

Purton. Magazine

January 2020



Welcome to Purton's Co-op



On Friday 13 December the new Co-Op store opened it's doors, thanks to the campaigning by our community to progress the refurbishment. It's a very welcome addition to our village. See Page 12.

50p

Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2-5pm; Tuesdays 2-7pm; Wednesdays 10am-5pm; Fridays 2-5pm)</i>		
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Beth Farnham, bethaney23@icloud.com	
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, <i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Pips Community Café	Duty volunteers	07498 526872
<i>(Tuesday-Friday 9am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm) www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/</i>		
Schools & Playgroups		
Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Pear Drops at Playclose	Sarah Grigg	950159
Pear Drops Pre-School (formerly Under 5s')	Sarah Grigg	978536
St Mary's Primary School	Secretary	770239
Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary www.stmaryspurton.org.uk		
<i>For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.</i>		
Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk Tel: 770077, 773031 (emergencies only)	
Curate: Revd Judith Wells	email: judithwells36@googlemail.com Tel: 770627	
Wardens	Sandra Horsnall: 770157	Jane Smith: 772422
Administrator: Rosie Harris	administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk Tel: 773035	
Methodist Churches <i>For information about services in Purton, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine. Braydon: Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship</i>		
Minister: Revd David Perkins	Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT	
Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk		
Priest: Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues Tel: 852366		
<i>Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm</i>		
Catholic Church - St Mary's Church, High St, Cricklade		
Priest: Father Michael Robertson Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church		
<i>Services: Holy Days 7.00pm, Sundays 9.30am Mass.</i>		

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www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton. Magazine

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INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

Even though many of you should be able to read this even before Christmas, it is our opportunity to wish all advertisers, distributors and every reader a peaceful and productive New Year.

Even just on its own, the number 2020 somehow looks satisfyingly rounded and complete. Quite apart from being a leap year – eligible bachelors beware – there are a host of events both globally and locally to look forward to including a Bank Holiday on a Friday for the very first time. Victory in Europe day, generally known as VE Day, is on 8th May and to celebrate the 50th anniversary in 1995 the bank holiday was delayed a week from 1st May but to another Monday.

This new year includes the summer Olympic games in Tokyo starting towards the end of July. At the same time NASA's long-term robotic exploration of Mars could be being launched when both planets are in good positions relative to each other for landing on the Red planet. Even the slightest success will surely be claimed by the current US President seeking re-election in November unless his candidature becomes illegal.

In our continent, geographically at least, there will be the Euro 2020 football tournament with both England and Wales already qualified. In cricket, the Twenty20 World Cup will be held in Australia in October and November although surely there cannot be another “super over” to decide the final itself as we had at Lord's in 2019.

Our very own village cricket club is celebrating its 200th birthday in 2020 and still stands proudly as the oldest cricket club in Wiltshire and among the 20 oldest in the country. Local events and celebrations are well advanced with an exhibition in Purton Museum (see page 45), a list of changes at our famous ground over the last 56 years on page 49, more details on page 50 about the 200 Not Out book written especially for the bicentenary and even an ode about the club written by former resident and player Malcolm Morrison on page 51.

Even before we start the New Year, the newly re-opened Co-op shop in the lower square must come as a relief for many at that end of the village. Oh – and a new government.

With so much to look forward to, let's try to treasure every moment that we do have to help make it a very happy New Year.

6	700	2363
Crates of vodka unloaded at Fairford by Russians standing on each other's shoulders – see page 64	Angels of all shapes, sizes and materials displayed in St Mary's Church – see page 56	Railway stations set for closure by Dr Beeching in 1963, including Purton – see page 64



Purton's Memory Walk

Super hero update ! the total figure raised has escalated to a whopping £1218.85.. well done all.

We are working on new projects and commitments to making "Purton Dementia Friendly" in the New Year, if anyone wishes to join us please contact the offices.

Donations - Working with the Community

Purton Parish Council are permitted under Section 137 (1) Local Government Act 1972 to provide donations to groups/causes for new projects within Purton and the surrounding areas, that will be of benefit to all or part of the community (not individuals).

A form is available from our website, our offices or via email. For more information please do not hesitate to speak to the Clerk. Donations are considered twice yearly in February and July. www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Financial-Details.aspx

Next round of applications will be heard in February 2020.

Grants have been awarded in (June 2019):

Swindon Dial a Ride, Purton Toddlers and Wiltshire Council Fun In the Sun

Gulley Rescue Project – Can you help?

We are looking at creating a gulley map through Purton to aid the flow and management of water within our beautiful village. If you are walking and notice a gulley is blocked, overgrown or in need of repair; drop us a line, email, phone call, face book message, whichever is easiest giving us the exact location and issue and we can then map and arrange with the necessary bodies its clearance. What we need; Picture and exact location, what you can see if you have no pictures (ie: mud/ grass/broken etc)

This gulley project is a small step towards ensuring our village can manage the changes in weather and subsequent water flow working with the relevant responsible bodies (Wiltshire Council and Thames Water). So, put on your walking boots, don on the kids water proofs and let us know when you see a gulley that might need some help! Thank you

Post Office Times of Operation

Village Hall Car Park - Tuesdays 13.45-14.45.

Purton Youth Club for school years 4-7

Residents only - Wednesdays in the Village Hall from 6.15pm to 7.45pm

For more details please contact the Youth Leader Tamara, Telephone: 01242 224 509; Mobile: 07787821798 Website: www.communitymas.co.uk. A face book page has also been set up under Purton Youth Club.

Youth Provision – Are you interested?

Council are looking into options of running not only the current 8-11 year old youth club but a group for the next age group up until 18 years old. If anyone would be interested in attending, could they drop the Council a note via Facebook, NextDoor, Website or email.

Councillors 2019-20

Chairman of Council/Charities	Ray Thomas	01793 951520
Finance & General Purposes		
Vice Chair of Council/Chair of Burials	Neil Hooper	01793 771066
Councillor	Helen Hicks	01793 778207
Councillor	Geoff Greenaway	01793 771140
Councillor	Kevin Law	07768 456989
Councillor	Vicky McKerrow	01793 778190
Councillor	Julie Ann Hurwood	01793 771066
Chair of Staff Sub	Paul Grigg	01793 771066
Chair of Recreation	Sue Relfe	01793 771066
Councillor	Emily Seabrook	01793 771066
Councillor	Grant Seabrook	01793 771066
Councillor	Jim Reid	01793 771066
Councillor	Gavin James	01793 771066
Councillor	Shawn Hindon	01793 771066

Council Meetings (January)

Commencing at 7pm in Purton Village Hall. All our meetings are open to the public apart from the Staffing committee.

Monday 13th January 2020

Council

Monday 20th January 2020

Play Area and Recreation committee

Followed by Burials committee

Monday 27th January 2020

Village Hall Charity meeting

Public Convenience

For information the Public Toilets located to the side of the Village Hall are open 6am to 6pm Monday to Sunday.

Memory Stones

We provide a service to place memorial tribute stones at the front entrance to the cemetery. If you are interested in a memorial stone to honour a loved one who was a resident in Purton at time of death, please contact the Clerk on 771066 or email deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Planning Permission

Approved Applications - Permission Granted to note as follows:

19/08715/FUL 92 Pavenhill, Purton. Demolition of garage and replace with

-
- detached garage, plus removal of chimney and installation of roof light.
- 19/08795/FUL 6 Jubilee Estate, Purton. Single storey rear extension; first floor side extension; conversion of garage.
- 19/09252/FUL High Barn Farm, Braydon. Installation of new agricultural track into farmyard, Demolish existing dutch barn, workshop and a lean to. Erection of new steel portal frame livestock shed, additional 2 new bays of steel portal frame to existing livestock shed and new workshop/tractor shed.
- 19/08664/FUL Hayes Knoll Farm, Hayes Knoll, Purton Stoke. Detached double garage including garden workshop/store for new farmhouse.
- 19/08869/FUL 18 Church Path, Purton. Two storey rear extension.
- 19/09277/VAR 2 Upper Pavenhill, Purton. Variation of condition 3 of planning permission.
- 19/088115/FUL 12 Upper Pavenhill. Purton. Detached garage.
- 19/09585/FUL Iskan, 12 Battlewell. Purton. Single storey rear extension.
- 19/06304/LBC Restrop Manor, Purton. Installation of stairlift.

Charities

Advertising - Village Hall Railings/Village Centre Fencing

If you wish to advertise or promote an event being held in Purton please ensure you apply for prior approval from the Trustees to place banners and advertising. Unauthorised banners will be removed. There have been a few instances where approval has not been sought. These areas are on private land in a conservation area and therefore tight restrictions are adhered to.

Diary Date

Purton Village Hall Fundraiser - Friday 6th March 2020, quiz night in the Village Hall. More information to follow.

We have set up a "GIVEASYOULIVE" site for the Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity which once subscribed allows donations to be generated through online shopping. No fees, no charges, free to register. Please take a look, share the link between family and friends and let's raise some pennies. www.giveasyoulive.com/

How to contact the Parish Council

Tel: 01793 771066, Email: deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Parish Council's letter box: can be found on the wall adjacent to the side door (entrance door to the Parish Council offices) to the rear of the Library/Institute.

Facebook, Twitter and Website

Just one click will see you interact with the Parish Council. Events, road closures,

05/20

RODENTS **WASPS**
FLIES **ANTS**




 National Pest Technicians Association

N.W.D.S. PEST CONTROL

Mobile: 07932 119999
 Office: 01793 770807

02/20

Matthew Scott NCH
Garden & Landscape Services

Including Fencing, Decking,
 Patios & Walling
 Pruning,
 Clearance & Turfing

Free Quotations, All Jobs Considered

Mobile: 07909 671501
 Tel/Fax: 01793 772986

03/20



GOLDBOROUGH
Garden Machinery

Broad Town, Dauntsey and
 Royal Wootton Bassett

Tel: 07946 895104

Repair, service and sales.
 All makes and models

Cylinder, rotary and ride on mowers,
 Strimmers, Hedge cutters, Chain
 saws, Rotovators, Leaf blowers, Petrol
 disc cutters, Tool repairs and Blade
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Prompt, efficient service. Collection
 and delivery service available

Email:
info@goldboroughgardenmachinery.com
www.goldboroughgardenmachinery.com
 or find us on Facebook

PURTON CLUB

NON MEMBERS WELCOME

Live Sport & Music
Families Welcome

Open Hours:
Tues 7 - 12
Wed & Thurs 5 -12
Fri 3 - 12
Sat & Sun All Day

FREE FUNCTION ROOM HIRE
 For Parties, Weddings, Funerals

DISCO HIRE £75
Catering Available
Come Join Us!

01793 770316
07887724399

12/20

Cat Care & Services



If you need help caring for your pet or are away from home and don't want the stress of the cattery we can meet yours and your pets needs.

Our Visits will include:

- Lots of socialising, play, lap time and attention for your pet
- Swindon and surrounding areas
- £10 per visit, (visits are 1 hour)

 **Cat Care & Services**

Helen Spring Tel: 07770 767916

10/20

M Lawrence

Electrical Contractor

12 Church Path, Purton

- Domestic re-wire
- Wiring for extensions
- Electric storage heating
- Extra sockets and lights
- Security lighting

Tel: 771084 Mobile: 07743 128222

12/20

meet the staff, “did you know”, photographs and much more. If you have an event in the Parish that you would like us to promote on any of our media platforms please contact the Clerk on deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 771066. Find us on: Facebook – Purton Parish Council Twitter - @PurtonPC

On our website you can sign up to receive regular updates which will keep you informed of things happening in and around the village such as planning information and road closures, etc. Please have a look at the site: www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and sign up today.

Purton's new Co-op opens to customers



Much to the relief of all in attendance, the weather stayed dry for the official opening of Purton's new Co-op store on the site of the former Best One. Kirsty Davies, who led the residents campaign, working with the Co-op to speed up the works and get the shop open, along with husband Spencer, and twin sons Alex and Evan, helped cut the ribbon. Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith said a few words at the opening, blessed the shop and its staff, and all those who worked so hard to get it open before the end of the year.

