



Purton. Magazine

July 2020



Christian Aid Week was a bit different this year but successful as always, thanks to some creative thinking. See page 36.

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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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Welcome to the fourth edition of *Purton Magazine* to be published during Covid-19 restrictions. Thank you to all our distributors and retailers for ensuring that village news reaches residents in isolation. We welcome submissions for publication in the August issue. Our copy deadline is the 10th July, please email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton. Magazine

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Designed by: Heather Ponting-Bather, In Touch Design & Print, Purton.

Printed by: Hulbert & Woodall Print, Royal Wootton Bassett.

Advertising enquiries: Richard McCarthy Email: advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Copy & advertising deadline: 10th of each month, please to: Purton Magazine,
c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton SN5 4AR

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Also online at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk © 2004-2020

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From the Editors

This coronavirus is having a significant topsy-turvy effect on Purton. In this issue you will learn how to do a rain dance as explored by local gardeners in their desperation after the very long dry spell. But then, who would have wanted to have been locked down in awful weather? At least many villagers are looking suitably tanned.

For those still wanting to acquire those ceremonial rain-dancing skills there are some very strict conditions that come from ancient Egypt and some native American tribes where the dance was needed to keep their harvests safe. If you see any villagers roaming the streets wearing turquoise coloured clothing and jewellery, they may be searching for some bird or other decorative feathers for their headwear required to complete the costume.

When suitably attired, a flat outdoor space with a clear view of the sky is needed to enable a clockwise spinning motion during which specific utterances or chants are required (see page 20). Then the spin cycle speed is increased and the breathing deepened with much arm waving above the head. Maybe the rest of us might have to decide whether to steady the dizziness or simply run a mile in sheer fright.

Other, less extreme and perhaps less exhausting skills have also been learnt during lockdown. For example, we read on page 35 that many children in the Reception classes have learnt how to bake a cake, have improved their gardening skills and have learnt how to ride a bicycle without stabilisers.

Elsewhere other skills can be used to design a fundraising purse or box as described on page 36 with the results not needed until the end of July. Also for Christian Aid there is a sunflower growing competition where the tallest will be decided on measuring day, Saturday 22nd August. Perhaps the rain dance skill might help sunflowers to grow a bit taller.

Despite the lockdown, Purton has again already displayed the usual amazing generosity for Christian Aid. Food was featuring with the Maharajah providing some special take away meals that included a built-in donation. Then there was a cake trail around the village to replace the traditional single sales point with several tables being set up outside a handful of houses and filled with cakes baked and donated. From one such table, 54 Bakewell tarts – all home made and donated – were sold in only a few hours.

80p

Will be the cost of
Purton Magazine from
the August issue
– see page 46

£1 a point

Scheme to support
Purton Football Club
after Covid-19 stops play
– see page 48

£5,000

Was raised for Christian
Aid during May through a
variety of events
– see page 36



Community

We are still working hard behind the scenes, home working where possible, to offer the full services of the Council. Email queries if sent to the Clerk (deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) will be answered, and voice messages on the office 'phone number collected during the week if you call the office and an emergency number is available (see below). Please do not visit the offices as they are still closed to the public.

Those in need of help through this difficult period can call our emergency number: 01793 387888. This will be manned throughout the week, day and night. If your call isn't answered, then please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as possible.

Play Parks

Please do not allow your children (young or old) to use these facilities – the parks are closed under government regulations. If you see anyone using these facilities or not maintaining social distancing, please call the Police on 101 and report it. Let's protect our community together. These play parks are not being maintained, so play equipment may not be safe to use.

Skate Park

The Skate Park reopened on Thursday 18th June 2020, but you must follow the strict guidance detailed below and listed around the park:

- Follow government guidance on riding/skating with others. Keep two metres apart at all times.
- Keep well within your ability. Don't try difficult skills or ride too fast.
- Do not congregate with other people under any circumstances. Once you've finished your loop, or if you're waiting, make sure you take a break away from the finish and start areas to ensure social distancing and give others a chance.
- Clean your equipment before & after your visit to the skate park. Try not to touch anything else.
- No physical contact: No hugs, high-fives, hand shakes, etc., except with people in your own household.
- Do not share anything, including mobile devices, equipment, food or drink.
- Only use this outdoor facility if you are actively riding/skating. Leave as soon as possible after finishing.
- Wash your hands regularly, and especially before leaving home and when returning from the skate park. Please bring hand sanitiser with you when visiting the facility.
- Please leave plenty of space and be considerate of other users, especially the

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Do you have friends or family who lived in the village but have moved away?

Purton Magazine is available online!

Each issue is uploaded around the middle of the month, and all previous editions of Purton Magazine, from 2004 onwards,

are available to view and download from our website.

So wherever you are in the world, keep up to date with all the village news!

www.purtonmagazine.co.uk



Unfortunately, following Government advice on Covid-19 we will be closed until further notice. For the latest information visit facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/

Join us at the Purton Club function room, Station Road for; freshly prepared paninis and sandwiches, homemade cakes, hot and cold seasonal dishes, barista-style coffee and a range of hot and cold drinks.

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younger or less experienced.

- Spectating is discouraged. Where the attendance of a non-participating parent/guardian or carer for a rider with a disability is required, social distancing should be strictly observed while watching the activity.
- If you are showing Coronavirus symptoms, or if you or any of your household are self-isolating, you should stay at home.

Councillor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a co-opted Councillor. This opportunity allows you to be involved in your community, making decisions on behalf of others in an ever-changing environment. If you feel you would be suited to this role, please contact the Clerk for more information.

Meet Your Councillors

Come along to Pips Community Café on Friday 11th September at 2pm until 4pm to meet your Councillors.

Planning Updates - Permission granted

20/00937/FUL 4 Bashkir Close. SN5 5ED. Proposed two storey rear extension.

20/01712/FUL Armin Cross Farm Ravensroost Road Minety SN16 9RJ. Creation of pond for Great Crested Newts under the District Level Licensing Scheme, in a permanent grass field for the benefit of wildlife.

20/02702/FUL View Farm Ravensroost Road, Minety, Malmesbury Wiltshire SN16 9RJ. Creation of a Wildlife Pond Under the District Level Licensing Scheme.

Refused Application

20/02214/FUL 1 The Buffer. SN5 4GT Garage conversion and single storey extension

Full Council details can be found on our website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk Telephone number 01793 771066, email address: deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk We also hold Facebook and Twitter Accounts

On our website you can join up to receive regular updates which will keep you informed of matters 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 Profferings

Unwanted items available free can be recycled here with a two-line classified advertisement; contact details are on page 4.

- Red office chair free to a good home, must be collected. Bernice 771210

Appointments

Recently there has been a noticeable increase in requests for appointments at the Surgery.

Please bear in mind that while telephone appointments are replacing face-to-face as much as possible some appointments do need to be in person.

