunch &amp; Purley Horticultural Show 2.30pm</a>	Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley on Thames
19-20 September 2026		<a href="#">Newbury Show</a>	Newbury Showground
4 November 2026	12:00-14:00	Christmas Charity Market	St. James the Less Church, Pangbourne
28 November 2026	10:30-15:30	Christmas Market	The Barn, Purley on Thames

---

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BEING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

Are you passionate about education and helping children thrive? We are looking for enthusiastic and committed individuals to join our governing board at Purley CofE Primary School.

This is a rewarding voluntary role where you can use your skills and experience to help shape the future of our school and support the best possible outcomes for pupils.

### What does a School Governor do?

Governors work closely with the Headteacher and school leadership team to:

- Support and challenge the school to achieve high standards
- Help set the school's vision and strategic direction
- Monitor progress, safeguarding, and finances
- Ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed

No previous experience in education is required — training and support will be provided.

To find out more or express an interest, please contact [chair@purley.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:chair@purley.w-berks.sch.uk)

## 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](#).

---

## Local Sports Activities

### Purley Jubilee F.C. End of Season Report

Purley Jubilee Football Club was founded back in 1977 and is based at its spiritual home at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground, Purley on Thames.

For season 2025-26 Purley Jubilee Football Club had 14 of their teams based at the Goosecroft Recreation Ground with over 100 fixtures being played during the 2025-26 football season.

The football club would like to express its thanks to Purley on Thames Parish Council for maintaining the facilities at Goosecroft in such good order, with special thanks to Martin Bishop for his kind assistance in his role as the Ground Manager.

During this season several of our teams have enjoyed league or cup success.

The U15's Panthers won their league remaining undefeated all season and have made it to a cup final to played later this month.

The U15's Lions Saturday team were both runners up in their league and cup winners.

The U15's Lions Sunday completed an excellent league and cup double.

The U14 Hammers also enjoyed league success with our U12's Lions and U12's Panthers also enjoying cup final wins.

On a sad note, our U16's Diamonds team have decided to make 2025-26 their final season. The girls have been together as a team since U8's and been true trailblazers within PJFC and in more recent times as the mainstay of the Denefield School girls football team.

Purley Jubilee Football Club will be holding their annual Presentation Evening at the Barn at Goosecroft on Saturday, 20th June, where both team and individual achievements will be celebrated.

*Rick Farrow*

---

# Local Club Events

## Purley on Thames Women's Institute May Report

Our May meeting was opened by Debra, our new president. We were delighted to be joined by Ann and John Ford who delivered a comprehensive presentation on 'Morris Minors in the Media'. This illustrated their business of hiring vehicles to the film industry and included a range of films and programmes they were involved with such as *Shadowlands*, *Harry Potter* and *Spitting Image*. They shared amusing anecdotes including a tiger on the roof of a car and Ann driving Fiona Bruce around Oxford in a vintage car. Ann and John also recounted their experiences with unusual weddings and their dealings with famous clients and actors. Members were captivated by the professionally presented talk. Following the presentation, they were able to browse the extensive collection of photographs and memorabilia. Ann and John were excellent speakers who we highly recommend.

Looking ahead, we have several events to enjoy. Firstly, our national online annual meeting and shared lunch will be held on 4th June. This will be followed by the most significant event on our group calendar this year, the celebration of the 90th anniversary of our group on 10th June!

Please mark your calendars for our Coffee Morning on the 20th of June from 10:30 to 12:30 at the Art Café, located just over the bridge in Whitchurch. Open to all, we will be serving tea, coffee and a selection of cakes for enjoying and taking away. A small selection of craft items will also be on sale.

Later in June we will be visiting the beautiful gardens at Lower Bowden Manor. Our next monthly meeting will be held on the 8th of July at 19:30 to welcome our speaker Ailsa Claybourn for a talk on birdwatching.

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact us using the details below or attend our meeting on the 8th of July. We would be delighted to welcome you.

*Jacqueline Powell*

*Secretary*

*Purley on Thames W.I.*

*[www.purleyonthameswi.org.uk](http://www.purleyonthameswi.org.uk)*

*[secretary.jacquie@purleyonthameswi.org.uk](mailto:secretary.jacquie@purleyonthameswi.org.uk)*

---

# Rain or Shine Theatre Company presents

The Pickwick Papers

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

Performance starts - 7pm (doors open 6.15pm)

The Barn, Goosecroft Recreational Ground, off Beech Road (RG8 8DR)

Tickets: £18 adult and £8 children (under 15s)



**Charles Dickens'**  
**THE Pickwick PAPERS**  
A FRIVOLOUS PURSUIT OF NOVELTY!  
RIOTOUS COMEDY

The Barn, Purley on Thames  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7:00pm  
Tel: 03306 600541  
[www.bit.ly/Pickwick-Purley](http://www.bit.ly/Pickwick-Purley)  
[rainorshine.co.uk](http://rainorshine.co.uk)  
[theatre@rainorshine.co.uk](mailto:theatre@rainorshine.co.uk)



The Rain or Shine Theatre Company is back for its annual summer performance in Purley, courtesy of Project Purley. If you haven't yet seen this talented professional theatre company, then you're in for a treat. Join the lovable Mr. Pickwick and his eccentric band of companions as they bumble their way through confusing courtships, courtroom shenanigans, questionable duels, and carriage rides gone terribly wrong. Expect fast-paced wit, slapstick, more multi-rolling mayhem, and a cast of larger-than-life characters in this brand new and hilarious adaptation.