Store manager, Dan Hince and his staff are keen for the shop to be part of the community and is encouraging local groups who provide meals/snacks (and who cook in Wilts Council rated kitchens) to apply to the Co-op's Food Share scheme. This enables unsold fresh produce and items that have reached their 'Best before' dates to be donated to the community rather than wasted. It's open to organisations such as our Community Cafe, Luncheon Club, schools and pre-schools.

Email: daniel.hince@coop.co.uk or visit www.coop.co.uk/foodshare

The shop also has a community notice board inside and will be selling copies of Purton Magazine.

Purton Age Concern Christmas Events

Could I thank all the committee, street wardens, minibus personnel and friends – in fact all who helped to make our Christmas events a big success – I will whisper ‘perhaps the best yet’! When you consider that our three principals Pete, George and Andrew have had no experience of these events before, it just goes to show what a great team we have. Things that have to be done – the printing, distribution and selling of cards, calendars and raffle tickets plus your £10 voucher (hope you all enjoyed what you purchased) the two Christmas parties – one where the entertainment was cancelled the day before meaning someone else had to be found quickly - the market stall and the Christmas draw, so you can see the amount of work involved. I feel so proud of you all.

Can I also thank all the kind people for raffle prizes, donations etc. - you are all so very kind to Purton Age Concern. Thank you.

Tony Price (president)

Events

Minibus Shopping Trips - Hazel is organising a shopping trip on Friday January 10th which is to be announced and will have her normal trip to Cirencester on the 31st January both of which will leave the village at 9am. For more details and to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

Silver Threads Christmas Party - This party was held on the 30th November and was for the less abled people and those residing in the various care homes around the village and their carers. About 40 people attended and we organise entertainment for them as well as food. This year we were disappointed when Paul the ukulele player informed us that he would not be able to attend because of a family problem. But we were saved by a ‘knight in shining armour’ in the form of John Creasey who stepped in and played the piano, with songs from the 60’s in the first stint and carols for the last half hour, ably assisted by his glamorous page turner, Jude. Thank you John it was greatly appreciated and everybody enjoyed your lovely music.

Christmas Party 7th December - What a night! About 80 people came and we provided them with nibbles then a ploughman’s dinner followed by a dessert & mince pies and coffee during the rest of the evening. We had a lovely response from everybody and they all loved the food, which is where I must congratulate the people working in the kitchen because it is a mammoth task to produce everything on time and special thanks to them for their hard work. The entertainment was supplied by FourTune a saxophone based quartet who played for the first half, and were excellent, and then the Village Voices whose arrangements and singing are second to none. What a show.

Burns Night 25th January 2020 - We will be running our annual Burns Night celebrations with all the usual trimmings: hall decorated in flags, tables laid up, a

wee nip of Whisky, three course meal of soup, haggis, neeps & tatties, followed by dessert. With a Ceilidh, band and caller for your entertainment. Ticket price is £23 per person and numbers are limited, so call now to make sure you get yours. Peter on 778119, this is a ticket only event & payment must be in advance.

This just leaves me to wish everybody a Happy New Year from the Purton and District Age Concern committee, and we look forward to seeing you at our events in 2020. Watch this space.

Latest News



Tai chi sessions are as usual, each Thursday at 2pm in the Millennium Hall. There are places available so if you would like to give it a try, just turn up at the Millennium Hall, the first session is free, then the cost is currently £4 per session.



Purton & District Age Concern are looking for new committee members to join us. We need people who are willing to help out at events, attend monthly meetings and contribute to the continued success of the charity. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Peter on 778119.

A bit of a moan! I wonder just how many elderly people in the village have been affected by the disruption caused by Lloyds the chemists at the Pavenhill Shops. Whatever has happened to customer service?

There are all sorts of stories of staff changes and shortages, computer system problems and general disorganised chaos. This is not a small company and as such they should have sorted any problems they had quickly and efficiently, but this has gone on for months now and there seems no end to the mess they are in.

If you have access to the internet I encourage you to email Lloyds at their head office with your complaints and try to make them 'man up' and sort this problem out. Please don't blame our surgery for any problems you may have encountered, they are doing as much as they can; the problem lies with the pharmacy. Unfortunately they are the only pharmacy that is linked electronically to the surgery, but if like me you have had enough of Lloyds and have the ability to go elsewhere then consider that option, there are plenty of other pharmacies locally.

Information

Luncheon Club - This is held at the Silver Threads Hall. Please give Pat Suddaby a call on 771331 for information. They are looking for more people to join them on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week for a two course lunch with tea/coffee starting at 12 noon. Minibus available if you need it.

Minibuses - Please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 if you would like to book the minibus. If you are thinking of volunteering as a driver or "shotgun" (driver's assistant) on the minibuses please contact Andy White the minibus secretary on 771656 or email him at andywhitepacmb@gmail.com

New volunteers are always welcome.

Swindon West, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service - offer a dedicated & free service for safe and well visits and fitting smoke alarms on a more proactive approach in the Purton area. Visits can be booked through their website or by calling 0800 038 2323 www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/

Bobby Van - If you need the Bobby Van to replace batteries or the smoke alarms if they are not working properly please call them on 01380 861155.

Bradies - Each month we will mention Bradies, now known as Phoenix, as they will continue to cover the Purton area. You need to ring 01249 890794 to book with them. Remember if we don't use it, we lose it!

Cold Callers - We have had several reports of cold callers moving around the village, be aware of people knocking on your door and offering to do garden work for cash, or any other jobs when you don't know who they are or where they have come from. We are lucky that we have local tradesmen in the village, look in the Purton Magazine for details. Always be vigilant and be wary of strangers. Contact your street warden if you need a 'no cold calls' sticker for your door.

Website - Visit our dedicated website www.purtonageconcern.com to find all the details you need about our contacts, events, news and links to other websites in the area. We also have a Facebook and Twitter account which can be found at Facebook: @purtonageconcern and Twitter: @Purton_AC Please visit our social media sites and let us know what you think.

We still have a couple of wheelchairs and some walkers, so if you think you might need these at any time then ring Tony Price on 770696 or Peter Berry on 778119.

Don't forget the minibus service we offer residents living in the Purton Age Concern catchment area. Surgery runs, coffee mornings, day trips or general get-togethers, for those aged 60 and over that have disability or mobility issues. Both minibuses have hydraulic lifts and wheelchair security. Call Hazel to book your place 01793 770862.



Peter Berry

We Record ...

Funerals at St Mary's Church

12 Nov 19 Eric George Ball (93)

14 Nov 19 John Derek Belt (92)



New Surgery answerphone message

Some of you will have noticed when phoning the Surgery that there is a new message from Dr Gomara which is intended to help patients to be directed to the appropriate clinician. Your co-operation would be most appreciated.

Lloyds Pharmacy

Lloyds Pharmacy is an independent pharmacy contracted under NHS England to dispense prescriptions. Any queries or complaints relating to the service provided by Lloyds should be directed to their Customer Service team at Head Office (tel: 0345 600 3565 [Option 2]) and not to Purton Surgery.

Christmas Coffee Morning, 35 High Street, Purton - 7 December

Many thanks to Sylvia Freemantle for holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 7 December with all profits going towards the automated door. The total raised was a fantastic £712.97.

Thank you to all who helped and to all those who supported this very successful event. We are now very close to getting the automated door for Purton Surgery.

Table top sales

Thank you to all who support our Table Top sales in Purton surgery waiting room. If you wish to purchase any item from the Table please give your money to the Receptionists. Similarly, please hand to the Receptionists any items you would like to donate for the Table.

As always, your support for our work to both inform and support patients and the practice is much appreciated. If you know of anyone who would like to be included in our email list (all sent bcc) then please ask them to contact via groupforpatients@gmail.com

*Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities
Sheila Fowler, Secretary, Purton PPG*

Guide Dogs for the Blind Purton Support Group

I had a stall at two events in November, the first was the Silver Threads Table Top Sale, where I raised £33.95, and the second was at the Christ Church Charity Christmas Market, where I raised £160.30 in good and £6 in donations, making a total £200.25 for the month.

Jenny, Doreen and I would like to say thank you to you all for your continued support over the last year and we hope you all had a very merry and peaceful Christmas and we wish you and yours a happy and prosperous new year.

Brian Davies. On behalf of Purton Support Group

Dr John Belt

John Belt – Dad - was born on the 9th August 1927 in Kingsheath, Birmingham, the second child of Jack and Grace Belt, arriving almost exactly three years after the birth of his sister Eileen.

Educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham, Dad excelled academically and on the sporting field, particularly in rugby. In 1939 after the outbreak of the Second World War, he was evacuated at the age of 12 with his school to Repton in Derbyshire, where he enjoyed the countryside and rural way of life – the school returned to Birmingham in 1940 just as the worst bombing actually started!

A man of many talents he could have chosen various career paths. Originally he had his sights set on becoming an oil engineer and saw himself following in the footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia in the deserts of the Middle East, but he told the story of how one day in the sixth form at school he saw a friend dissecting a frog, and said that he found it so captivating to see the internal workings of an animal that he decided to switch to the medical sixth form course.

He was accepted to train as a doctor at the University of Birmingham; an intellectually, physically, mentally and emotionally demanding career, at a time when science had yet to provide him and his peers with many reliable treatment options, and before the existence of free medical care on the NHS.

Aged 23, as a newly qualified doctor, he worked for twelve months in West Bromwich and Birmingham hospitals, describing his first day at work as being “just thrown into the job and left to get on with it, quite frightening really”. A quiet, self-effacing man it is only in recent years that we have come to know the pressures and responsibilities that were put on that conscientious medic still only in his early 20s.

After a year he was obliged to do his postponed National Service so in 1952 he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, and was based at Colchester Garrison in Essex. He played rugby for the RAMC but unfortunately sustained a serious shoulder injury, which put an end to his promising rugby career and led to him taking up hockey and later tennis. As with everything he did in life he committed fully to his time in the Army, and he was invited to sign up for a lifelong career in uniform – an honour and a career path which would have been both financially and personally secure.

Instead, in 1954, he decided to become a General Practitioner. He worked in various parts of the country including Tarrington, near Hereford, Long Crendon, in Buckinghamshire, and Filkins. Dad arrived in Purton in 1956 as an assistant, and subsequently junior partner, to Doctor George Alderman. The first Belt home was a stable flat in Purton Stoke then, as a condition of becoming a partner in the medical practice, the family moved to the rather dilapidated Chewton House on the corner of Church Street. It was not long before the sudden, unexpected death of Dr Alderman left Dad as a single-handed country GP, covering a large geographical

area and living in a house that resembled a building site.

As children we remember a father who was always smartly turned out in a jacket and tie and who polished his own and our school shoes every night. In our younger days he was rarely at home in our waking hours due to his demanding role as a GP, but he always gave us his loving attention when he could. As we grew up he helped with homework, coached us in sport, taught us about life skills such as gardening and cooking, and even took us pony trekking - even though I am not sure that is how he would have chosen to spend his precious time off – and when the time came he helped us to get started on our various career paths. Admirably, he was also brave enough to teach us all to drive, and sometimes even let us drive him to his home visits with L plates on the car and Radio 2 playing – possibly to calm his nerves!

He was a keen DIYer, particularly skilful at carpentry, and in any rare spare moments he was often to be found working on a maintenance or improvement project of some sort in the house or garden. His extensive fruit and vegetable plot kept our family fed – lunch always strictly at 1pm – and he also enjoyed entering his produce in the Purton Flower and Produce Show.

Dad had times in his life when family problems, bereavements and professional pressures must have seemed overwhelming, but he bore it all with his usual quiet dignity. A true stiff upper lip, reserved gentleman there is a long running family joke that his regular expected response to family success, or something that had really pleased him, was to quietly utter the words “quite satisfactory”!

As a family we were, and continue to be, immensely proud of his longstanding professional and voluntary commitment to the life and people of Purton. The day before Dad died, I told him that he needed to get better in time for his and Jean’s wedding anniversary at the end of November, but in true form his reply was that he needed to get better sooner in time to sell poppies for the Royal British Legion. Treasure every moment that you have, and treasure it more because you shared it with someone special.