Because of the need to clean down between patients, the time allowed for each of these face-to-face consultations needs to be twice as long as usual, hence there are fewer appointment slots.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

As you will appreciate, all surgery staff need to wear PPE. When attending an appointment, patients will be given a face mask to wear during their consultation—and from mid-June the PPG hope to have supplied a number of hand-sewn ones which can be purchased at the cost price of £5. This will help to keep the stock of medical grade PPE for staff use.

Please remember to show consideration for all staff at the Surgery.

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*

Purton Methodist Church

For a few weeks now we have been able to receive a virtual church service from our Minister Revd David Perkins on our computers. But we discovered that five of our members do not have access to a computer, so were not able to join in. I tried to see if it was possible to copy the sound onto a CD using our equipment in the Chapel, without success. Then Heather, one of my fellow Stewards, said that while on the Royal Wootton Bassett website, she found that one of the people involved in the creation and recording of the virtual services, was making CDs of it for some of their members who did not have access to a computer. I made contact with him, and he now makes some for our members too, and drops them off to me on his way into work first thing on Tuesday mornings.

I then deliver them to our members around the village, so we are all now able to enjoy them. Stay safe and well.

Brian Davies

05/21

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Events

Now that we are beginning to see an end to some of the restrictions we have gotten quite used to over the last few months, it would be nice to think that we could start to have a bit more freedom over what we can be involved in.

Sadly most of the summer will have gone by that time, and even now we have decided that there will be no events organised by Purton Age Concern in July, August and September—sorry about that.

We should have had our AGM on the 2nd of June, but we had to cancel it. Fortunately all of our officers and committee members have agreed to stand for another year; thanks so much to everybody for their continued commitment. If we need a meeting, we can call an ‘extraordinary’ meeting at any time.

I would hope that everybody will still remember what key workers have done, and are still doing, for us during this time. Although we don’t have a Thursday evening ‘clap’, let’s congratulate them on their fantastic efforts to keep things as normal as possible. Our surgery in particular should be applauded for their diligence and expertise.

By the time this magazine gets to you we might have seen further relaxations in restrictions and things starting to get back to normal—I certainly hope so, for all our sakes.

In the meantime keep well, stay safe and don’t forget that there are people in the village who are ready to help if you need it.

The contact numbers you should use, after you have talked to your street warden, are Peter Berry on 778119, Heather Ponting-Bather from Purton Outreach on 772954 or Debbie Lawrence, Clerk of the Parish Council, on 771066.

And now...A story from the past, by our President Tony Price:

In my tribute to Jackie Walters last month there was quite a lot about our horse shows. I thought you might be interested in what I wrote about my day at one of these shows for the Millennium Book—something our Purton Age Concern committee asked me to write at the time. Little did we know that this would be our last show.

My day at Purton Age Concern’s Horse Show

The day chosen for me to write about is Purton Age Concern’s annual Horse, Dog and Driving Show. (Hazel Woodbridge was now running carriage driving so you can see how the show had grown). This year is our 24th and the Show is being held, as always, at Purton House, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Barker and Mr. and Mrs. Meers. The Show has expanded over the last five years and Mr. and Mrs. John Cook allow us the use of their adjoining fields. The alarm goes off at 5.45 am – it seems very early now, but when I was working I used to get up at that time every

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working day. I open the curtains to see what the weather is like – not too bad but overcast, and I see the heron still trying to get at our fish. I built our pond with this in mind and it has so far proved successful, but we do get a visit from a kingfisher who manages to catch some of the smaller fish. Our garden is an old quarry and we redesigned it about ten years ago, as it was originally an orchard and, to be honest, we are quite proud of it. I love to look out of the window every morning.

Sheila and I have a cup of tea, talk about the day ahead and check on all the things we must remember. I wash and shave, eat my healthy breakfast of half a grapefruit, followed by sultana bran with fresh fruit, fruit juice and another cup of tea. I load my Discovery with last minute items for the Show, hot dogs and beef burgers, chocolate, sweets and cold drinks for sale in the refreshment tent, hitch up my trailer and up then to Arthur and Maureen Griffin's at Highbury Close to pick up Arthur's barbecue for cooking bacon for the bacon rolls. Maureen is treasurer of Age Concern and Arthur and Maureen will follow me down to the show.

It is 7.10 am and I am down at the Show field. Alan Webb has already put the signs out showing people the way to the Show. I am greeted by Cyril Walters, who came down early to unlock the gates, and he helps me unload. We are so lucky to have such a hardworking committee – it makes all our events a pleasure. I load up with some cones to put on the corner of the thatched cottage by the Church to stop lorries from damaging the roof which overhangs the road. Back to the field with several little jobs to do. It is now 7.45 am and Rita Webb, our catering organiser, has arrived. The urns are on so we will soon be having a cup of coffee. Over now to help with parking – if this isn't started right we will never get all the cars and lorries in.

It's 9.35 am and Sheila brings all the helpers a cup of tea. It is quite cold for a June day. Ten minutes later, Jackie Walters brings round bacon rolls – very acceptable. Lorries and cars are arriving at a steady rate now. I thought things were going too well – someone comes to tell me there is no tannoy system in the driving rings – an amplifier has blown up. Malcolm Warren, who sees to all these systems, is working on it. 11.0 am – the tannoy is working and we have about 80 horse boxes and trailers in. At 11.35 am Sheila and Jackie come round with lunches for the helpers – two ham salad sandwiches, crisps and a chocolate wafer, followed later with a cup of tea – very nice. By 12.15 it is very quiet on the horse side with about 100 boxes in. The Dog Show people have started to arrive. One of these was quite irate and would not park where I wanted him to as there was a horse close by. I was quite firm with him and he came up to me after parking and said "If that horse kicks me, I shall kick him back" which I thought was quite funny.

It is now 2.0 pm and I've just had a word with Doreen Ovens. Her husband Eric was our main man for the Show for many years. They have just moved to Carmarthen – it was nice to see her and to know that they are getting on alright. Our President, Miss Elizabeth Ward MBE has just come to see how we are getting on. She's a marvellous lady and has devoted her life to helping others. It's time for my antibiotic

tablet – I've got an infected foot and I am supposed to be resting it as much as possible. 2.40 pm – some of the Horse Show people have left and the Dog Show is in full swing. Sheila has brought round more cups of tea as Arthur Griffin and I are discussing the day and Brian Fessey, our vicar, calls in between weddings. He picks our brains to see who the lady and gentleman are with the small child. He married them and said "I'd better snap them up for the christening." Off he went and it must have been a success story as he gave us the thumbs up sign. He might even come back and pay for the free cup of tea Sheila gave him. 3.25 pm and Ring 2 and the Gymkhana have finished, time to start clearing up. 6.10 pm and I get told off by Sheila for keeping everyone waiting to go home. I am still collecting stakes in my trailer with Pete Miles and they need to be unloaded to get the generator and all our bits and pieces in to take home. 7.15pm – back home, unload the trailer ready to go back tomorrow morning to clear the field. Heather, Sheila's cousin, who lives in our flat next door, was going to get fish and chips for us but she has been helping all day and is flat out on the settee, so Sheila and I go and get them. I watch the Euro 2000 quarter final match on TV – Italy versus Romania. Italy win 2 – 0. A quick shower and an early night – lots to do tomorrow. The day went well – not as many entries as other years, not so many people coming in, but we will hope to make in the region of £2,000 profit.