Secure your seat and prepare for an uproarious adventure with the Pickwick Society—where the only certainty is a thoroughly good time to be had by all!

Tickets are available from:

- David Downs on 0118 942 4167 (cash only)
- The ticket hotline 03306 600541 (card only)
- Website (booking fee applies, so the ticket price including fee will be £8.67/£19.51) [www.bit.ly/Pickwick-Purley](http://www.bit.ly/Pickwick-Purley) (card only)

---

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](mailto:Cathy.our.Administrative.Clerk) with the details.

---

## Other Events

### Berkshire Family History Society

Our events programme continues to be busy, as usual the majority are open to members and non-members alike. Here are a few which are coming up. Full details of all can be found at [berksfhs.org](http://berksfhs.org)

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



**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June** 2.30 – 3.45pm – Talk “Reading Iron Works” by Dr Richard Marks - £5 – pre-book or pay at the door, Abbey Baptist Church, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BE, includes tea/coffee and biscuits

From making machinery to supplying essential components for Brunel’s visionary GWR, Reading Iron Works helped shape the modern world. Join us as we explore its origins, its achievements, and its enduring legacy.



**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** 2-4pm – Tour of St John the Baptist Church, Shottesbrooke - £5 – pre-booking required

Situated within the Shottesbrooke Park estate, this church has been described as one of the most idyllic in the county. After the tour, if the weather is good, there may be a chance to look at the churchyard and the gardens of the ‘big house’.



**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June** 2-3.15pm – Online Talk “Forbury Gardens, Reading” by Joy Pibworth - £5 – pre-booking required, Zoom

Forbury Gardens is a much-loved part of Reading and has been the backdrop to many important events in the town, from at least 871 when the Danes camped there. Now listed as Grade II in the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, it has many hidden stories to tell.



**Saturday 27th June** 11am-1pm – Online Workshop “World War One Army Records” by Trevor Hancock and Barbara Taylor, £10, pre-booking required, Zoom

Did your ancestor serve in World War I?, then this workshop will help. We will discuss what sort of records are available from medal rolls to operational records, where to find them and how to interpret them.

[www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk](http://www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk) 

# Thames Vale Singers

SUMMER CONCERTS

## Sing a Song of Six Pence


**TVS**


MUSICAL DIRECTOR - KATHERINE WALKEM  
ACCOMPANIST - PETER BERNARD

FRIDAY 10 JULY 2026  
7.30PM PANGBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 11 JULY 2026  
7.30PM PURLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Profits will be donated to Dogs for Good 

Tickets: £12, (under 16s: £6) On sale from: Tuesday 2 June 2026  
Tel: 0118 942 4372 or email: [tickets@thamesvalesingers.org.uk](mailto:tickets@thamesvalesingers.org.uk)  
or Online: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/thames-vale-singers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thames-vale-singers) (booking fee £0.50) 





**PURLEY  
SUSTAINABILITY  
GROUP**

# ORCHARD

**BUCKNELL'S MEADOW  
(MAPLEDURHAM DRIVE)**

## **CAN YOU HELP WITH WATERING?**

**We're looking for volunteers to help keep the 13 fruit trees that were planted in December 2025 alive in the warmer weather!**

**Can you help with:**

- **Checking the trees and reporting any issues**
- **Allowing volunteers to use water from your water butts or hosepipes (if permitted)**
- **Taking part in the watering rota - this involves safely wheeling water carriers across the meadow**



**Every bit of help makes a difference — thank you!**

**CONTACT: [WWW.PURLEYSUSTAINABILITY.CO.UK](http://WWW.PURLEYSUSTAINABILITY.CO.UK)  
[INFO@PURLEYSUSTAINABILITY.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@PURLEYSUSTAINABILITY.CO.UK)**

# Sustainability in Action: Craft, Community, and Conservation

The Purley Sustainability Group (PSG) has recently completed a thoughtful and impactful project, crafting a series of handcrafted bird tables for the Duchess of Kent Garden. What began as a simple request grew into a meaningful collaboration, bringing moments of calm and connection to patients, visitors and staff.

The three bird tables will be positioned around the hospice gardens, near seating areas, in view of the patients rooms. Just as they were delivered, the RSPB recommended that tables should not be used during the warmer months to avoid the spread of disease, so the new tables have been stored safely away and the old ones are no longer being restocked. Feeding will recommence in the autumn. For patients, even watching birds from a window can provide comfort, reduce stress, and encourage conversation and reflection. The gardens themselves continue to offer a peaceful retreat, supporting wellbeing through fresh air, light, and greenery.