Jennifer Worthington, November 2019

Cricklade Revealed

After 20 years and hundreds of contributors, I will finally be putting together the last book of the series in 2020. CRE5 will cover extra stories from the post-war years (1945 – 1970) so if anyone has any memories of people, places, events or pictures from that period in this area which they’d like to share I would be delighted to hear from you. Just ring 750542 or email me at mfparsons071@btinternet.com

The latest book (CRE 4) is still available from Cricklade Town Council Office, Cricklade Museum or Barbara’s Pet Shop in the High Street. All profits are donated to Cricklade Open Door.

Marion Parsons

St Mary's Primary School

The children are preparing for all the Christmas activities at St Mary's and as you read this in January, they will have performed their Christmas Nativity Plays to parents/carers, sung at Carol Concerts in Church and enjoyed a festive Christmas lunch! The PTA will have hosted the annual Christmas Fayre, which always proves to be a great fundraiser! We must thank the new Co-op who kindly donated a hamper for our raffle too! We look forward to the start of Term 3 and hope all the children have had a good rest over the festive period with their families.



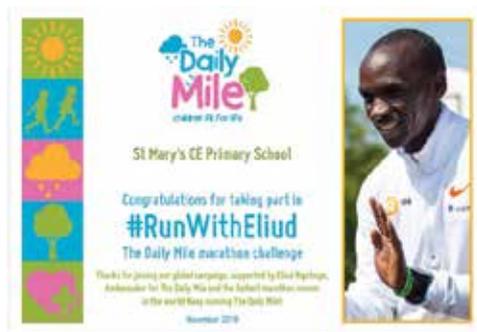
Many thanks to Mr Gunner, of Charles Harding Estate Agents, for donating our lovely, sustainable, outdoor Christmas tree, which has taken pride of place on our playground amphitheatre.



St Mary's Church held their "Angel Festival" in November and lots of our children made some wonderful angels which were on display in the church over that weekend.

The poppies and other Remembrance Day items bought by the children in school raised a wonderful £464.83! We received a lovely thank you letter from our very own Mrs Lawrence, who was delighted with our efforts.

We have recently received our certificate for the #RunWithEliud Daily Mile marathon! We were one of 50 schools across Austria, Belgium and the UK who took up world champion marathoner Eliud Kipchoge's challenge to run each day up to the end of November! Children and staff enjoyed using our new running track to complete this challenge.



Please note that the Primary School Admissions application process for Sept 2020 is now underway. Applications can be made on line via www.wiltshire.gov.uk or by obtaining a paper copy from the School Admissions Team in County Hall Trowbridge. Deadline for all applications is 15 January 2020.

I would be delighted to show you around our school should you be considering St

Mary's. We do not hold open events, as we prefer to show parents/carers around individually. We warmly welcome visits should you wish, prior to submitting the application. Visits can be arranged through the school office admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk or by phoning us on (01793) 770239.

For more information about our wonderful school and all the exciting learning opportunities that take place, visit our school website www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk

Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

It's Panto Time!

PADS members are currently busy rehearsing for our 2020 pantomime - Sleeping Beauty - which will be staged early February from Thurs 6 through to Sat 8 February, with 3 evening performances, starting 7.30 p.m. and a Saturday Matinee at 2.30 pm, at the Village Hall, Station Road, Purton.

Ticket will be on sale from early January from:

The Library, The Co-op, Flawless Floors, and Dora's Dairy in Purton;

Or book tickets and pay by emailing PADStickets@gmail.com

Or you can order tickets by calling:

Kate 771442

Lindsey 771890

Barbara 770160

Ticket prices are £8 Adults, £6 Concessions and £5 Children.

Please come and join us for an evening/afternoon of fun and entertainment. For further details on any of the above, you can contact us via the Purton Amateur Dramatics Society Facebook page.

Kate Bath 771442

Purton United Charities

The distribution of funds will be made on Saturday 25th January 2020 at Purton Silver Threads Hall from 2 pm to 3 pm

Qualifications to receive the Charity are:

- Only one payment per household.
- Applicants must be aged 65 or over on the payment date.
- Applicants must have been resident in the parish for a minimum of one full year.

If you are unable to attend, due to illness or disability, you may apply in writing by no later than 18th January 2020 to: Neil Miles 5 College Road Purton or any other Trustee.



A Book I will Always Remember

the copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on Page 4.

Have you read a book that you will always remember, either recently or many years ago, serious or funny, fact or fiction? Each month we are publishing a review of a book that has meant a lot to a particular reader, especially the reason why it was so memorable. Purton Magazine readers are encouraged to send in a personal review of their favourite book; it need not be very long. As usual,

The Spy and the Traitor by Ben MacIntyre

I start this review with a “health warning” once started you won’t want to put it down.

This is a true story of espionage during the Cold War. Colonel Oleg Gordievsky was a KGB operative who, during a period working in Denmark, met with British MI6 operatives and became totally disenchanted with Communism, the building of the Berlin Wall, its brutality and all it stood for.

His story takes you through the subsequent years culminating in his posting to London where he developed as a serious double agent. Given “chickenfeed” by MI6 to pass to his Soviet masters he was able to access increasing amounts of highly sensitive material to pass back in return. The culmination of his work was obtaining vast amounts of strategic intelligence surrounding the visit of Gorbachev to the UK in 1984.

During that period, intelligence sharing with other countries was uncommon, especially anything approaching the level passed over by Gordievsky. The CIA had received some briefings which the Americans considered unreliable. When proved otherwise they were extremely frustrated to find that they were no longer in pole position when it came to Soviet Union intelligence. Doing all they could to find the British source, a U.S. double agent worked out who it was most likely to be and the net on Gordievsky began to close.

The British having expelled a number of KGB operatives from the UK put Gordievsky in prime position to become the KGB rezident (Head) in London. He was summoned back to Moscow in the belief that this was to formalise his appointment. Not so.

His interrogation by the KGB and the subsequent mistakes they made which lead to his escape back to the UK completes this fascinating story.

Undoubtedly, Gordievsky played a significant role in the break up of the Soviet Union which came about following the removal of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the wave of anti-communist revolution in Eastern Europe.

If you are seeking a good read whilst on holiday, look no further.

John Barnes

Red House Club

At the time of writing this, we at the Red House are working hard to bring together an exciting list of events on the final run in to Christmas and New Year celebrations.

We hope that wherever you spent your holidays everything went well.

We have been proud to deliver a fun filled and busy year at the Red House during 2019 and are particularly proud to be the home for so many Village groups. We have hosted some very memorable live music nights and of course we partnered the brilliant Village "Hog Roast" back at the beginning of June on a very sunny Day.

What an event that was and has been described by some as the "best ever" event in the Village.

We have so many plans to move the Red House complex forward over the coming years and will work always be looking to place it at the Centre of the Village.

We are currently discussing our future with the Landlords / Trustees and are really hopeful that we gain their support to deliver our vision for the Village centre.

We would like to thank all of our members and visitors of the past year and invite you to come and join us during 2020. Membership is now available for 2020. Happy New Year

Contact: neiljsaunders24@gmail.com www.redhouseclubpurton.co.uk

Church Floodlighting



- Dec 3 St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of **Jake Smith** on his 29th birthday. Very much loved and missed by all his family and friends.
- Dec 31st/Jan 1 St Mary's will be floodlit to welcome in the New Year
- Jan 7 The Church will be floodlit in loving memory of **Dale Herbert**. Dearly loved and sadly missed by Mum, Dad and family
- Jan 8 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Bob Wightman MBE** in celebration of what would have been his 108th birthday. Love and best wishes from the Wightman family.
- Jan 20 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **John Cook** on the 8th anniversary of his passing. Very much loved and missed by Sue, Emma, Lucy, Jonathan and their families.

If you would like the Church floodlit for a special date, occasion, or memorial, please contact Libbie on 771018. The cost is £20 for one evening and it would be helpful if the date is booked at least a month before the chosen night. A short announcement can also be published in this magazine at no extra cost.

Bradon Forest School

Environment Week

Early December saw a focus on the environment in school. A variety of activities were held with the highlight being the planting of 100 trees which had been donated by the Woodland Trust. A tree was planted by each tutor group as well the faculties and members of the leadership team. Students were excited to be involved in planting trees that should grow and flourish to be part of Bradon Forest long after they have left the school



Mock Election

Bradon Forest ran a mock election process, that ran parallel to the UK general election. Students were educated on the basics of a general election and the processes within our UK Parliamentary system. They focused on the North Wiltshire constituency, looking at the policies of the four political parties who were looking to win the seat.



We were delighted that all four of the candidates for the North Wiltshire constituency agreed to visit the school to be interviewed by a group of students: Jon Fisher (Labour), Brian Mathew (Liberal Democrat), James Gray (Conservative) and Bonnie Jackson (Green Party). Students volunteered to take part and were set

homework that included researching party manifestos and creating policy specific questions to ask to each of the candidates. All the candidates spoke with the same group of students and it was the job of those students to cascade information back to their tutor groups.

All four of the candidates were impressed with the research the students had conducted and the level of challenge they faced. Fruitful and rigorous political debate focused on a myriad of topics including the environment, economy and mental health to name a few.

We are truly thankful to all four candidates for taking part in our Bradon Forest mock election as it enriches the education we can give our students on the parliamentary process.

At the time of writing this article plans are in place for lunchtime election debates in our canteen, led by and experienced by our students, prior to a school wide vote that students will engage in on December 12th.

Jumping for Joy!



Our U16 Netball team were jumping for joy after coming runners up in the Wiltshire County Cup. The team won all their games apart from the final one against Marlborough College. The team, captained by Emily Rule, scored 97 goals and only conceded 43 in the whole tournament. They will go on to represent Wiltshire in the South West regional competition in Bournemouth in January.

Our U14 team, captained by Lauren Ambrose, also took part in the competition and came 8th. This is the first time Bradon Forest has had two teams in the competition at this level.

Mrs Evans, Head of PE, said, 'I am so proud of the girls. They all played amazingly. This is such an achievement for them and the school. I am so pleased for them.'

We were delighted to receive such positive praise from the Shakespeare Schools Festival, see following page.

“DID MY HEART LOVE ‘TILL NOW?”

Romeo and Juliet

Performed by Bradon Forest School

At The The Wyvern, Swindon, 5/11/2019

Appraised by Jesse Phillippi

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Bradon Forest School for your tremendous production of Romeo and Juliet as part of the 2019 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was an excellent night of theatre, and I'd like to highlight a few aspects that really stood out.

First, I'd like to congratulate the two student technicians who operated your entire show. Your professionalism, creativity and focus was fantastic--well done!

I thought your concept of bringing this 400 year old well-known tragedy into the 21st Century through your use of intense, modern video game fights was absolutely fantastic, and completely ramped up the drama and intensity of the story as it unfolded.

I'd like to commend you on the honest, beautiful, heartfelt moments you brought to the stage through your characterisation and interaction between the characters; it really made the audience believe your story of teenagers in love. These moments of vulnerability, including tender singing and wonderful eye contact with the audience, are especially hard to do--even for professional actors!

Finally, I want to highlight the humour you gave us during one of Shakespeare's most famous tragedies. You showed us a meditating Friar Lawrence, a hilariously awkward hand kiss and a costume party with minions, sumo wrestlers and lobsters. These moments are incredibly important in drama because an audience can't sustain heavy, dark sadness for very long. Plus, by helping us have fun in between tragedy, you created a show in the true spirit of Shakespeare; bravo!

Thank you for an honest and humorous Romeo and Juliet full of heart, that had fun but ended in heavy heartbreak.

Performing Shakespeare's words on a professional stage takes bravery, resilience, and creativity. You should be immensely proud of what you and your teachers have achieved in this Season of Infinite Variety.

I hope to see Bradon Forest School in the 2020 Festival!

Jesse Phillippi

**“THANK YOU FOR AN HONEST AND
HUMOROUS ROMEO AND JULIET FULL OF
HEART, THAT HAD FUN BUT ENDED IN
HEAVY HEARTBREAK.”**

Ten Years Ago...

Ten years ago there wasn't a "10 Years Ago" column in Purton Magazine, but in January 2010 the editorial took the opportunity of a new decade to look back over the previous one. It itemised a few products which had become ubiquitous, such as the iPhone and rectangular spectacles(!). What has the last decade given us? Electric cars, widely marketed by the motor trade but not yet reliable enough to be practical – social media, at best a mixed blessing to the society they purport to serve – and Alexa, for which I have no use, indeed I know no-one who has one. (I must admit to being a technological dinosaur; I own both a mobile phone and a dishwasher but know not how to work either.)

From far away – well, Copenhagen – came a report of the Purton Delegation's trip to a climate conference. Although up to 36,000 attended, does anyone else remember it? It appears that a lot of people did a lot of talking, yet the messages our correspondent brought back were: "The Chinese have a canny way to keep on growing apace whilst appearing to be controlling emissions" and "It is unlikely that anything real will come out of this particular meeting". Not much has changed in ten years there, then.

I still have difficulty in selecting light bulbs. A long article detailed some of the differences between the old and new styles. Now I know, for instance, that one divides the old number of watts by 4 to find one's new bulb's wattage, except in America where one divides by 3. To complicate matters, the light they give out is dependent upon the temperature of the room. All the bulbs are said to last 10 years; the ones from reputable manufacturers may, but supermarket ones probably won't. And it's only an average anyway. And it depends on how much they are used, how often they are switched on and off, etc., etc.

I think the Magazine has now completed the magnum opus of the history of the First World War. Ten years ago the museum submitted an article about an account book recording money collected for the Purton Prisoners Food Fund. By the end of the war*, £418 had been collected and distributed. It then went on to detail the collection for the Wayside Cross, more commonly known as the Cenotaph. This raised a further £235. Considering the size of the village then and the value of money, this sounds extremely generous.

*The article states October 1917, but the context suggests 1918.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Pavenhill, Upper and Lower Pavenhill, Paven Close, Bunce Court, Gleed Close, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Cob Hill, Saxon Mill and Cowleaze*

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



The topic of our November meeting was 'Islamic Gardens' and by using a series of slides our speaker Nathalie Mignotte, was able to convey an understanding of these 'paradise gardens', meaning 'enclosed gardens', by highlighting the irrigation systems, fountains and rills in which they rely.

The slides portrayed Islamic gardens based mainly in Morocco, in Marrakech in particular. Nathalie set the scene by showing us slides of the arid desert. Although the desert appears dry, water flows from the meltwater of the Atlas Mountains carving deep ravines, running into underground water courses and oases. Walled gardens created with shelter and irrigation allow for the growth of lush planting within.

The climate in Marrakech is subject to a wide temperature range so native plants are specially suited to the environment, the Olive tree, symbol of fertility, the Almond tree, symbol of hope and rebirth, Madonna Lily, the symbol of purity, and the Persian Rose to name but a few.

The Acacia tree, we call it Mimosa, is known for its sharp barbs ideal for goat herders who set the thorns to make temporary pens to house their animals overnight. They are also known as the "Crown of Thorns".

The creation of a 'paradise garden' comprises land enclosed by walls, bisected by four rills representing the four rivers that flowed out of the Garden of Eden. A simple central fountain lies at their intersection, the rills acting as an aqueduct and forming four beds between them at a lower level. Small pipes leading from these, cut through mud walls to feed crops. Large scale irrigation measures undertaken in the royal gardens of Menara created in the 13th century, allowed for the creation, by the sultan, of a vast mirror lake essentially a water tank, that reflects the sky. Water flows from this into the lower beds allowing crops and palm trees to grow.

As the Islamic faith does not allow for people or things to be represented, so design is based on the humble square and is the basis of the geometric designs of pools and tiles that are abundant. Colour also featured as an important element: green, the colour of life, brown and blue in particular were used for tiles. More elaborate fountains evolved in some gardens.

Amongst the images were those of the courtyard gardens of Jacques Majorelle, who at the turn of the 20th century spent forty years passionately creating the Jardin Majorelle in Marrakech, later restored by Yves St Laurent and his colleague.

This was a talk that emphasised the glory of early artisan skills, and the beauty of their designs.

Our first meeting of the new year will be held on Tuesday, 28th January at 7.30pm in Silver Threads Hall. This will take the form of the AGM, usually a brief affair, followed

by our re-scheduled American Supper, when each member brings an offering of food for the table. This usually results in a splendid feast for one and all to share. A fabulous social evening to start the new year.

If you have an interest in gardening we are a friendly group and are always happy to welcome new members or visitors.

Margaret Goodall, Secretary Tel 770906

The Royal British Legion 2019 Poppy Appeal

A total of **£9204.81** has been sent from Purton and district to the 2019 Poppy Appeal, and we would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way.

Special thanks to the volunteers who helped again this year. We are always happy to hear from anyone who is able to offer a few hours once a year to help with the House-to-House collections or at the West Swindon Centre.

*Shirley and Michael Lawrence, Poppy Appeal Organisers
Tel 01793 771084 Email: the_lawrences@btinternet.com*

Purton Tennis Club

It's a new year and we have a new chair: Sass Joyce. Sass is a very popular member of the club and we wish her well in her new role.

We are continuing to play winter league matches, with some wins and some losses, but hopefully no cancellations due to bad weather. The weather however has been a challenge for our maintenance crew. Strong winds cause leaves to fall on the courts and wet conditions are perfect for moss to start growing, so thanks to everyone who help to keep the courts in good playable order.

Our Christmas bash was on 14th December. We enjoyed a curry at the Maharajah followed by music and dancing at the Red House Club.

Our next social event is the Swindon and District League presentation evening. We are pleased to say that PTC will be hosting this event this year at The Red House Club on 4th January.

We are also looking forward to hosting teams from Devon and Somerset later in the year, and hopefully they will take part in the very popular 'Khaliq Cup' (sponsored by the Maharajah)

In December some of you may have heard us on BBC Wiltshire, when Kelly Morgan visited the club to find out more about us. We spoke about the future of the club, its history and also about women in sport. Kelly was so kind, and helpful to the nervous interviewees, it was really lovely to meet her.

For further details please visit our web site: purtontennisclub.com Or contact Janet Saunders (secretary) 01793 77214

Purton Village Diary - January 2020

Th 2	10.30am	Communion at The Vicarage
Su 5	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Covenant Service at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	United Family Service at Purton Methodist Church
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
W 8	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church
Th 9	11.00am	Songs of Parise at The Cedars
F 10	TBC	Age Concern shopping trip, details to be announced
	2.00pm	Friendship Club at Silver Threads Hall
Su 12	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Primary School
M 13	7.00pm	Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
Tu 14	10.00am	Purton Probus meet at The Red House lounge for a talk entitled "A Schoolboy in the 1930s)
	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
	2.00pm	Bingo with John at Silver Threads Hall
	7.00pm	Wessex Male Choir open evening at Abbey Meads
	8.00pm	After 8 "Another Year Gone"- Quiz by Helen at Sandra's
W 15	2.30pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
Su 19	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	United Family Communion at St Mary's Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm Primary School
M 20	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women AGM and Party.
	7.00pm	Parish Council play areas and recreation meeting at Purton Village Hall
Th 23	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at the Village Hall for a talk on St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze conservation project
Sa 25	6.30pm	Age Concern Burns Night at the Village Hall
Su 26	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
M 27	7.00pm	Village Hall Charity meeting at Purton Village Hall
Tu 28	10.00am	Purton Probus meet at The Red House lounge for a talk about fracking and shail gas
	2.00pm	Paul plays his ukulele at Silver Threads Hall
	7.30pm	The Gardeners' Guild meet at Silver Threads Hall for their AGM and American supper

F 31 9.00am Age Concern shopping trip to Cirencester, departing from Purton Village Hall

Every week

M 7.00pm to 8.00pm Purton Village Voices choir practice at the Red House Skittle Alley (term time)

Tu 9.00am to 11am: Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
12 noon Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
1.45pm to 3.45pm Post Office van stops at Purton Village Hall car park
7.30pm Bridge Club at the Red House

W 10.00am to 12 noon: Coffee and chat at Silver Threads Hall
2.00pm to 5.00pm: Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)
6.15pm Purton Youth Club for school years 4-7 at Purton Village Hall

Th 12 noon Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
2.00pm to 3pm: Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall (term time)
2.20pm Pram Service for pre-school children at Purton Methodist Church (term time)

F 10.00am to 11.30am: Tea, coffee and cake at The Cedars

Sa 10.00am to 12.30pm: Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)

Every month

1st Wednesday 10.00am Story Time at Purton Library for pre-school children

2nd Wednesday (except Aug) 2.30pm Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church

2nd & 4th Tuesday Purton Probus meet in the Red House lounge

2nd & 4th Tuesday Purton Silver Threads meet at the Silver Threads Hall

3rd Monday St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church

3rd Tuesday Royal British Legion meet at the Red House

3rd Wednesday 2.15pm Rhyme Time at Purton Library for babies, toddlers and their carers

February

F 6 to Su 8 PADS perform their Pantomime 'Sleeping Beauty' at Purton Village Hall

Th 27 7.30pm Purton Historical Society meet at the Village Hall for a talk on St Dunstan and the Miracle of Calne

Sa 29 2.00pm Jumble Sale at Silver Threads Hall

If your Club or Organisation's events are not included in the Diary pages, contact Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton, Tel: 772954 or email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group

In the last issue I introduced this new Environmental Group in Royal Wootton Bassett which has become popular with many of us in Purton and is open to anyone to join.

In November the Wiltshire Councillors for this area allowed the group to take over their board meeting and turn it into an Ecofest. This is in line with the Council's public acknowledgement that we are in a Climate Emergency.

The event was a huge success with a market area for local producers and information stands as well as a panel session for various speakers and debates. The market area had a real buzz as small businesses chatted to each other and their customers and, amongst the chatter, even managed to make a few sales!

First up was the 'Rewilding our Verges' discussion which created a lot of interest. Glynis Hales of The Bee Roadzz Swindon spoke of returning to the UK after 20 years in New Zealand and being shocked at how the variety of birds in her garden had diminished in that time. Neil Pullen of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust mentioned that many people nowadays have never experienced some aspects of nature that used to be common, such as walking through a cloud of butterflies.



Road verges, if managed properly could contribute greatly to replenishing lost insect life and biodiversity and it's great to see the verge alongside the Red House in Purton planted up with insect- and bird-loving plants.

Two other panels were about developing a cycle track from RVB to Swindon and supporting environmentally friendly businesses in our community. I was on the latter panel representing Purton House Organics along with Chris Rummings of Lydiard

Turkeys, Gemma's Hair and Nails (she switched to Eco products last year) and zero packaging retailer, Jo Portsmouth of The Town Pantry. Chair of Wiltshire Council, Alison Bucknell was very encouraging (she contributes regularly to our Facebook Page) and suggested we look into the idea of a 'pop up' hub of local businesses on the RWB High Street.

The other event this month was an Environmental Hustings in the run up to the Election, with three out of four candidates able to attend. There was a consensus about the urgency of our situation and that we are currently heading in the wrong direction with emissions still rising when we need them to reduce. Although the candidates were competing against each other for votes it was a good natured debate. There was a general feeling that we all need to come together on this issue and it was heartening to hear that cross party efforts are already happening.

If you would like to join us you can find us on Facebook – search Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group and join in discussions and sharing of information or go to our website ecorwb.org

Or you can contact me to find out how to get involved.

Kate Robinson, Email: purtonfarmshop@gmail.com Tel. 01 793 772930

Act now to advertise at 2018/19 rates!

Advertising in Purton Magazine really works! Hundreds of local business have found new customers by advertising with us. Indeed we know of two companies who have stopped advertising in Purton Magazine in 2019 simply because they now have too many customers. How many other companies would like to be in that position?