We never did manage a show the following year because of foot and mouth – this would have been our 25th. Somehow it seemed right – it was hard work getting sponsorship for the show, Eric Ovens, one of the main men, had moved to Wales with his family and Derek Evans, another main man, plus others, had fallen by the wayside. We were all working with full time jobs so I suppose it was something of a relief that we couldn't hold the show the following year and after that we decided it was time to call it a day. Of course, we didn't know that at the time the committee got me to write this for the millennium book. I think all of us involved have happy memories of the show – hard work but a lot of fun!

Tony Price

Thanks Tony, these stories are so important for their content, but also to bring back happy memories of times gone by.

Latest news

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. Please be aware that there might be restrictions in place at this time. If you are self-isolating and not letting anyone enter your house, then you will need to replace your smoke alarm yourself as they won't leave one on the doorway. If they are called to replace one, then they have to do it — please be aware.

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!

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 on Facebook: [purtonageconcern](https://www.facebook.com/purtonageconcern) and Twitter: [@Purton_AC](https://twitter.com/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.

Peter Berry

Ten Years Ago...

The July 2010 edition of Purton Magazine has a cover picture of a lady stepping over a stile with the punning caption: "Purton Stile, Purton Style". Nothing remarkable in that, one might say, yet on either side of the stile there is one thing lacking – a hedge or fence. The stile is on its own in the middle of a field. Why is it there? Why is the lady on it rather than walking round one side? Purton Style indeed.

From time to time the economic downturn following the 2008 the financial crash raises its head in these pages. Ps & Qs noted its effect on the jobs market. It then coupled this to climate change and the rise in oil prices, along with future shortages. It proposed a fundamental change in the way of life in the village. Could Purton feed itself? Could it be self-sufficient, not just in farm produce but also in services, or "cottage industries" as it quaintly described them? One wonders whether, if these ideas had been fully acted upon, life in Purton at this difficult moment would be easier. The article even mentioned resilience and future lifestyle shocks.

It then went on to observe that "there is a mood in central government to give local voices a firm platform". In our present situation this need is greater than ever. Scotland and Wales have one, why not Purton?

After Eight had a talk from a member about a trip to the Gambia. Although it is a peaceful place, the lasting impression was one of sharing ferries with "all manner of livestock". The next meeting would be a trip to Cricklade. Anti-climax?

This month, the editorial takes the last spot. It had rejoiced in the World Cup in South Africa and especially the noise of the vuvuzelas. Even better, they blocked out the commentators' voices. By the time this is published, football should be back on our screens but with unavoidable commentators and no crowd noise. I'll still enjoy it!

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Hillside, Station Road, Willow Brook, Bamford, Shaftesbury, Smiths Court, Widham, Clardon, New Road, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Course Meadow and South View*

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Outreach Purton

As the Covid-19 situation evolves, we are finding much less demand for our Outreach work. Many of our elderly and vulnerable residents are still isolating themselves and so we are continuing to collect shopping, prescriptions and run other errands when help is required.

With work places and businesses starting to re-open, our pool of volunteers is decreasing, but we still have a dedicated core group who can answer calls for assistance when needed, along with the Purton Age Concern, the Parish Council, Lloyd's Pharmacy and Purton Surgery.

As people start to get back to a more normal way of life we are well aware that this may cause a second wave of virus cases, and we could be required to go back into lockdown should this happen. If that is the case, our experiences have proved that we can manage and deal with whatever the situation throws at us. In Purton we are lucky that the Outreach group was set up before Coronavirus hit and will continue its community work into the future, much as Purton Helping Hand did in the past.

This week I joined a conference call with Jane Vaughan, our Wiltshire Council local area coordinator for Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade, along with representatives from community groups from Royal Wootton Bassett, Lyneham and Bradenstoke to share experiences and discuss any new issues that have arisen.

One of the things we discussed was gathering information from local residents about how they have been helped during the pandemic and where the help came from - either organisations such as the surgery, pharmacy, schools and Parish Council, or volunteer groups such as Age Concern, Outreach or friends and neighbours. Wiltshire Council would like to recognise those who've gone above and beyond the call of duty to help their communities, and a format for this is being discussed.

How has the coronavirus outbreak affected you and your loved ones? Wiltshire Council would like to hear your experiences of health, care and community services during the pandemic. What's working well and what could be better?

You can complete our online survey at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WiltsCoronavirus/ Everything we hear will be shared with local and national NHS, Wiltshire Council and service providers. The survey can also be completed over the phone - call 01225 434218 to arrange and a member of the Healthwatch Wiltshire team will call you back. You can also share your story on any health and social care issue by calling 01225 434218 or emailing info@healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk. All feedback is anonymous.

If you'd like to share funny or interesting pandemic stories, or send messages of thanks to friends, neighbours or complete strangers, you're welcome to do so via this magazine, see contact details on page 4.

*Stay alert, Control the virus, Save lives.
Heather Ponting-Bather, Outreach Purton helpline 772954*



Whilst the hottest spring on record has been beneficial for our well-being during lockdown, the resulting lack of rain water on our allotments and gardens has proved difficult to say the least.

For weeks now, along with all our fellow allotment holders, we've wended our way to and from our homes complete with every conceivable type of container holding the water we hope will sustain our crops until the heavens might open. After ten dry weeks and with water butts on empty, in desperation, and in jest, a raindance was suggested!

So what's the belief behind a raindance I wondered?

Research tells me it's a ceremonial dance performed by people who believe it will cause rain and keep their harvest safe. Many different types of 'raindances' can be found in many cultures, from Ancient Egypt to certain Native American tribes.

So how is it done?

Well on further investigation I have learned that you should wear turquoise and feathers, if you have any, as many Native American tribes associate turquoise with rain and feathers with the wind. Put on any turquoise-coloured clothing that you may have along with turquoise jewellery and if you have access to any bird or decorative feathers place a couple in your hair or secure them to a hat and wear them during the raindance.

To make it easier to perform the raindance, find a fairly flat space outdoors where you have plenty of room to move around with little or no tree cover so that you have a clear view of the sky.

Spin around clockwise at a slow and steady pace whilst chanting your own simple rain chant as you spin. This can be something as simple as the word 'rain' repeated over and over, or an entire phrase, such as 'Come down rain'. Raise your hands to the sky occasionally to urge the rain to fall.

The longer you spin and chant, the faster you should spin and chant. Close your eyes as you dance and breathe in deeply between chants. When you want to end the dance, drop to your knees in silence and stay on your knees until any dizziness you feel goes away and you can regain your balance!!

What??? Am I really prepared for this?

Before I start the process I need to know...