With warmer weather arriving, these spaces are becoming even more valuable, offering opportunities for outdoor time, shared experiences, and quiet moments of respite. For the woodworking group, the project has been a rewarding way to give back, combining skill and compassion to create something lasting and meaningful.

Meanwhile, PSG's recent Annual General Meeting struck a perfect balance between productivity and enjoyment. A relaxed atmosphere, complete with cheese and wine, set the tone for an evening of updates, reflection, and future planning.

A highlight of the evening was an engaging talk from Wild Tilehurst on their Toad Patrol initiative. Attendees learned about the remarkable journey toads undertake each year to reach breeding ponds, often crossing busy roads. Volunteers play a vital role in safely guiding them, helping to reduce casualties and support local biodiversity. The talk also featured memorable encounters with Great Crested Newts, adding to the sense of wonder.

PSG extends sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to a successful evening, from speakers and volunteers to organisers and guests.

The PSG Woodwork group has also been busy with Little Heath School students and teachers, who rolled up their sleeves to take part in a bench-building project at the school. The project aimed to create outdoor seating areas for students while teaching practical skills and promoting sustainability. Using reclaimed wood and recycled materials, participants worked side by side to design and build sturdy benches for the school grounds.

The atmosphere throughout the day was full of energy and teamwork. Students learned how to measure, sand, drill, and assemble materials safely, guided by experienced volunteers and staff members. For many students, it was their first opportunity to use tools and take part in a hands-on construction project.

These events are a real highlight to PSG. Beyond woodworking skills, students developed confidence, communication, and problem-solving abilities. The project encouraged creativity while showing how teamwork can make a positive difference in the community.

Sustainability was at the heart of the event. By reusing materials that might otherwise have gone to waste, the school demonstrated how practical projects can support environmental awareness. And show that when a community works together, learning can be fun, practical, and sustainable at the same time.

### **Dates for the diary:**

Repair Café – Saturday 13th June 3pm to 5pm at The Mad Duck, Wintringham Way.

Recycling/ Terracycle – Sunday 14th June at 7 Beech Road.

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](http://www.purleysustainability.co.uk)

[info@purleysustainability.co.uk](mailto:info@purleysustainability.co.uk)

---

## Repair Café



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

---



## 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](mailto:clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.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 [Cathy](#) by close of play on the 20<sup>th</sup> 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*

To: The Parish Office, Goosecroft Lane, off Beech Road, Purley on Thames, RG8 8BW or by email to the Administrative Clerk at [adminclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:adminclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk).

## **Annual Community Award Nomination Form - 2026**

### **Objective:**

The objective of the scheme is to recognise the individual or team who volunteer their time generously to provide outstanding activities for the enjoyment and benefit of the village and community of Purley on Thames.

### **Key Principles:**

- Will be awarded annually, at the Chairman's Reception, to the individual/group/team select based on the following principles.
- Will be a Parish Council managed activity.
- The Parish Council will appoint an officer to coordinate the activity.
- There must be a clearly identifiable individual/group voluntary contribution over one or more years, though it may be 'delivered' through a local organisation.
- Both groups/teams and individuals can be nominated.
- The method of proposing an individual/group/team will be by means of the nomination form only.
- The request for nominations will be published in media that reach as many residents of Purley on Thames as possible.
- Individual nominees must be a resident of Purley on Thames or have been a resident during the past five years.
- Team nomination can include individual who are not residents of Purley on Thames, although Purley on Thames residents must be part of the team.
- All nomination will be considered on an equal basis regardless of the number of nominations for an individual or group.
- Nominations must come from a resident of Purley on Thames, aged over 18, who can nominate any deserving person/group for doing voluntary work.
- Individual Parish Councillors or Officers are not eligible unless they are part of a group/team on which non-Councillors are also serving.
- The Parish Council will evaluate the nominations.
- All nominations are highly respected, and the Councillors will choose a winner from those who have made the most outstanding voluntary contribution.
- The Parish Council's decision will be final.
- Past individual winners can be selected again after 5 years.
- Nominations of individual or teams that receive monetary recompense for the service they provide would only be eligible to be considered in very exceptional circumstances and if agreed by a full Council meeting.
- All nominees to be invited to the Chairman's Reception.
- A trophy will be presented to the selected recipient/team which they will be allowed to retain for 12 months.

To: The Parish Office, Goosecroft Lane, off Beech Road, Purley on Thames, RG8 8BW or by email to the Administrative Clerk at [adminclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:adminclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk).

## **Annual Community Award Nomination Form - 2026**

**Last date for nominations to be received by the Parish Office is: 31 August 2026**

I wish to nominate:

---

I believe the above should be given the Purley on Thames Community Award because:

(Continue on separate sheet if required)

---

Nominees

Address

Proposers

Signature:

Proposers

Name:

Proposers

Address: