

PURLEIGH'S PAST? - JUST LOOK AROUND YOU.

Purleigh is first mentioned in a Saxon will of AD 998 but, like most parishes, no detailed information is available about it until 1086 when it appears in Domesday Book. Purleigh was then a typical rural community consisting of eight manors in the ownership of four Norman barons. Substantial areas of woodland are recorded, as well as arable and pasture land and the usual assortment of cattle, sheep, pigs, horses and goats. The population consisted of 35 families of villeins and bordars, with 10 slaves working on the lord's farms. Purleigh has the distinction of being one of the few places in Essex where a priest is mentioned in 1086.

During the next two centuries, prosperity, population pressure, or both, caused large areas of woodland to be grubbed up to create new farms, mostly in the west of the parish and usually up to 20-30 acres in size. A few of these farms still bear the name of the former wood (e.g. Birchwood Farm) or that of an earlier owner (e.g. Scotts Farm) and some of their small, irregular shaped fields still survive (e.g. at Cock Clarks). This expansion seems to have declined by the early 14th century and had stopped entirely by the later 14th century after the plagues had reduced the population so dramatically. Of the woodland that remained, some was used by the manorial lords for their personal income (e.g. Kent Wood) whilst other areas, where the manorial tenants had established rights of grazing etc, gradually deteriorated into the scrub covered commons of the 16th and 17th centuries (typified by the name Furzey Common - the area between Mill Lane and Walton Hall Lane).

During the reign of Elizabeth I, Purleigh's population began to increase again, but its remaining woodland was too valuable to be cleared for homesteads, so new cottages were built on the commons at Cock Clarks, Howe Green and Farther Howe Green instead. The amount of land allocated to these cottages (usually between half an acre and two acres) was too small to sustain their occupiers by farming alone, even though they usually had grazing rights on the remaining commons as well. Consequently, many of the new cottagers resorted to other trades to make a living.

During the late 16th and early 17th centuries, tailors, blacksmiths, butchers, potters, ploughwrights, sawyers, bricklayers, carpenters and bakers proliferated, and many of these also used their homes (often illegally) as alehouses to supplement their income.

Towards the end of the 17th century Purleigh's population declined. Farms became amalgamated, and redundant farmsteads and cottages were abandoned and demolished. The population rose again during the late 18th century and remained high for the next 100 years (the number of residents recorded in the 1841 census, 1213, was not in fact surpassed until 1981). This time however, the rising

About Your Parish Council:

Meetings: The Parish Council meets at 7.30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month in the Pavilion, Howe Green Road. Please come along, members of the public are warmly welcomed. **A period of 15 minutes (commencing at 7.15 p.m.) is set aside before each meeting for you to come and talk to Councillors about any matter affecting the parish.**

Allotments: The Parish Council provides 11 allotments in Chelmsford Road, each approximately 20 feet by 70 feet. The current rental is £25.00 per plot per year.

Consultation: The Parish Council responds to numerous consultation documents on your behalf. Topics covered include: Education; the environment; health; housing; local government reform; planning and conservation; housing; sport and leisure, and transport.

Finance: The Parish Council calculates its budget requirement for the forthcoming financial year at its January meeting and a precept is issued to the District Council for the sum required. If you have a project in mind, which would benefit the parish and which may qualify for a grant please let the clerk know by the 31st December.

Grants: The Parish Council frequently makes grants to other local organisations. Purleigh Village Hall Committee, All Saints Church, and Purleigh Croquet Club have all received grants in this way. In addition, the Parish Council currently subsidises the cost of swimming lessons at Purleigh Community Primary School for the children of Purleigh parishioners, and reimburses POPHA the cost of its annual subscription to Viking Community Transport.

Grasscutting: The Parish Council is responsible for cutting the grass on the playing field and at various other locations in the parish. Please see our notice boards for further details. The Parish Council also owns and maintains the War Memorial and its garden, the Common at Farther Howe Green and Rigby's Path.

Pavilion and Playing Field: The Parish Council owns and manages the pavilion and playing field, including the Children's Play Area, for the benefit of parishioners. These areas are treated as community assets which the Parish Council strives to maintain to the highest standard.

Planning: The Parish Council comments on and makes a recommendation to Maldon District Council on every Purleigh planning application. Maldon District Council is the Planning Authority however, and it alone has the power to determine whether an application is granted or refused.

Purleigh Parish Council was elected to represent you, so please come and meet your Councillors and let them know your views.

Jane Potter, Clerk to the Council.

The following information is intended to be of help to Purleigh Parishioners and is correct as at December 2016. For details of other events and services in the parish, please consult the Parish Council's notice boards which are located at: Pump Corner; Rudley Green; Maldon Road; Farther Howe Green, Roundbush and in Cock Clarks, or see the current edition of the Parish Magazine.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Mrs. P. A. Channer,
The Tree House, Summerhill, Althorne
CM3 6BY. 01621 740607

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: Mr. J Fleming . 07841 511064
Miss. S. White. 01621 744125

MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL: Council Offices, Princes Road, Maldon
01621 854477

PURLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL:

Chairman: Mr. N. Arthur,
Contact through Parish Clerk
Clerk: Mrs. J. Potter,
Lower Barn Farm, Roundbush Road,
Purleigh Nr Mundon, Maldon, CM9
6NN
01621 828270
Website: www.purleigh.com
E-mail: jane.m.potter@btinternet.com
Allotments: Contact the Clerk as above.

POLLING STATION: The Wells Pavilion, Howe Green Road

MOBILE LIBRARY: Alternate Tuesdays as below:
New Hall 09.50 -10.20
Alternate Wednesdays as below:
Pump Corner 11.40 – 12.00
The Bell 12.00 – 12.20

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Purleigh has a wide range of clubs and societies. Please contact the following people for further information:

BELLRINGERS:	Mr. G. Snow	01621 828557
CARPET BOWLS:	Mr. T. de Fraine	01621 828916
CRICKET CLUB:	Mr. J. Taylor	07917 441547
CROQUET CLUB:	Mr. B. Oliver	01621 828433
FRIENDS OF PURLEIGH CHURCH:	Mrs. J. Fix	01621 874745
GARDENERS SOCIETY:	Mrs. L. Bain	01621 827066
GENESIS GROUP:	Mrs. S. Gower	01621 829681
HANDBELL RINGERS:	Mrs. S. Gower	01621 829681
HANDICRAFT GROUP:	Mrs. P. Potter	01621 850739
PURLEIGH QUILTERS:	Mrs. C. Smith	01621 826988
RAMBLERS:	Mr. G. Rayner	01621 828117
WHIST DRIVE:	Mrs. J. Huggins	01621 828338
WOMENS INSTITUTE:	Mrs. J. Hustwayte	01621 829733
PURLEIGH PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION:	Mr. B. Steeples	01621 828312

DOCTORS SURGERIES: A list of surgeries serving the area can be
obtained from: 01245 325305

MEALS ON WHEELS: These can be arranged through your GP.

VETERINARY SURGERY Edgewood Veterinary Surgery (small pets)
Chelmsford Road 01621 828381
Blair Court Equine Clinic 01245 429025
Crows Lane, Woodham Ferrers

DENGIE VILLAGE LINK BUS SERVICE 01245 492211

DENGIE DART 01621 874410

REFUSE COLLECTIONS 01621 854477

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 01621 854477

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS DEP'T 0845 6037631

TO REPORT FLY TIPPING 01621 854477

TO REPORT STRAY DOGS:

Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. 01621 854477

Sat/Sun/ Bank Holidays and 4.30 p.m. to 8.30 a.m. 07711 885894

PLAYGROUPS (Term time only)

Half-Pint Playgroup: Meets on Purleigh Community Primary School campus:

Telephone: 01621 828734

Email: halfpintnursery@hotmail.com

PARISH MAGAZINE

Editor: Mrs. Kerry Mckenna,
kerryamckenna@hotmail.com

PURLEIGH OLD PEOPLE'S HOME ASSOCIATION (POPHA)

Fairfields, Church Hill, Purleigh.

Secretary: Mrs. J. Prestwich 01621 828030
Chairman: Mrs. Jac Snow 01621 828557

POST OFFICE Post Office, Pump Corner, Purleigh
01621 828275

COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

Essex Police 101
PC Sam Pateman 07932 375514

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR

Mr. B. Steeples 01621 828312

PURLEIGH EMERGENCY GROUP

Contact the clerk 01245 320426

PURLEIGH VILLAGE HALL

Chairman: Mrs. M. Strathern 01621 828254
Bookings: Awaits

THE WELLS PAVILION AND PLAYING FIELD

Bookings: Mr. S. Potter 01621 828270

CHURCH OF ENGLAND, All Saints Church.

Rector: Revd. Julie Willmot, 07413 416226
Church Warden: Mr. Mike Gillingham, 42 Fennfields Road,
South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5RZ
01245 323886,

Sunday School: Mrs. S. Owen Tel: 01621 828031
Small Saints: Mrs. L. Soul Tel: 01621 828571
Genesis Group Mrs. S. Gower Tel: 01621 829681
Parochial Church Council: Mrs. A. Gillingham Tel: 01245 323886

SCHOOLS

Primary: Purleigh Community Primary School
Pump Lane, Purleigh.
Tel: 01621 828282

Executive Headteacher Mr. J. Figg
Head of School Mr. N. Stotter
Parent Teacher Association: Contact through the school
Clerk to the Governors: Contact through the school

Secondary schools in the area include:

The Plume School,	Maldon	01621 854681
St. Peter's High School,	Burnham-on-Crouch	01621 782377
William de Ferrers School	South Woodham Ferrers	01245 329555
The Sandon School	Sandon	01245 473611

HELP AND ADVICE (other than the Parish Council):

Community Agent:
Laura Stacey, 07540 720613, laura.stacey@caessex.org.uk
One Place 01621 772273
Citizens Advice Bureau 01621 841195

population coincided with a period of great prosperity in arable farming so many of the new residents became employed on the farms, although a variety of new trades also appeared in the parish. As well as those mentioned earlier; brick-makers, plumbers, glaziers, shoemakers, millers, harness-makers, carriers, hawkers and a surveyor are recorded. By now the commons had virtually disappeared (the remaining areas being almost entirely enclosed by 1801) and the high value of arable land meant that much remaining woodland was cleared to enlarge existing farms instead of creating new holdings. The only remaining areas available for cottage sites therefore were the wide roadside verges. The landscape of Purleigh today therefore is one of dispersed farmsteads, small hamlets and roadside cottages.

It is as a result of this last phase of expansion that many traditional parish assets survive in Purleigh. A Church has been here since the Middle Ages, but the earliest nonconformist chapel was not established until 1822 (at Cock Clarks) and the earliest one to survive is the Congregational Chapel at Howe Green (now Chapel Cottage) which was built in 1852. A redundant cottage was used as the poor-house from the late 1660s but a purpose built workhouse was provided in 1784 (now Queen's House at Rudley Green). In 1769 the rector, Samuel Horsmanden, left an endowment to provide for the education of Purleigh's children which took effect in 1800 on the death of his wife. Shortly after this, the then rector, John Eveleigh, financed the building of a schoolmaster's house and school room (now Eveleigh House). Another rector, Edward Hawkins, financed the building of a second school in 1848 (Hawkins House at Cock Clarks). By 1760 a grocer's shop with adjoining bakery had been built on Purleigh Hill, which, although no longer a shop, still retains its original bow window. Purleigh's principal bakery further down the hill was converted from cottages in the 1830s, functioned until modern times and was until recently known as 'The Steam Bakery'. Valley Stores on the opposite side of the hill has been in use as a shop since at least the 18th century, being at various times either a grocers, bakers, butchers or a public house called The White Hart.

Steven Potter.