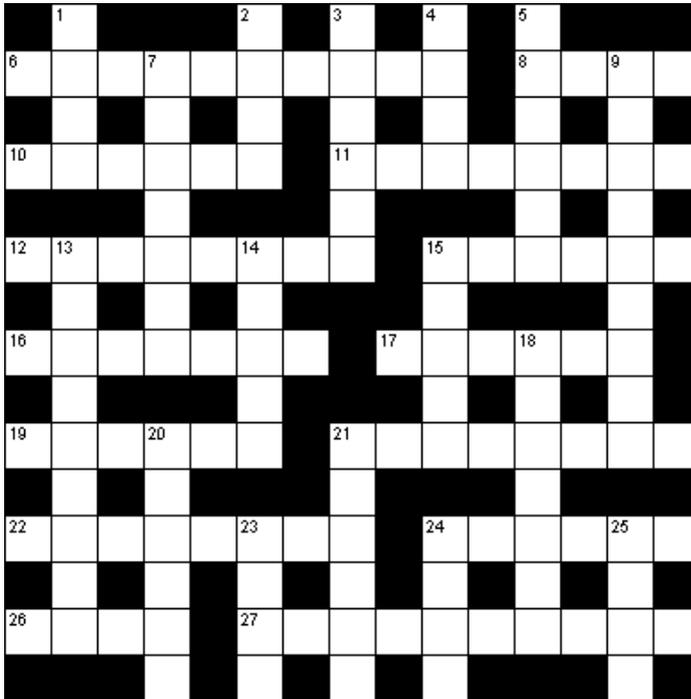
Will a raindance work?

Sometimes, apparently, they could go on for days. But what you may not know about the Native American raindance is that it always worked. Eventually, the rain came. The reason the raindance always worked is because the Native Americans didn't stop dancing until it rained! We desperately need the rain so here goes... let's dance!

Oh relief all round! As I write this article on June 7th, and despite lack of turquoise apparel, jewellery or feathers on my person, I'm relieved and delighted to say it's pouring with rain and the 'Countryfile' weather forecast has just promised further rain for our area throughout the coming week. So for now my raindance is on hold and you will never know how effective it might have been!

Following on from the garden quiz in the May magazine here's a crossword on a gardening theme with a mixture of straight and easy-ish cryptic clues. Enjoy! Answers in the August magazine.

Happy gardening. Stay safe everyone.



Across

- 6 A winter flowerer, which, we hear, has green-brown hue (10)
- 8/24 Engaged girl's popular summer bedder (4,6)
- 10 This weed can irritate the unwary gardener! (6)
- 11 Down-to-earth propagation technique? (8)
- 12 AA Travel can supply shrub with hollyhock-like flowers (8)
- 15 One sign of a worm and the French build a fortification! (6)
- 16 Half-hardy annual held by Jane, me, Sian (7)
- 17 White powdery coating of fungi, harmful to plants (7)
- 19 Hilda a variety of this showy perennial! (6)

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-
- 21 Collection of stony figures in a formal garden (8)
 - 22 Tool for the pushy sort of weeder? (5,3)
 - 24 See 8
 - 26 Small island hidden by arabis leaves (4)
 - 27 Like leaves of e.g. *Euonymus fortunei* 'Silver Queen' (10)

Down

- 1 Deciduous tree – spread on the brassica plot? (4)
- 2 Footwear ruined by hose! (4)
- 3 Rhododendron, strictly speaking (6)
- 4 Heavy, sticky soil (4)
- 5 One *Ribes* variety is Candytuft! (6)
- 7 Modest countryside home giving its name to an informal type of garden (7)
- 9 Just one of Van Gogh's famous bloomers! (9)
- 13 Summer bedders make a mug stare (9)
- 14 Heather – or another girl (5)
- 15 This eastern country helps make mulch in abundance! (5)
- 18 Deciduous shrub: the species *gracilis* has pure white flower clusters (7)
- 20 With which rocks may be spotted (6)
- 21 Asher's broken trimmers (6)
- 23 A source of honey, some chives (4)
- 24 Vegetable grown to win prizes in Staffordshire? (4)
- 25 Holly's in Brazil, exploring!

Margaret Goodall, Secretary Tel: 770906

After 8

Answers to last month's lion-themed quiz

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Elsa the lioness/cub | 16. Simba |
| 2. Sadio Mane | 17. Lion Rampant |
| 3. Sea Lions | 18. Daniel |
| 4. Landseer Lions | 19. Bullion |
| 5. The Lion King | 20. Helions |
| 6. Dandelion | 21. Detroit Lions |
| 7. Red Lion | 22. Quillion |
| 8. Millions | 23. Lotion |
| 9. Melon | 24. Romania |
| 10. Violins | 25. Mullions |
| 11. Pillion | 26. Nestle Lion Bar |
| 12. Illinois | 27. Selions |
| 13. Rapsallions | 28. The King of the Jungle |
| 14. Pride Park | 29. Lyons Maid |
| 15. The Colosseum | 30. Lion's Share |

Avril Ainscough

Purton Scarecrow Trail 2020 change: Important information

In these challenging times, the Purton Scarecrow Team is aware of the need for everyone to stay safe and maintain social distance, so we have decided that it would not be a good idea for the trail to be held this year. We are very disappointed, as we have had some really ingenious and funny scarecrow entries, but we appreciate that the most important thing is to maintain public safety around the village.

Our alternative plan is to hold a virtual Scarecrow Trail, hosted via our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail/>), with photographs (and videos if possible) of any scarecrows that people wish to make.

For the quiz side of the event, those who wish to take part can send their quiz answers to us by email (info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk) over the week that the trail runs.

We then hope that anyone who views the trail on-line will be generous enough to make a donation to the defibrillator maintenance fund to help pay for the ongoing costs of the equipment. Purton Parish Council (PPC) has kindly agreed to accept any donations and add the money to the fund that they manage for us. If anyone wishes to contact the PPC the details are:

Email: deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk Post: Deborah Lawrence, Purton Parish Council Offices, Station Road, Purton SN5 4AJ

(Cheques made payable to Purton Parish Council but please indicate that the money is for the defibrillator maintenance funds).

If you have already told us about your scarecrow entry, we shall contact you in early July to confirm that you still want to take part.

If you have not yet been in touch with us and do wish to take part please contact us by email (info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk) letting us know your first and second choice of scarecrow name (based on this year's "Best of British" theme) by Saturday 1st Aug. For those taking part we need to have your completed photos/videos of your scarecrow sent to us by Saturday 22nd August 2020.

This virtual trail adds extra elements as you don't require an outside accessible space for the scarecrow and your photograph or video can be taken indoors or outdoors and you can make it as simple or elaborate as you wish.

These are the dates for your diary:

- Saturday, 1st August 2020 - Cut-off date for scarecrow entry requests
- Saturday, 22nd August 2020 - Scarecrow photo entry cut-off date via email to info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk
- Saturday, 5th September 2020 - Trail photos release date on Facebook
- Saturday, 12th September 2020 - Closure date for quiz answers to be sent by email to info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk

-
- Saturday, 17th September 2020 - Quiz answers posted on Facebook

We hope that we shall be able to hold a real trail in 2022.

The Purton Scarecrow team

Bids submitted to reallocate road space for cycling and walking

Wiltshire Council has submitted five road reallocation projects to the Department of Transport (DfT) to make significant changes to road layouts to give more space to cyclists and pedestrians.

The five projects have to meet strict criteria to secure funding, and add up to £227,000 worth of investment. The funding is designed to help authorities use temporary interventions to create an environment that is safe for both walking and cycling, allowing people to get around while maintaining social distance and avoiding overcrowding on public transport.

The five schemes were shortlisted based on the busiest bus routes in the county, with those routes that could not accommodate a cycleway without significant costs or land acquisition being discounted. Our most local scheme included in the first round is the removal of through traffic on Hook Street in Purton, which runs parallel with the A3102 between Royal Wootton Bassett and Swindon. Created in partnership with Swindon Borough Council, this will install a 3.5km route for cyclists and walkers, linking Purton with Swindon's Lydiard Park.

The initial five schemes were chosen based on the criteria set by DfT, because they can be delivered within the timeframe, and because they are on major bus routes, so they will help to link our communities to town centres, employment and businesses.

We look forward to these routes being completed so cyclists and walkers can use them and enjoy all the health and environmental benefits they can bring.

Church Floodlighting

July 3 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Ted Brimble** on the 50th anniversary of his passing. It would also have been his 103rd birthday. Forever in my heart. His loving daughter Daphne (who used to live in Purton).



This is a one-off booking while the church building is still going through its Renewal alterations.

As you will know St Mary's Church is now closed whilst work is being carried out on the Renewal scheme.

We are hoping that the Church will open again in time for Christmas. This means that there will be no floodlighting until further notice. If you would still like a loved one or special occasion remembered, please send a short dedication to Purton Magazine (contact details on page 4) for inclusion in the We Record section.

Please contact Libbie 771018 if you need further explanation.

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Review – Past discoveries and current activities

There is a “Saxon Burial Ground” at The Fox which is marked on the ordnance survey map.

There was a “Romano-British Cemetery” excavated at Northview Hospital in 1989 by Thamesdown Archaeology Unit ably assisted by members of our Society. Further details can be obtained on request.

St. Mary’s Church Renewal Project – the various stages are being recorded on camera by the Society.

The June edition of this magazine had information on the first of a series of recently published Historical Society leaflets. The first leaflet covers the history of Purton and District public houses. The magazine also gave some further updates about the public houses in the area. This month Non-Conformist Chapels leaflet is posted on our webpage. A paper copy is available on request.

There was a Gospel Hall just over the Purton parish boundary in Minety Parish opposite Ravensroost Wood on the C67. The remains of this red building are still visible today. The Gospel Hall closed in the 1960s and the remaining congregation went to worship at Braydon Methodist Chapel. There were also Gospel Halls at Callow Hill and Grittenham.

Braydon Methodist Chapel

Braydon Chapel, sitting pretty in Queen Street on the edge of Braydon Forest has been a place of Methodist worship since it opened in 1889. It arrived as a ‘flat pack’ from America and was erected on the donated site, at a cost of £109.

Known as a ‘gathered church’ as there are few houses in sight, the congregation has to travel some distance to attend worship. The Chapel has gone through a series of repairs and minor upgrades as the years have passed, supported by a vibrant and interested congregation. This upkeep has made Braydon a unique place of worship, as many similar structures have sadly fallen into disrepair.

In 2014 we decided to do a major, but sympathetic overhaul of the building. Several of the original hardwood timbers needed replacing, including the main floor, with new drainage, electrics, heating, lighting required. A decision was made to remove the original pulpit, which needed extensive repair and this gave additional usable space. The costs were considered and we set upon a period of fundraising with everyone involved in some way or other and we achieved our target and with support and blessing from the wonderful Upper Thames Circuit, the works started in 2015. After several months of hard work by dedicated and supportive contractors, the renewed Chapel looked resplendent inside and out, with the sympathetic repairs maintaining the feeling of peace within, we resumed our Sunday evening worship.

Methodism was born in song, with great hymn writers from the past, now blending with modern uplifting music. Ministers and Preachers who give us a new perspective

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**For further details without any obligation simply ring:
Chris or Justyn on 01793 814888**

08/20

with inspiring stories, opening up a wonderful new understanding of our Lord's purpose in our modern times.

Braydon Chapel still has a vibrancy today and as we go forward, we invite you to come along and join with us on a Sunday evening at 6pm, knowing you are in a unique and blessed place, where 131 years of joyous worship still continues.

Phillip Neville - Senior Steward

Playclose Methodist Chapel

With a view to encouraging more people to join the church fellowship, in 2017 a major refurbishment programme took place to make the church more inviting and user-friendly. In the main hall new, more comfortable, chairs were purchased and the wooden floor replaced with carpet. New sound equipment with a better quality loop system has been installed and a smart television added. The toilet and kitchen areas have been redecorated and new flooring laid, and the toilets have been replaced with more up-to-date fittings. In 2019 a new boiler system and radiators were installed making the building more comfortable for use in winter. The fellowship at present is small in number but it is big in heart.

Heather Hunt, Playclose Methodist Chapel

All Meetings and outings to be confirmed

(taking into account Government Guidelines regarding Covid-19)

Thursday 24th September, 2020 in Purton Village Hall at 7.00pm A brief Annual General Meeting followed by: Ann King – The “Rise and fall of Wiltshire Spas” including our own Spa on Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke.

Sunday 4th October 2020 at 10.30am Society visit to Swindon & Cricklade Railway: Further information on the PHS Web page, including booking form, and at September meeting - cost £10 a head including children.

Thursday 22nd October 2020 in Purton Village Hall at 7.30pm Julia Hunt – A story of researching family history

Thursday 26th November 2020 in Purton Village Hall at 7.30pm Vince Povey – R.A.F. Blakehill Farm

Late November – date to be advised – An outing to Winchester Cathedral and Christmas Market – Further details available at September meeting.

Friday, 4th December in Purton Silver Threads Hall at 7.30pm Christmas Social Evening.

Museum News

Although the Museum is temporarily closed due to COVID-19, the Purton Cricket Club Bicentenary Exhibition will remain in place ready to view when the museum reopens. After re-opening, ample time will be allocated for this important new exhibition to be viewed.

*Marion Hobbs, Chairman, email:roy.marion@btinternet.com 01793 770185
www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com*

Purton Village Diary - July 2020

Due to the Covid-19 we will not be meeting in our Church Buildings for Services. The St Mary's online 10.30am church services will continue weekly using Zoom until further notice.

How to join in the 10.30am Services

Please use this link from 10.20am:

<https://zoom.us/j/549593510> (This will be the same link each week)

Meeting ID: 549 593 510

If you do not have a computer/tablet or Smart phone, you can use your mobile or landline: Dial:

EITHER 0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

OR 0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

Then you will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID: 549 593 510 followed by # Please note that call charges may apply.

The link can also be accessed via the church website: www.stmaryspurton.org.uk

For prayer requests please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith 770077 or Revd Judith Wells 770627.