Our competitive advertising rates have been unchanged since 2017, but with the growth of the magazine, the costs of printing and production are rising, we need to increase our rates from 1st April 2020. All advertising arrangements with existing or new advertisers agreed before 1st April 2020 will be at the old rates.

Unlike online platforms, Purton Magazine is a locally run, non-profit community enterprise, which means we are always at the heart of our community. We print around 1,000 copies each month with over 85% delivered directly to our annual subscribers.

We are not a 'free sheet' throw-away publication and we know that our readers really value their village magazine throughout each month and rely on it as the leading source of information about what's happening in and around Purton.

Give your business a boost by advertising in Purton Magazine. Email us at advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk for full details and to secure your success in 2020 at our current prices.

Purton Post Bag



The editors reserve the right not to publish letters received where space and content dictate. No correspondence can be accepted for publication without the proper name and address of the correspondent being supplied. However, these details may be withheld from publication if requested.



Comfort during a time of loss

I want to thank you all for the beautiful cards, some hand-crafted, that have been a great comfort during the past few weeks. The letters, phone calls and offers of support have been appreciated too. Now I am delighted that the Royal British Legion and St Mary's Church, both of particular concern to John, will benefit from your generous donations in his memory.

He was ill for less than a week, which was a blessing for him but a dreadful shock for all the family who miss him in so many ways. He made a significant contribution to Purton life both as the village GP and during the thirty years since he retired. As a family we feel he set us a fine example of a life well lived.

Jean Belt



Festive fun with Silver Threads and Age Concern

Although my wife is a member of Purton Silver Threads, I am not, although I have carried out various small DIY jobs for them. I was able to be an 'extra' at their recent Christmas Meal on Friday 6th Dec, at the Bell Inn, Purton Stoke! I was glad to be in such enjoyable company having a really nice meal and Christmas Pudding.

I realised that it was well organised by the volunteers and assisted by Greg and Vicky, owners of the 'Bell' and Staff. That said, my wife and myself attended the Age Concern Christmas Party on Saturday 7th Dec. The meal was very good, followed by a sweet and coffee, tea and mince pies. Also included was entertainment by 'Foursome' Saxophone Group and 'Purton Village Voices' Choir. The whole group of volunteers were exceptional in all they did and the Age Concern Committee had excelled for us in the village who saw fit to attend.

I just have to say a huge 'Thankyou' to all of those volunteers within those organisations to enable local people to enjoy what other towns and villages do not have. We, in Purton are really lucky to have so much going on, including an exceptional Lunch Club and Minibus Service, also run by volunteers. They offer so much to us for which, I can guarantee, we are all truly grateful to you all!

We mustn't forget our excellent Purton Magazine that enables so much information to be conveyed to all. My cousin at Melksham says, "We don't have anything like you have in Purton Chris, or even such a lovely magazine for us to read when you visit"!

Chris Glead



Caring community

I feel very privileged to live in such a wonderful caring village as Purton.

Thank you everyone who has supported me during these long dark days following my dear husband Eric's death. For all the help offered, the beautiful cards I have received which have given me great comfort. I shall cherish them always and through the dreary winter days ahead I shall re-read them all. Again, thank you.

Joyce Ball



Parish Council response

from Chairman of Council, Ray

Thomas to last month's open letter

I am saddened to read more criticism of the Parish Council, especially when it is founded on inaccurate information and I regret to say ignorance of the laws relating to Highways.

The writer of the anonymous letter states they attended a Council meeting to discuss speeding issues in the Village, with the emphasis on The Fox.

He is correct that Council agreed to look at the situation on the route and asked for a metro-count, to establish speeds and volumes of traffic, this was the two rubber strips on the road; it was also agreed that the foliage around the 30 signs would be cut back, this was done as soon as was practical by the Parish Steward. Once the results were in, he was written to directly along with a copy of all those residents in the area, advising there was little else that could be done other than speed watch, which is in place, and was reliant on volunteers, none of which were willing to carry

out the watch scheme from this area. Without factual information of speeding no other options are available from the Highways Dept. Without volunteers the Speed watch programme does not operate and we are fortunate to have a group of people who give their time to carry out this role at two locations as and when they are able. The gentleman of course could renew his volunteer status on Community Speed Watch if he continues to live in the village.

I am sure if he was to read the minutes of Council he would find we have budgeted for Speed Indicator Devices in 2020/21, these will be installed at Parish Council expense and like most Highway issues need to comply with Highway legislation which is quite strict and does not allow the installation of speed bumps, chicanes, or similar devices without extensive consultation and investigation and of course, have proof associated to the need of which the metro counts at the Fox could not substantiate. Factual information is the only type that will be considered when highways make changes, not a residents belief of a speeding car.

To imply the Council do not care about lives within this village is despicable, and if the writer is as concerned as he states perhaps he should have continued with the need to raise awareness and volunteers for the Fox as a designated community speed watch area.

It is very easy to pass comment but this gentleman knows how the systems work, also knows all Parish Councillors give their time without recompense to try and provide the right environment for

all. If, as stated, he is of the strong opinion that we do not care perhaps he should join, we have a vacancy, I look forward to his application. Currently the comments are an insult to every Councillor who tries to do a very difficult job.



Thank you from the family of Roy Lane

Carol and family would like to thank all those that attended Roy's funeral and took the time to send cards and messages of sympathy. It has been a huge support and much appreciated in what has been a very difficult time.



Wiltshire Air Ambulance

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported the annual Whist Drive held at the Silver Threads Hall.

Also a huge thank you to all those who gave both prizes and raffle prizes together with donations for such a worthy cause. Not forgetting the volunteers who helped on the night and during the day.

Thank you, Anne Worsley

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers

1st Purton Rainbows have been learning about worldwide Girlguiding and our world badge. They have also enjoyed various Christmas crafts including painting ceramic angels for the St Mary's Church Angel Festival and also decorating Christmas coasters which leader Bluebird's husband made for them. 2nd Purton Rainbows will be closing at Christmas with girls either moving on to Brownies or joining 1st Purton Rainbows. Thanks go to Chloe Eastman for helping to keep the 2nd Purton unit open over the autumn term.

1st Purton Brownies welcomed hedgehog expert Sue to their meeting one week who was impressed by how much they already knew. The Brownies also made hedgehog homes to put in their gardens – fingers crossed that they have attracted some residents. The other focus was on challenges to complete Innovate Skills Builders. These included making teddy zip wires, constructing skyscrapers, putting together a dance routine, inventions and making boats.

2nd Purton Brownies celebrated, and with good reason. The unit was first registered on 24th November 1969 so they are officially 50 years old! A party was a must and this was organised by the Brownies. One group made the decorations, lots of banners and bunting. Another group organised the food, some homemade, and the last group organised entertainment - musical games, dancing and disco. They have also been busy making pop up Christmas cards and a large card for the residents of Ashgrove House Nursing Home which they delivered in person, taking the opportunity for some carol singing at Ashgrove which was well received.

If you attended the St Mary's Church Christmas Fayre you may have encountered some Purton Brownies at the human fruit machine. They had great fun being the



workings of a fruit machine, producing fruit from slots when the customer rang the bell to fire up the machine.

The two Purton Brownie units, along with Brownies from Cricklade and Lawn in Swindon, had an exciting sleepover at Boomerang soft play centre in Melksham. Exclusive use of the soft play facilities and disco room until late at night, then bedding down in their sleeping bags in the play area before breakfast and more play in the morning. What's not to love about that?

Purton Guides put pens to paper to craft beautiful angels for display at St Mary's Church Angel Festival and another crafty evening was spent decorating candles on a Christmas theme with modelling wax and special wax pens. They came up with some inventive ways of warming the modelling wax sufficiently for shaping, one favourite method being under the hand dryers!

With the help of one of the Guide parents, a politics lecturer, the Guides took a look at politics and democracy. They explored the principles of communicating the ideas and policies of a group, airing them in an honest way and then making sure a democratic vote took place. They put these principles into action to vote on three topics relating to the unit: the programme theme they would like to focus on next term, the choice of end of term Christmas celebration and finally what they would like to do for a meeting outside the usual meeting place the next term.

The end of term celebration vote winner was a comfy, cosy relaxed evening filled with sweet treats and entertainment by the Leaders! So, wearing their pyjamas and with Christmas music playing in the background, they decorated gingerbread and enjoyed hot chocolate with marshmallows before party games and Lucy, Matilda, Phoebe, Sicelly and Violet making their Guide Promise to round off the term.

If you're interested in volunteering with Girlguiding, please have a chat with one of our existing volunteers, or contact district commissioner Janet Abbott by phone on 07454 384763 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest in joining at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/

RunVember 2019

You may have noticed several local people running, each day during November, with a green race number pinned to their fluorescent jackets. They were taking part in RunVember, to highlight the needs of the homeless and those relying on Food Banks at this time of year.

Over 600 people took part in 2019, from all around the Swindon area - the largest number ever. The whole event was the brainchild of local builder Alan Butler (known as HrH). Everyone committed to walking, cycling, running or swimming a certain distance, set by themselves, every day of the month. At the same time they filled a box with tinned and dried food for a family for a week or so, all carefully selected... along with a box of chocolates and a Christmas card. Over 500 boxes have been collected so far and over £5000 donated. What an achievement! Thanks to all of you who offered support.



Christmas social

The Christmas Social was held on Friday 6th December 2019 in the Silver Threads Hall. Members and guests enjoyed a very good supper supplied by 'Out of the Box' Caterers and entertainment provided by the popular White Horse Folk Group from Highworth. A Christmas quiz compiled by Jan Walker and our usual raffle all added to the festive atmosphere of a very enjoyable evening.

2020 Programme and Subscriptions

Our 2020 programme can be viewed on the Society webpage and at the entrance to the Library. Subscriptions are due in January - £15.00 per annum and visitors are always welcome, fee £3.00

Thursday 23rd January 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Purton Village Hall
Sarah Finch Crisp – St Mary's Church Lydiard Tregoze, Lydiard Park, Conservation Project

The January meeting will no doubt be of great interest to local people, to learn about St. Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze, a unique local church. Additional details were published in the December magazine.

Thursday 27th February 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Purton Village Hall
Nick Baxter – St Dunstan and the Miracle of Calne

In the year 978 Dunstan, the Archbishop of Canterbury, presided at a state council, or witan, at a two-storied royal hall in Calne. The teenage king, Edward, was absent, "on account of his youth". A heated debate flared up as Dunstan's reforms were roundly attacked. The sticking point was the question of clerical celibacy. Dunstan gave the case for adherence to the Benedictine Rule of poverty, obedience, and chastity but was losing the argument amidst shouts and jeers. Suddenly, and without warning, the floor collapsed plunging Dunstan's opponents to injury and death: Dunstan was miraculously preserved as he was standing on a beam. It was deemed to be a signal from God. Within a year the king was murdered to be followed by 36 years of continuous and sustained Viking attack. In 1016 King Cnut established Danish rule over England. Cnut made Dunstan a saint because he wanted to be associated with a great, holy, and good man. What happened in Calne was a turning point in national history.

Thursday 26th March 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Purton Village Hall
Annual General Meeting Followed by Joe Gardner - Purton Cricket Club Bicentenary (This is a change from the talk published on our 2019/2020 membership card)

Joe has extensive knowledge of Purton Cricket club and his talk will link in with a new Spring exhibition in the Museum – see below. New Members and visitors always welcome.

Janet and Tony Neate: Tel: 01793 770117 email: tjneate57@gmail.com

Our monthly talk took place in a packed village Hall- “Wiltshire through the eyes of a Moonraker” by Michael Gamble and turned out to be a real treat. A film with a musical accompaniment and a running commentary of the sights of the county of Wiltshire.

A moonraker was an old English term for a smuggler running contraband throughout the county to avoid paying taxes to the kings revenue men. It covered some of the loveliest churches-including St.Mary’s Purton and of course Salisbury. Stonehenge, the gardens at Longleat, the blue bells at Urchford, Dauntsey, Bibury and all the Military country side of Salisbury Plain, including the deserted village of Imber. A wonderful tour of the county, its buildings (including our lovely library) it really made us make plans for outings next spring and I am sure would be loved by all the residents of Purton.

Refreshments at half time and interesting questions after, made for a great evening. Members & visitors all welcome at our next evening on 23 January-7.30pm “St Mary’s Church Lydiard - a Conservation Project” Start the New Year well with the Historical Society!

Jill Watts

Purton Museum news

Purton Cricket Club Exhibition

A new exhibition to celebrate the bicentenary of the Purton Cricket club will be on display when the Museum re-opens in the Spring on 28th March 2020.

Kibblewhite Cup

Bradon Forest School recently gifted a spectacular Kibblewhite Cup to Purton Museum. James Kibblewhite, Purton’s famous champion runner, began his career in 1884 and for ten seasons ran with phenomenal success. He was awarded this cup (see picture) on 16th August 1886, after winning the Twenty Five Guineas race at Stourbridge.

Phil Scott, former Deputy Headmaster at Bradon Forest School, recalls the cup being awarded to the winning House of the Summer Term Athletic Competition (when the school ran a four House system) and it was presented at Speech Evening. This was in the early years of Bradon Forest School when it was a Secondary Modern and Mr Burden was Headmaster. When the school became a comprehensive in 1974, the cup ceased to be awarded to the best House for athletics. The cup has been professionally cleaned and is a wonderful addition to the James Kibblewhite display.

Lucy Lewis, Museum Committee Member

The other side of the gate

I'm hopeful that by the time this goes to print the cows will finally be in their winter housing. It's been a long drawn out affair; it's taken far longer and has cost much more than I could ever have imagined! The saying goes that however long and whatever you think something will cost to build, you ought to double it and they were right! Maybe naivety on my part (I'm not a builder!), and maybe a bit unlucky. My mountain of hardcore was woefully inadequate; that was the biggest delay as I had to get more as quickly as possible and when you want it, no one has it. Because of those delays the people I'd organised to do the concreting were booked up well in to December so I had to find another builder as soon as I could. I'm very grateful that Paul Kinnett squeezed me into his busy work schedule. I had him and his guys here most days during November. We both underestimated how much work was involved and we were both extremely relieved to see the last concrete lorry drive out! Paul and his men did a great job and I'm extremely pleased with the progress.



Last Saturday (7th December) I put a request on Facebook for help moving the frames and wooden sides about on site. We had a good turn out of bodies and they made very short work of what was going to be a hideous job on my own. They set up a chain gang and it only took a few hours to do what would have taken me days! Thanks to neighbours Ian, Karen and Val and friends John Halstead, Daniel Harris, Paul Clifford, Scott Harflett, Margaret and Malcolm Pearson, and Hayden Galt. In all the excitement, I forgot to take any photos! Later that day Nick Downing and I worked until about 11pm moving and leaving half the chalk (about 90 tonnes) to one of the bedding areas. I was fortunate to be in the heated tractor whilst Nick was on the small and exposed digger! The north wind was bitter that night and he was frozen by the time we'd finished. The next day Tris jumped on the digger. He made a few alterations aided with some industrial cling film (pallet wrap). That afforded him some protection from the wind and rain. Chalk when wet is not easy to move around - it sticks to everything and turns into soup! It needs the covers over it so it can dry out and be rolled. When compacted it goes very hard so makes excellent flooring for laying areas and it is significantly cheaper than concrete (about £18 per tonne for chalk and £96 per tonne for concrete).

Ginger and Brownie both calved. Both were inseminated with sexed semen from a bull called Firewall, and both had Brown Swiss heifer calves. Sarah asked on our Dora's Dairy Facebook page for name suggestions. It really caught the imagination of a lot of people: we had over 150 name suggestions, but for Brownie's calf we chose 'Blitzen' and 'Greta' for Ginger's calf. They're impossible to tell apart so we have written their names on their ear tags. Fast forward two years and I hope to



be writing about their calves and getting 'B' and 'G' name suggestions from our followers.

This month we also sent our batch of pigs off to the abattoir. They've made some of the best pork and gammon we've ever done. The ham is delicious and it will be all gone by now as I will have eaten it all! I'm happy that a lot of the joints will be served on Christmas Day on tables in the village. Sarah and I picked up a new batch of six pigs from a farm at Devizes. They're slightly different breeding. We normally have Landrace but these are Hampshire x Duroc. It will be interesting to see how they grow.

This year I've grown some chickens for Christmas too. Usually, these birds are processed at six weeks old, but mine will be about 22 weeks old. They're massive! They will be oven ready at about 6/7kgs. It's a long time since I've processed a chicken. I competed in a poultry trussing competition for Purton and Cricklade Young Farmers in May 1987. I'm sure I came in the top three so I'm hopeful that the skills will come back to me!

We've had a new heifer to the farm this last week. Coconut has come from Bentham Farm, Purton Stoke. She's a two year old Jersey and she will be an addition to our A2 milking herd when she calves.

2020 looks like it's going to be a year with lots of changes and exciting new projects. We've got lots of plans and new products to develop, as well as new markets in which to sell them.

Jonathan Cook

Beneath the Wool

Over the past month Grenville has done most of his work. The day came to change the colour chalk to red on the 27th November, I had to do this in the dark of the morning with a ram that on this day, was in a particularly bad mood. It didn't help that he was after a ewe that morning so catching him was quite a job. After running around the field at College Farm for five minutes I finally caught him and thank God it was dark, hopefully nobody saw me! Changing the chalk once I'd caught him wasn't easy either as there's a pin holding it on and when you put the new one in, the holes have to line up which took a few attempts, but we finally got there and he was sent back off to do his job.



On the 29th November it was time to move the ewes out of College Farm and back home to eat a field of grass. Luckily they all ran in the pen very well and loaded in the trailer. However, that was the end of the good luck, towing the stock box full of sheep out was the hard bit, especially with all the rain we have had recently. With this and an incline to get up, it took a bit of getting out. Luckily the truck did manage it with a struggle.

This past weekend I found Grenville's chalk on the floor with the pin still through it, which got me wondering how he'd managed to do that. On the Sunday I found out that he had broken his whole raddle. I'm not quite sure how he's done that, but now he's going to have to go without for the rest of the season, which wasn't the plan but I'm sure we will be fine.

On Wednesday 4th December I took four sheep to slaughter; three ewes that were barren last year and have been fattening up over the summer, and one lamb. They went to J Broomhall Ltd at Eastington just outside Stroud. As well as these four Sheep, I took two cows for Jon and Sarah [Quarry Farm] which came with its struggles and I'm sure he will write about it, probably with a picture as evidence. I'm convinced it's his fault for choosing such an awkward way of doing it. The trip down was very good and traffic was light which helped. The best route to take is down the A417 to the Air Balloon then join the M5 which wasn't a too bad.



As January starts to come near I start thinking about scanning and the potential results. I'm hoping this year will be better than last, and as the ewes have had plenty of grass this should be the case.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton



Cricket at Purton in 2020

- In 1971 the old wooden pavilion was pulled down and burnt and a stone built one was erected with a tea room included.
- The outfield is weed killed annually and it only takes one and a half hours to cut.
- The garage/tea room was pulled down and replaced by an enlarged stone -built garage with more room for machinery.
- Water was piped to the edge of the square so that hosepipes and sprinklers could be used for wicket preparation.
- Machinery was increased with a new motor mower for the square, strimmers and a scarifier.
- The track to the ground was improved by gravel replacing the grass to provide all year access to the facilities.
- Ten years ago, a new state of the art, three lane netting system was installed which provided a good practice area.
- Electricity was provided by a generator to be replaced later by solar power.
- Flush toilets had been constructed and a shower facility installed.
- All needs for water were piped.
- The club's original 'cookhouse' from the nineteenth century was pulled down being in a bad state of repair with no organisations coming forward to repair it as an historical building.
- A heavy power drawn roller had made wicket preparation easier.
- There were two sight screens making it easier for the batting team to see the ball.
- Pitch covers had been purchased meaning that areas could be protected against inclement weather.
- A score box had been erected to be replaced recently by an electronic one.
- Transport to home and away matches was by car.
- The tank trap had been levelled and the popular trees planted about 1980 had grown to majestic heights.
- Teams were posted on the club website.

As we look forward to 2020 the 'Ainslie' Pavilion Fund is nearing £50,000 which enables the club to apply for matched funding. All of the 'good' days are not necessarily in the past!

Joe Gardner



This photo is of Purton Stoke Cricket Club in 1923, if anyone can put names to some of the players, please let me know, Joe.

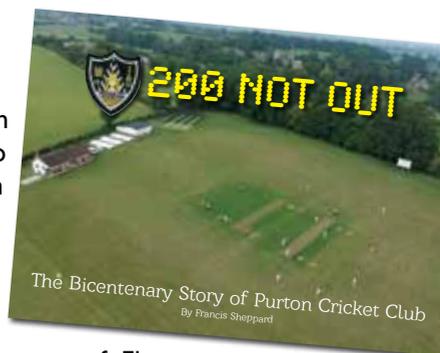
200 Years ago

In January George VI ascended to the throne on the death of his father King George III which also triggered the General Election of 1820 which ran from 6th March to 14th April. The romantic painter John Constable was busy with his brushes completing his View of Salisbury circa 1820 and his famous The Hay Wain a year later.

Of the famous people to be born in 1820, the name of Florence Nightingale is one of the more recognisable and she lived to the then very ripe old age of 90.

In sporting history, the first golf club to be founded outside Britain was The Bangalore in India in 1820. That same year Northamptonshire County Cricket Club was founded although it was later subject to substantial reorganisation and reformation in 1878. Here in our very own village, Purton cricket club was also founded and was the first cricket club in Wiltshire. It remains very active to this day on the same picturesque ground that was later acquired and gifted to our cricket club "for all time" by James Sadler in 1911.

A book describing the bicentenary story of Purton Cricket Club has recently been published with over 100 copies already sold locally. It contains 106 pages with over 100 illustrations with many team photographs showing numerous current Purton



residents way back in their youthful days. With the strength of families remaining in Purton, members of earlier generations are also included in some of the club and team photographs from around 100 years ago. Copies are available at £10.00 plus post and packing with all surpluses being donated to the Ainslie's Pavilion Fund, further details of which are also in the book. Please contact francis@sheppard.org (or phone 771018) to buy your copy.

A Double Century For Purton Cricket Club

By Malcolm Morrison

Two hundred years ago, at the top of the hill.
Some men started playing with a little red 'pill'.
They cut an area of grass, which they called a 'wicket',
For that quintessentially English game called cricket.
It's a game that most foreigners can't understand;
But it's played in this country throughout the land.
Indeed, it's something the Brits gave to the whole Empire –
To which kids of all races and creeds can aspire.
The bowler is said to 'turn his arm over';
The batsman then 'drives', majestically through 'cover';
The fielder tries to stop it by hook or by crook,
If he fails and it reaches the boundary, a '4' goes in the book.
Bowlers may 'swing' it; or 'spin' the ball off the ground;
The batsman tries to 'play' it with lovely 'ball on willow' sound.
He may 'hook', 'cut' or 'drive' it and try not to get 'out';
But if ball hits 'leg before wicket', "How's that?" will be the 'shout'.
The fielders have names on the 'on' and 'off' sides;
There are all sorts of 'legs' – 'fine', 'long', 'short' – and 'square', besides.
There are 'slips' and 'gullies', and there's a 'point', too,
Who has a 'cover' and an 'extra' – all with jobs to do.
'Mid-off' and 'mid-on' can both be 'silly';
And 'short leg' can be 'forward' or 'backward', willy-nilly;
The 'wicket-keeper' wears protection as he tries to 'keep wicket'.
They all make the 'fielding side' in this game called cricket.
The game's given us phrases that are hard to match –
Such as being 'bowled over' and making a 'good (matrimonial) catch'!
We can have a 'fair run' of fortune; or get 'caught out' if bad;
Or we can 'take a stance' that can prove to be sad.
For two hundred years Purton has been playing this game;
The 'laws', they may change, but the 'spirit's' the same.
One needs both skill and luck as one strides out to the wicket;
But, if the umpires aren't fair, then that's 'just not cricket'!

Purton in the time of Victoria

Part 7: Prince Albert

Victoria became queen in 1837, aged only 18 and unmarried. She naturally attracted suitors, many of whom might seem to have been stalkers today! Captain John Goode followed the Queen on her vacations and, after numerous attempts 'to be noticed' he was arrested and sent to Bethlem hospital for the insane (as it was known in those days). Captain Tom Flower of the 15th Light Dragoons was turned down. John Stockledge tried to break into Windsor Castle and ended up in prison.

More realistic proposals were from Prince George (son of the Duke of Cumberland who was also king of Hanover), and the Duke of Orleans. Neither was successful and a particular problem regarding Orleans was that he was catholic which raised issues with the Act of Settlement of 1701 (see part 1). Prince Alexander of the Dutch House of Orange was also put forward.

Grand Duke Alexander Nikolaevich was heir to the Russian throne. He visited Victoria but their relationship was impossible since, once he became Tsar (as he did in 1855 as Alexander II), Victoria would have had to live in Russia. Politics made this impossible.

Queen Victoria's mother (Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld and Duchess of Kent) and her uncle Leopold I of Belgium put forward an alliance through marriage with the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha of Germany, although Germany was yet to be unified as a single country, hence the small kingdoms and principalities. In 1836, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha visited Victoria in England and after a courtship of 4 years, they were married on 10 February 1840 in St James's Palace chapel. This was the first marriage of a reigning queen of England since Mary I in 1554. Prince Albert is pictured in a portrait of 1840 by Queen Victoria's court painter, John Partridge.

Within two months of the marriage, Victoria was pregnant. Albert started to take on public roles; he became President of the Society for the Extinction of Slavery (which was still legal in the southern United States and the colonies of France); and helped Victoria privately with her government paperwork. Albert's popularity and political support rose and Parliament passed the Regency Act 1840. This designated him as regent in the event of Victoria's death before their child reached the age of majority. Their first child, Victoria, named after her mother, was born in November 1840.

In 1841, Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel appointed Albert as chairman of the Royal Commission in charge of redecorating the new Palace of Westminster. The Palace had burned down seven years before, and was being rebuilt (see part 6). As a patron and purchaser of pictures and sculpture, the commission was set up to promote the fine arts in Britain.

By 1844, Albert had managed to modernise the royal finances and built up a fund to

buy Osborne House on the Isle of Wight as a private residence for their growing family. Over the next few years a house modelled in the style of an Italianate villa was built to the designs of Prince Albert and Thomas Cubitt.

Albert supported moves to raise working ages and free up trade. He attended the debate on the Corn Laws in the House of Commons to give tacit support to Peel. Albert's authority behind (or beside) the throne became apparent and the clerk of the Privy Council, Charles Greville, wrote of him: "He is King to all intents and purposes."

In 1847, Albert was elected Chancellor of the University of Cambridge and used his position to reform and modernise university curricula, expanding the subjects taught to include modern history and the natural sciences.

The tenant of Balmoral died suddenly in early October 1847, and Albert took over the lease from the owner, the Earl of Fife. The Royal Family went there for the first time in September 1848. In 1852 Victoria received a legacy, which she and Albert used to buy the freehold of Balmoral and an extensive series of improvements was made.

Albert had progressive and relatively liberal ideas which led to reforms in university education, welfare, the royal finances and slavery. He had a special interest in applying science and art to the manufacturing industry. The Great Exhibition of 1851 arose from the annual exhibitions of the Society of Arts, of which Albert was President from 1843, and owed most of its success to his efforts to promote it. Opponents of the exhibition said it would lead to "foreign rogues and revolutionists overrunning England, would subvert the morals of the people, and destroy their faith". The Queen opened the exhibition in the 'Crystal Palace' in Hyde Park on 1 May 1851. It was a huge success and its £180,000 of profits was used to buy land in South Kensington where the Natural History Museum, Science Museum, Imperial College London and eventually the Royal Albert Hall and the Victoria and Albert Museum were built.

The state revenues were in a dreadful state in 1696 and a Window Tax was introduced to raise money. A charge was made on every window in a house and was not an insignificant amount. Even a small cottage with say 8 windows would have been charged 16s 9d - apparently 84p but, considering inflation, more like £500 today. Skylights, cellar windows and internal windows in passages were counted and every extra window, increased the tax due. As a result, you can often see buildings of the period that have either been built with false windows or which have had existing windows filled in with brick or stonework to reduce the window count. The tax was increased in 1784 and also doubled the charge for new windows taller than 12 feet or wider than 4ft 9 inches. The tax was not abolished until 1851, just in time



for the Great Exhibition. The tax, if applied to all the windows of the Crystal Palace, would have been phenomenal!

An exemption to the tax was for some rooms in shops, factories and farms including dairies. Since many people made cheese at home, they could declare a room exempt by painting the words "Dairy" or "Cheese Room" on or above the door in "Roman" letters no less than 2 inches high. The door in the picture (Purton Museum collection) comes from College Farmhouse in Purton, coincidentally the home of Anne Hyde, the mother of both Mary II and Queen Anne.

Prince Albert's reforming and educating zeal reflected a period of political reform and the growing realisation that workers performed better when well treated and educated. A few examples of this around the country are Saltaire (Sir Titus Salt, 1851); Bournville (Cadbury family, 1893); Port Sunlight (Lever family, started 1899). And let's not forget the Swindon Railway Village, inspired by Daniel Gooch

and providing the town with medical and educational facilities, plus a church and a public house, all completed before 1850.

Purton Museum lives in an interesting Grade II listed building. The Workingmen's Institute, with a large reading room (now the library) and a public room to seat 300 people (the museum), was given to Purton by Mr James Henry Sadler of Lydiard Millicent. It was built on the site of the old Charity School which closed in 1840 and was opened by the Earl of Shaftesbury. It was not a great success. Its membership subscription was one shilling and three pence quarterly - quite high for working people of the 1880s. Despite the size of the subscription, the Institute was always in debt. Apart from the library and



museum the building now houses the Parish Council Chamber and office in what used to be the Caretaker's house.

The room that is now the museum was used for concerts and has a stepped upper gallery which provided additional seating. A door at the top of the stairs reveals the old box-office where tickets for the main hall or gallery would have been sold from different hatches. In the days when I was curator of the Museum, and during its winter closure, I installed a non-permanent false floor to level off the upper gallery and moved the curator's office up there, making more display room available on the main museum floor.

One of those wonderful coincidences occurred when I was buying the joist wood from Jewson's: the man there who cut the wood to size for me was Stuart Bond

who lives in Purton and whose father, Leslie, had been the Institute caretaker. Stuart therefore spent much of his early days living in the building and often went up the ladder to wind the Institute clock from the very gallery that I was levelling!

The clock itself has a fine mechanism made by Benson's of Ludgate Hill, but was in disrepair when Brian Broad removed and overhauled the mechanism in 1956.

The building and its charter stand as a testament to the philanthropy evident in that age amongst the otherwise hard conditions of life. The picture from the Museum's collection shows the building decked out for the coronation of our present Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

In August 1859, Albert fell seriously ill with stomach cramps. In March 1861, Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent died; Albert took on most of the Queen's duties, despite continuing to suffer. Amidst news that the Prince of Wales was carrying on a liaison with an actress, Nellie Clifden, Albert (still very ill) travelled to Cambridge to confront the Prince of Wales over his affair. In his final weeks Albert suffered from pains in his back and legs.

Albert died on 14 December 1861 at Windsor Castle, in the presence of the Queen and five of their nine children. The doctors at the time called it typhoid fever, but Albert's ongoing stomach pains over two years might suggest Crohn's disease, renal failure or abdominal cancer, if the diagnosis were made today.

The Queen's grief was overwhelming and she never recovered from Albert's death; she entered into a deep state of mourning and wore black for the rest of her life. Victoria withdrew from public life and her seclusion eroded some of Albert's work in attempting to re-model the monarchy as a national institution and a moral example. Albert is credited with introducing the principle that the British royal family should remain above politics.

After a year of mourning, the Queen's subjects began to see this as obsessive and the Queen's state of mind was questioned as was the state of the British Monarchy as a whole. The Queen did not open parliament again until 1866, and then only reluctantly. This self-imposed isolation was encouraging the growth of a republican movement and was severely damaging the reputation of the usually constant and reliable Monarchy.

Victoria and Albert had 9 children who all survived into adulthood, remarkable in itself for that day and age.

- Victoria, Princess Royal, born 1840, married the Prussian Crown Prince Frederick in 1858. He became Emperor Frederick III of Germany. She was therefore the mother of Kaiser Wilhelm II.
- Prince Edward born 1841 became King Edward VII in 1902. He married Princess Alexandra of Denmark in 1863 and was the great-grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II. He was also uncle, through the Danish marriage, to Tsar Nicholas II of Russia.

-
- Princess Alice born 1843 married Prince Louis in 1862. He later became Ludwig IV, Grand Duke of Hesse and by Rhine. She was the great-grandmother of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.
 - Prince Alfred, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, born 1844 married Grand Duchess Marie Alexandrovna of Russia in 1874.
 - Princess Helena born 1846 married Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein in 1866.
 - Princess Louise born 1848 was married 1871 to John Campbell, Marquess of Lorne, later 9th Duke of Argyll.
 - Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, was born in 1850 and married Princess Louise Margaret of Prussia in 1879.
 - Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, born 1853 married Princess Helena of Waldeck and Pymont in 1882.
 - Princess Beatrice born 1857 married Prince Henry of Battenberg in 1885.

Next month: Crimea, Sudan & the Boers

Rick Dixon

Angel Festival weekend at St Mary's Church

Thank you to all who brought their angels to St Mary's Church, to celebrate Angels over the Advent Sunday weekend.

We must have had about 700 angels in all... knitted, sewn, painted, glued, made from plaster, clothes pegs, fir cones, feathers, stained glass.

It was an amazing assortment and we were so delighted by the response across the whole community.

The youngest participants were from Pram Service...age from about two years old: and the oldest was a wonderful model of a lifesize angel... whatever that is!...from Ashgrove Nursing Care Home! Every child at the primary school made an angel...an impressive contribution at this stage of a busy term, so thank you to staff and children. We had an Angel Quiz as well and a booklet explaining the more permanent angels that can be seen in St Mary's Church.

Thank you so much for taking part. Libbie and Jane: 771018



We welcome submissions for publication in the next edition of *Purton Magazine* from the local community and from readers further afield. Copy deadline is the 10th of each month. Please email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton And District Darts League

We are now half way through the winter league and the Bees Knee's are flying high at the top of the league. Gary Brown from Red House A team is currently top of the Captains league. The New Year will bring the Singles, Doubles and Four a Side competitions, so there will be healthy competition amongst our teams. This is how the current league table stands:

POS	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Bee's Knees	13	12	1	0	166	62	104	166
2	Phoenix 'A'	12	8	2	2	141	49	92	141
3	Purton Club 'B'	13	8	1	4	130	98	32	130
4	Angel 'B'	13	8	1	4	127	101	26	127
5	Red House 'B'	13	7	1	5	117	111	6	117
6	Purton Club 'A'	13	5	1	7	111	117	-6	111
7	Red House 'A'	12	3	1	8	101	108	-7	101
8	Red House 'C'	13	5	2	6	94	115	-21	94
9	Phoenix 'B'	13	3	1	9	86	142	-56	86
10	Bell Inn	12	2	1	9	67	142	-75	67
11	Phoenix 'C'	12	2	1	9	57	152	-95	57

On behalf of the committee we wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Sue Giles, Secretary

Purton Skittles

The club play in the Cirencester league and have been playing well recently.

Away to Hatherop Club 8-2 (J Haines43)

Home to Cricklade bowls club 8-2 (R Gooding 46)

Away to Williamstrip 8-2 (P Marklove 48)

Home Rabble 8-2 (R Gooding 49)

Away to Ampney Wonderers 328 pins to 282 (P Marklove, C Young. M Summers all scored 40)

Chris Young (captain)

Purton Placard

Purton and District
AGE CONCERN
present our ever popular
Burns Night
Dinner & Ceilidh
at the
Village Hall
on
25th January
tickets £23 pp
3 courses and a wee nip,
piper, caller and band
tickets from Peter on 778119
limited number available



PADS presents

Order on our ticketline:
PADStickets@gmail.com
and pay by bacs

SLEEPING BEAUTY

By Damian Trasler, David Lovesy & Steve Clark

6th, 7th & 8th February
At
Purton Village Hall
Curtains up 7.30pm
Matinee 2.30pm (8th February)

Tickets:
Adults £8
Concessions £6
Children £5

Tickets from:
Flawless Floors
Purton Library
Purton Co-op
770160 - 771890 - 771442



Groups are invited to submit forthcoming events in, for, and on behalf of the community Email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

2020 Scarecrow Trail

**Save the date: Sat/Sun 5th & 6th September 2020
(10am to 5pm each day) Theme: Best of British**

We shall be holding another fundraising scarecrow trail around Purton this year. For anyone unfamiliar with this idea, it involves following a route around the village to find “scarecrows” in gardens or at various sites. Each one will have a cryptic meaning which will usually be easy to solve but with a few tricky ones thrown in to make the competition worth the prizes that may be won.

Anyone who would like to be involved is welcome to either make their own scarecrow or “host” one for someone else in their garden, if that is easier. You can be as artistic as you want, keeping it really simple with a traditional scarecrow following the theme or creating a “work of art”.

Any shops or businesses in the village could put a scarecrow in their window (especially if you can think of one that relates to your business), “sponsor” a scarecrow on the trail and/or offer a prize.

If you would like to be involved or to ask for more details, please e-mail us at info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk or contact Ali on 01793 772579. Entries must be submitted by Sunday 19th July 2020.

Please let us know your name, address, e-mail address (if you have one), telephone number and postcode and then we will be in touch with you to give you more information.

Please tell us your 1st & 2nd choices for your Best of British: if they have already been taken we will ask you to choose another.

As usual, any funds raised will go towards maintenance costs for the two community access defibrillators that we have installed in Purton at The Village Hall and The Royal George, Pavenhill.

For ideas from previous years you could visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail/ More information will follow in future editions of this magazine. Get your thinking caps on and remember to be as inventive as you want.

Wessex Male Choir

Men, why not join us for post - Christmas merriment at our next open evening at Abbey Meads village (SN25 4YX) on Tuesday January 14th (suggest meeting up at 7pm for 7.30) Super singers are not required.

If you are a typical bloke, you're just like the rest of us. Join us to experience more than just singing. No experience necessary, but some involvement in laughing and drinking would be helpful.

For more details contact Nick Brown on 01367 253256 or 07956 270354

Defibrillator Awareness Session

The Defibrillator Awareness Session took place in late November. Julie Habgood, who runs BLS Training Ltd., led us through emergency scenarios when a defibrillator may be needed. For some who attended it was a refresher course but for others it was a chance to see and handle a defibrillator for the first time and to find out how it works. Julie also explained basic cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), using training aids.

We should like to thank Kazik (Landlord of The Royal George) for his support in allowing us to hold the event there.

A couple of useful websites given to us by Julie were:

What3words.com: this site pinpoints your location more accurately than the postcode of the area and allows the emergency services to locate you more easily. You can download the app on to your smart phone and providing you have GPS switched on, you can give the emergency services a 3m square location. This can save lots of time and is particularly useful if you're in an unfamiliar area or in the open countryside.

Life-saver.org.uk: this website offers an interactive first aid film where you make the choices just as you might do in an emergency.

The main messages from the evening were:

- In an emergency call 999 (or 112) to ask for help.
- The Ambulance Controller will send an ambulance and, if appropriate, help you to locate and get the code for the nearest community access defibrillator: using a defibrillator if someone's heart has stopped beating (called a cardiac arrest) may save that person's life.

There are community access defibrillators in Purton located outside the Village Hall and outside The Royal George pub. The defibrillators are stored in locked cabinets.

To access these you must call 999 as the Ambulance Service has these listed on their system and can direct the caller to the closest available one. There is a nationwide network of defibrillators available via the emergency services. Calling 999 first ensures that help is on its way.

If you wish to donate any money towards the maintenance funds for the defibrillators, please e-mail us at info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk

Purton Club

Hello from Purton Club, first of all I would like to quash any rumours that the club is going under in fact we are doing well. We are in the process of modernising and decorating the premises but general maintenance takes priority for example the font

porch roof is going to be recovered shortly. Regarding the upgrading, the gents toilets were going to be completely refurbished in November but unfortunately because our steward Matt was unwell with pneumonia it has now been reprogrammed for January. This hopefully will be followed by the same treatment to the ladies toilets.

We pride ourselves on being a place where anyone can come in for a drink and a chat (we welcome new members) but also to participate in the club games, there are 3 darts teams a skittles team a pool team and the air rifle team. There are numerous other things going on as well such as the Sunday night Bingo.

The Christmas games began on the 10th December; skittles, darts, pool and crib followed by the childrens party on the 22nd December from 2pm to 4pm. The Christmas raffle is also under way and there is music nights on the 26th December featuring Chris O'leary (guaranteed chaos) and for New Years Eve Jordan Marvel.

If you don't fancy a drink don't forget Pips Cafe at the rear of the Club where you can get a bite to eat and soft drinks. You can follow events at the club on Purton Club facebook. Thank you in advance for your support and have a wonderful Christmas and new year.

Gerry White (club secretary)

Purton and District Probus Club

At the meeting on 12th November, Mel James, an Aviation Development Engineer, whose previous talk concerned his work with Bertrand Piccard's successful Balloon Circumnavigation of the Globe, on this occasion related his career experience in setting up the Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford.



The event was originally founded in Essex by two CAA Air Traffic Controllers and an Air-Marshall in 1971. It was intermittently held at Greenham Common from 1973 until 1983, under the RAFA (S.E. Area). In 1976, the show became the International Air Tattoo.

Mel's role as Chief Engineer began in 1984 when he was given the task of moving the show from Greenham Common to Fairford. Beginning here, in 1985, it was held every two years until it became an annual event in 1993. In recognition of its unique status as the largest international military/civil air show of the free world, in 1996, it was granted the title: Royal International Air Tattoo. The initial idea of the show was two-fold ; to raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund and to recruit more servicemen for the Airforce. Making a profit involved contacting sponsors from all over the world; - Governments and Manufacturers. Today the RIAT is organised by the RAF Charities Trust.

Safety has always been paramount. The Layout of the Airfield needed careful consideration to accommodate Taxying and Runway/Flying Aircraft separate from Static Displays which would require access and facilities for the Public, not the least of which was the number, and positioning of the toilets. Further up the list were

Paramedic Care, Ambulances, Fire engines, Hospitality and dealing with Foreign Dignitaries, some of whom brought their own Entourage. In the flying area, aviation fuel was, and is, a constant requirement. For the Military, the respective governments installed a supply, while for civilian aircraft, Shell Aviation, by arrangement, sponsored a supply. The Concorde needed special fuel with a verification certificate.

The talk was illustrated by images of those aircraft which conjured the most vivid memories of some of the problems which the organiser had to deal with :- The largest aeroplane, the C5 Galaxy, which delivered, in its massive fuselage, the latest U.S. Helicopters, demanded an excessive amount of parking space, as did the B52 Stratofortress. In 1991 (after the fall of the Berlin Wall, 1989), a Russian Tupolev 95 Bear came to the show with a crew who were all full Colonels. Standing on each-other's shoulders they were photographed desperately unloading 6 crates of Vodka. An all-female crew, flying a Hercules from New Jersey wanted to know where they could buy Chanel No5. A display team of S2B Pitts Specials arrived as disassembled parts by road from Bristol: Will they need airworthiness certification? A Czechoslovakian MIG 21 took off, climbed through the cloud layer to 50,000 Ft and then reported that his Radar was defunct and that he could not relocate the Airfield; luckily he managed to find a gap. A problem that took Mel 15 months to solve, was the gift of an immaculately preserved, 1958 DH Vampire from the Swiss Airforce, intended for the RAF who, unfortunately, declined to accept it. Abandoned at the show, the initial problem was to start the engine which would require a heavy/variable generator. A Willys Jeep, with the required generator, was procured and by building up the power gradually the engine was fired up, taking care not to set fire to the rear wing/elevator between the two fins. The Vampire was flown to a storage hangar at Boscombe Down, but the Charity were now faced with a storage bill. Mel and his team spent several months contacting the top-brass of the RAF and possible international buyers (asking price £35,000), without success. Fortunately, when King Hussein of Jordan came to the Tattoo in 1989 and the problem was mentioned, he immediately said he would be happy to buy the Vampire to join some others that were already part of his Airforce.

After almost 16 years of organising the Fairford Air Show, Mel handed it on to be continued by the RAF Charities Trust. His talk was a kaleidoscope of the unexpected, including several "firsts" at the Air Show, such as the Rockwell B1 Lancer. It emphasised that there are challenging and diverse problems to running the Tattoo in addition to satisfying the basic logistics.

On the 26th November Tony Conder, a historian from Gloucester, gave a talk on the History of Railways in Gloucestershire. The county once boasted 150 railway stations. Today only about 15 remain active. "Do you remember Adlestrop", a poem by Edward Thomas, in 1914, immortalised a Gloucestershire railway station, located four miles west of Chipping Norton, on the Oxford to Worcester line. The poem records a stop, during a train journey, when the world fell silent. No-one arrived or

departed and the most memorable feature was the sign 'Adlestrop', emphasised by the quietude and the singing of the birds. The sign now adorns the local bus station. From its invention in 1829, until the First World War in 1914, the British Railway system had become a network of 23,440 miles, offering travel opportunities to the whole country. After the war, the railways faced increasing competition from a growing Road Transport system and about 5½% of passenger railways closed between 1923 and 1939, due to lack of business. The railways were busy during the Second World War but, by the end of the war, were in a poor state of maintenance and were nationalised as British Railways. More than 3,300 miles of branch line were closed between 1948 and 1962. By 1955 the share of the Transport Market carried by rail had fallen from 16% to 5%.

The Beeching cuts (The Reshaping of British Railways, 1963) identified 2,363 stations and 5,000 miles of railway line for closure, with the objective of stemming losses, currently, £104 million per annum.

In the early 19th Century the Port of Gloucester had developed a substantial two-way trade with the heartland of the Black Country, and in 1840 the Birmingham to Gloucester line was completed as one of the world's oldest mainline railways. Other lines began to centre on the hub, and in 1844, Brunel extended the 7ft gauge from Bristol to Gloucester, giving a London to Gloucester connection. However chaos, reported in the press (1846), of the difficulties experienced by travellers changing trains at Gloucester, resulted in the adoption of the 4' 8 ½" gauge nationwide. After the Great War, business via Gloucester boomed with holidays to the Forest of Dean and production of coal from that area. The Dean Forest line is now an enthusiast's leisure line. The station at Stow was part of the Banbury to Cheltenham line, opened in 1862, until closed in 1962. The Cheltenham Spa station, part of this railway with its statue of Gustav Holtz, is now the private terminus for a Heritage line towards Broadway. Fairford station, which served the RAF and the USAF, was the terminus for a line through Witney from Oxford. Opened in 1873, it was hoped to connect to Cirencester, but never did and closed in 1962. Kemble's railway station, opened in 1882 on the GWR line, served as a busy country junction for two branch lines to Cirencester and Tetbury, both now closed (1964/5).

Tony's talk was illustrated by vintage photographs of many of the lost Railway Stations, in particular those at lost Junctions and marshalling yards. We also saw images of one or two rail accidents. The final picture was that of the circus arriving at Gloucester, showing half a dozen elephants, which were remembered for stampeding up the road towards Evesham.

The Probus club meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month in the Red House lounge at 10am. Programme for January: 14th A Schoolboy in the 1930's, 28th Fracking and Shale Gas Development.

Bob Stevens