5 Su 10.30am St Mary's Zoom service

12 Su 10.30am St Mary's Zoom service

19 Sa 10.30am St Mary's Zoom service

26 Su 10.30am St Mary's Zoom service

Government Guidelines: What can I do that I couldn't do before?

- Form a 'support bubble' with one other household if you live alone
- Attend your place of worship for the purposes of individual prayer
- Visit any type of shop and some additional outdoor attractions
- Meet outdoors with up to six people from different households, observing social distancing.
- You should avoid using public transport if you can. Try to cycle, walk or drive wherever possible. If you have to use public transport, you must wear a face covering.

You should continue to stay alert and limit your contact with others. Staying at home is the easiest way to do this. The more people you have interactions with, the more chance the virus has to spread. Therefore, try to limit the number of people you see - especially over short periods of time.



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distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton Village Diary - when life returns to normal

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
	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	10.00am	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
	7.30pm	Purton Evening WI meet at the Silver Threads Hall
4th Thursday	(September to May)	Purton Historical Society meet at 7.30pm in Purton Village 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

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

A Book I will Always Remember

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



This month we publish the concluding part of the story behind the purchase of the Red House for the community in Purton. Tony Price asked us to reproduce an extract from “Reflections” written by John Scott in the 1980s about how the Red House was acquired as a facility for the village in memory of those Purtonians who lost their lives in the Second World War. John Scott was a well-known gentleman farmer in the village and still has relatives farming locally.

The story continues with ‘Raising the funds’.

The villagers were summoned to a public meeting which was to be held at Purton Institute (this building having been given to the village many years earlier by Squire ‘Jimmy’ Saddler). The meeting, which was the largest I can ever remember, was chaired by Captain Ward (really?) of Red Lodge. There was space at the Red House for all activities but I was convinced that we could not buy and run the centre unless we could obtain a licenced bar. We had a lot of Methodist opposition in the village, they did not like the idea of a bar.

Having done my homework, I had persuaded our worthy Colonel to donate £1000 (£500 of which was to be a gift, the other £500 to be repaid at a later date). Other sums were promised if we went ahead; one of £100, two of £50, eighteen of £25 each and lots of £10 and £5.

I believe that the whole village was in favour of going ahead but a lot of argument went on over the bar. I was not prepared to divulge how much money we could raise until almost the end of the meeting and suffered a long time in silence, which is most unusual for me!

Eventually, the meeting voted in favour of applying for a bar licence. The chairman then added that if I could produce 19 people who would donate £25 each, he would become number 20. I quickly obtained the 19, and then told the meeting how much I had already been promised.

Two weeks later Fred Leah and I sat in the Institute for twelve evenings and the villagers simply showered their donations upon us. There was great patriotic spirit around this time and people were very generous.

Purton was one of the first villages to ask for grant aid and to proceed with such a scheme. This I learnt from none other than the Duke of Edinburgh himself when he attended a meeting at Trowbridge shortly afterwards, to which I was invited. He was the patron of the National Playing Fields Association and was fully conversant with our proposals.

The property was purchased on behalf of the Parish of Purton and vested in trustees for the benefit of all persons resident in the Parish. The centre was to be a perpetual tribute to those who laid down their lives in the 1939–45 war and would provide facilities for the benefit of the inhabitants without distinction of religion, political views or sex. The membership was open to all parishioners of Purton, Braydon, Purton Stoke, Lydiard Millicent and Lydiard Tregoze on payment of an annual subscription, subject to revision annually. The initial subscriptions were for adults 2/6, youths 15–18 1/- and children free.

Management was to be by a committee representing a wide range of village interests. The management committee was to consist of one member from each functional organisation in the village, four annual elected members, three co-opted members with the chairman, Hon treasurer and Hon secretary being elected at the Annual General Meeting. I wonder how many of these early rules have been adhered to?

The house itself could provide a caretaker's flat, a convenient bar, billiards and table tennis rooms downstairs, with considerable space upstairs for large and small meetings. There were three existing grass tennis courts and plans were drawn up to make a bowling green in the gardens with a further three hard tennis courts at a later date. The outbuildings lent themselves to making into a skittle alley, and there was space to erect a new village hall. The adjoining land would provide a children's playground and a full-sized soccer pitch, but considerable levelling had to be done as there was a fall of 18 feet from south west to north east corners.

I managed to get Lord Justice Lawrence and my old sports master F N S Creek to officiate in the grand opening ceremony. Though I left the village in 1951, I remained as president of the football club and the Purton tennis club for many years, both based at the Red House.

Relationship with the Parish Council

When we were trying to buy the Red House and set up the centre as a war memorial, the Parish Council of the day did not wish to cooperate. Perhaps they

thought the Red House would not be self-supporting. However, they were invited to appoint two members to the management committee, which they did.

Perhaps the attitude of the Parish Council may be explained by some knowledge of funds destined to come their way. In 1927 Sarah Hanna Maria Proud (widow of a London barrister but who was, before marriage Miss Sarah Beak, of the Purton Manor House) had made a will leaving the sum of £28,500 to Purton Parish Council to buy her former home and grounds, at one time 237 acres 'as a recreation ground for the villagers of Purton'. Did the council know of this?

Mrs Proud did not die until much later, after we had bought the Red House. The will was contested in the High Court, as it was home made, but proved valid. Poor Miss Beak's request could never be carried out as, by the time she died, there were only 13 acres of her old estate and the Manor House left, which proved quite impossible to buy.

The Parish Council invested the money for some time. There was space and plans for a village hall at the Red House but the council decided to use their bequest to build one next to the old Institute, in my view a great mistake.

It was not until about 1959 that the Parish Council took a more active responsibility for the Red House, which at the time of writing is thriving.

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.

Saviours for the Seviours

We would like to thank everyone for their continued help and support for our mum Bernice Seviour since our dad's death four years ago. With my own health issues and Elena living in America, we're so lucky that Mum has so many amazing friends.

*From Penni, Elena, Joey
and the three Grandchildren*

Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Neil and Debbie Wicks for their help and support during lockdown. They've been so helpful getting us shopping etc.

From Ron & Therese Giles, Brinkworth

St Mary's Primary School

As we enter into Term 6 we have seen a few more children return to school from the Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and Key Worker groups. These children have adapted to the new routines of school well and we are very proud of them all.

The majority of children continue to learn from home and are busy accessing our online resources. As staff, we thoroughly enjoy planning this learning for the children and it makes it even more rewarding when we receive the many photos, emails and webpage comments from children and their families. If you are interested in viewing any of the activities the children have been



involved in, or just want to see what the St. Mary's website has to offer, you can visit us www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk/

We find it equally as exciting to learn about new skills the children have acquired during lockdown. Many of the children in the Reception classes have learnt to ride their bikes without stabilisers, learnt to bake a cake, become magnificent gardeners, and continued to practise their swimming skills in pools in their gardens!

We were thrilled to receive photos of so many art projects during the Art Week before half term. You can see a whole gallery of finished artwork by each year group on our website but here are a few examples:

At this point in the academic year, we would normally be welcoming children who are due to start with us in September into school for a variety of different transition sessions to prepare them for their journey into school life. Due to the current pandemic, this is now not possible, so we are busy working behind the scenes to make this transition as smooth as it can be for the children. We look forward to contacting all of the families during Term 6 to introduce ourselves and offer support at this important and exciting time in their child's life. If you still do not have a school place for your child in September, please do get in touch with our admin team at St. Mary's: admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk



Mrs Helen Fudge, EYFS Lead

Christian Aid



This has been a phenomenal year for Christian Aid. First of all in February we were told that everything had to stop...

no Christian Aid Week this year. Then we thought we ought to be doing something, especially as people in poorer countries were facing the pandemic without the support of an NHS or even access to fresh clean water. So Purton pulled out all the stops and the result was an amazing £5,000 raised during the month of May.

Literally dozens of people in the village had delicious curries provided by the team at the Maharajah... Thank you to Wendy for setting it up and thank you SO much to Khalique for such generosity and delicious food!

Even more of you baked, sold and bought cakes for our now infamous Cake Trail around the village one blustery Saturday! How on earth did we manage to make over £760 that day?! I know how! A particular lady in the village (a clue is on the front cover - thanks so much Sylvia!) made 54 Bakewell tarts and sold every single one, all for Christian Aid! That, and the generous cooking and baking of many others, is how we made so much money; plus the generosity of folk who paid far more than the £2 or £3 for their cakes... they put extra donations into the collecting buckets as they had not been able to give via the little red envelopes this year!! All wonderfully generous people... thank you.

And hundreds of people had a go at the quizzes... the annual headache and joy!! The winner this year was Lynne Duncombe of Jubilee, Purton. She and three others, including Julia Cook from Purton, scored a perfect 100%! And Josh Hart, age 9 won



the Cathedral Quiz. One lady wrote: Thank you for the quiz. We do enjoy it. It's not finished yet – it will keep us happy for ages – we don't need the answers yet, we're just enjoying the mystery!

As well as all of this excitement, Mary Nettleton has been selling plants ever since Easter and has donated to three charities including Christian Aid, which has



benefited by well over £300. Marie Dempsey has been making and selling face coverings, raising another £200. And various people have been selling items outside their doors, including a television, furniture and baby equipment, which has all added to the funds.

So what is left still to do this year?

Firstly there is the 'design a fundraising purse/box/container'... and these need to be handed in at 20 Hoggs Lane by Friday July 31st. We have already received a beautiful hand crocheted bag in Christian Aid red and white! Any more?

And there is also the Sunflower Growing Competition... to see whose sunflower is the tallest on measuring day which is to be Saturday August 22nd. The grower of the sunflower will need to submit a photo, with a measuring stick, by the 22nd (or sometime during that week). Send the photo to libbie@sheppard.org. It's still not



too late to start! There are seeds available at Purton House Farm Shop.

We want to thank everyone in Purton for taking Christian Aid to heart this year. Purton turns into such a generous and caring community at times like these.

*Libbie: 771018, Mary Hodges: 770505 Purton Christian Aid Team
www.facebook.com/Purton-Christian-Aid-Group*

Purton in the time of Victoria

Part 12: Newspapers

1854 was an interesting year. Queen Victoria had been on the throne for 17 years and Prince Albert was highly active in his modernising ideas. The Crimean War started that year but so did the disastrous London cholera epidemic which killed 10,000 people through contaminated water. So that year the science of epidemiology was born together with the earliest wave of environmental improvement, particularly through the provision of safer drinking water and more efficient disposal of human waste. Benjamin Silliman, a professor at Yale University, demonstrated the distillation of petroleum into fractions such as petrol (gasoline) at laboratory scale, thereby kicking off a new industry of petroleum refining.

On the literary side, Charles Dickens started writing *Hard Times* and William Morris founded the *Swindon Advertiser & Monthly Record*. The 'Adver' was the first Penny Paper produced in the United Kingdom outside London. By the way, he wasn't the William Morris of Arts & Crafts and wallpaper, but he was the great grandfather of the naturalist Desmond Morris who wrote *The Naked Ape* among other books. Young Desmond was born in Purton in 1928, the son of Harry Morris, himself a children's author, and Marjorie, née Hunt.

William Morris took advantage of a loophole in the Stamp Tax which applied to newspapers published more frequently than every 4 weeks. So the Adver started as a monthly paper. Morris did this on his own; simultaneously reporter, editor, advertising manager and printer. At one penny a copy it was always driven by the income from the advertisers which in turn was driven by the interest of the public to buy it. It's the same today; Purton Magazine's cover price is held down through the advertising revenue.

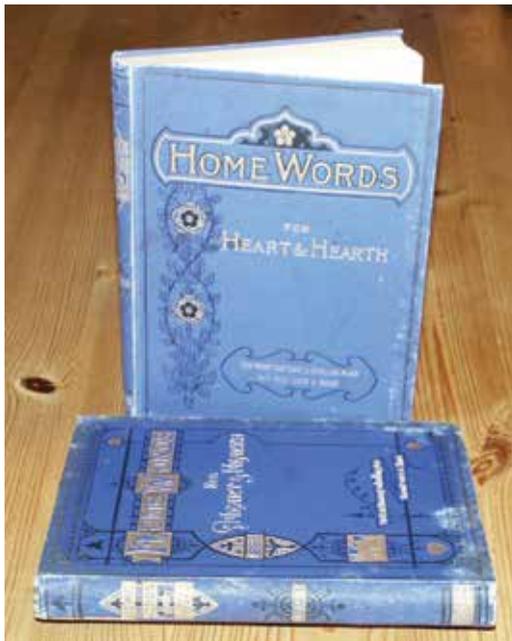
The Adver's first issue was 4 pages, the second was 8 pages and a success was born. The Stamp Duty laws were relaxed in 1856 which allowed the Adver to become a weekly, and expanded its target market under the imprint *The Swindon Advertiser & North Wilts Chronicle*. Under William's sons (William, Samuel and Frank) the *Evening Swindon Advertiser* was published along with the weekly from 1898.

Googling Wiltshire newspapers for 1880 revealed four other titles: the *Wiltshire Times & Trowbridge Advertiser*; the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal*; the *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette*; and the *Salisbury Times*. The *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* later became the *Gazette & Herald* and merged with the *Swindon Advertiser* group in 1942.

Purton Magazine itself started life from about 1884 when a magazine called *Home Words* was published monthly from Paternoster Square, London in leaflet form. It was very much a Christian book containing "wholesome and interesting reading". Looking at the volume for 1893, the contents include serialized short

stories, sermons, poems, the Young Folks' Page, several biographies of churchmen and missionaries, educational articles on insects and more... not forgetting the Housewife's Corner with domestic tips. Did you know that if brooms are soaked in strong hot salt and water before using, the splints will not break in sweeping?

With the national version of the magazine came a separate pink sheet entitled Purton Parochial Magazine but bearing the Home Words imprint as these local sheets were also printed in London. Usually these Parish Notes reached as far as one side of paper but occasionally got to two sides. In the January 1893 bumper issue, the vicar, Rev J. Veysey, wrote: "We have entered upon the ninth year of our acquaintance with Home Words as our Parish Magazine. When it was introduced, I little thought that we should



have kept company with it for so long, and yet it is as popular as ever. It contains as good a pennyworth of wholesome and interesting reading as can be found anywhere."

Among the parish notices we read that the Parochial Tea was fixed for Thursday 5 January at 7 o'clock and that the Clothing Club would be re-opened on 13 January. It also says that all those who wish to have their back numbers of the magazine bound should send them via their distributor to the Vicarage. It is these annual bound volumes which have survived into the Museum's collection.

Next month: Pubs and Beers Houses

Rick Dixon

Purton Library

The Library has been closed since March 20 and at the time of writing there is no information available about re-opening.

If you have borrowed any books from Wiltshire Libraries, they will be renewed throughout the closed period and no fines will be levied.

More information, including how to access e-books, can be found on the Wiltshire Council website. www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-coronavirus Follow the link to Libraries.

Joyce Waylen, Purton Library Volunteers co-ordinator



Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group

Our May meeting was again held over Zoom and our speaker was James from Earthwatch Europe. This charity aims to connect people with the natural world through citizen science. One of their projects is called Naturehood and was started in Swindon and Oxford last year. James facilitates two Naturehood communities in Penhill and Tadpole Garden Village, where neighbours are working together to create and improve habitats for wildlife.

It is a worrying fact that one in seven species in the UK are under threat of extinction. And climate change gives us only about a decade to act and get us back in balance with nature. But there is plenty we can do if we work together.

Collectively, domestic gardens can provide a huge area for wildlife habitats. Communities working together can share experience and knowledge, offer man (or woman) power to less physically able neighbours and work to connect up their gardens and allow animals to roam freely. We have all heard about creating small gaps under our fences so that hedgehogs can pass through, for example.

James shared his knowledge about how to make your garden more wildlife friendly. As we know, pollinating insects are in serious trouble, but we can help massively by choosing bee-friendly plants or creating a flower rich lawn by reducing chemicals and mowing less often. Long grasses also attract birds – goldfinches in particular like the seed heads.

Another option is to create a log pile which provides refuges for small mammals, amphibians and reptiles – there have been loads of slow worms in such places this year in Purton! Similarly, piling up leaves in the autumn creates places for animals to nest or hibernate and when the leaves break down they create leaf mould which is great for your borders.

And of course, creating a pond, whether large or small, is one of the best things you can do to attract wildlife. You will quickly be rewarded with amphibians such as newts, frogs and toads and a whole range of insects including magnificent dragon flies and the delicate damsel flies. And the pond provides valuable drinking and bathing water for all kinds of animals and birds.

The Naturehood website – www.naturehood.uk – provides a wealth of information and advice and also features various citizen science surveys. Through these projects you can help support particular species like the Tortoiseshell Butterfly, Hedgehogs,



House Sparrows and the Early Bumble Bee. All these species have declined dramatically since the 1970s, but by monitoring their populations across UK gardens we can get the information needed to help bring them back. There will soon be an app available to make this even easier (for some of us!).

Citizen Science has huge potential to help restore wildlife to sustainable levels. It used to be only 'experts' who went out to look at wildlife – expert bird watchers, botanists and strange people with rucksacks and binoculars! Now we can all have a go as there is so much information out there to help us – videos on YouTube, websites, Wikipedia – and we are able to share what we find on Instagram and Facebook. For those of us not so savvy on our mobiles, we can watch programmes like Springwatch and David Attenborough or read books like 'The Bad Birdwatcher' by Simon Barnes.

Working together in communities helps build our confidence and we can learn from each other. And we can work out ways of compensating for losses of habitat, for instance hedgerows and trees taken out when new houses are built. These things happen bit-by-bit and we don't get around to doing anything about it. But together we can create the momentum needed. The biggest ingredient needed for restoring wildlife is – us!

So how about it? Would anyone in Purton like to join me in setting up a 'Naturehood' group? We're all busy and the current restriction on social gathering doesn't help, but with most activities being outdoors and the wealth of technology at our fingertips, I'm sure we can find ways around this. There must be many great places for wildlife in Purton already that we can showcase. Just in my own garden we discovered Great Crested Newts this year which we'd love to share with small groups of torch wielding kids and adults on warm nights next spring!

You don't need any skills, just a willingness to take part and be keen to learn. It will be great for children and adults alike. If you are interested please get in touch!

For together, we can make the biggest difference
And find the best ways to help nature thrive
Reverse the trend for UK wildlife. Join Naturehood!

In the meantime you can join in with the Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group via the website <http://ecorwb.org>, the Facebook page or ring me to find out more.

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

The other side of the gate

The weather is seemingly against us again — we've gone from the wettest winter in years to the driest spring! It certainly was the case that the ground needed to dry out, but not to this extent. We made hay in May, which I've never done before. All over the country, a lot of hay was made as farmers took advantage of the dry spell. When it's so dry, the grass gets stressed and its survival tactics kick in. Going to seed is the natural defence when so short of water. We made 60 bales in three fields opposite Mopes



Lane entrance. It smells delicious and sweet and the cows will love it. If we get the rain that we're promised next week, then the grass should regrow and we'll get another cut of silage. Cutting this early might even allow enough time for a third!

The grass seed that sown in early May has been slow to take. What has grown is a dark green colour and stands out against the neighbouring fields. With the forthcoming rain, I've reluctantly applied some artificial fertiliser. I don't like using it at all, but we are so short of grass that it's a quick fix. I nearly sold the spreader as it gets so little use! Harry spent a few days dismantling and repainting it. He's done a good job and it looks brand new. His treat was to use it, and it calibrated up correctly.

Tris cut Restrop at the end of May and we had a crop of 105 bales, however it should have been closer to 200. It's growing back quite well now. Hopefully we'll get another cut in 6 weeks, if it rains.



We started the spring breeding on 24th May. Cow gestation is exactly the same as humans—280 days. If they hold to this, we should see the first calves around 1st March 2021. Perky is due first to a Brown Swiss bull called Opinel. I'll attach a picture. He's a handsome beast!

Coronavirus continues to have an impact on the number of visitors to the farm. The increase in walkers and cyclists has been dramatic. We now get a lot of people coming from North and West Swindon doing a round walk. Some run to us then walk back, and others cycle down the bridleway as Tadpole Garden Village and Peatmore/Ridgeway Farm is only a short walk away. Sarah is having to restock the freezers two or three times some days and we regularly sell out of milk by 3pm.

Jonathan Cook

Beneath the Wool

The past month has been an interesting one, as we've gone from one of the wettest winters to the driest May on record! The grazing fields are looking a very burnt colour and the grass is hardly growing due to the lack of rain. Unfortunately because of this, the sheep are seriously miserable and are starting to do my head in. They usually get miserable when it gets very dry, as the grass isn't at its best, and whenever they see me about they start kicking up a fuss as they want to be moved.

The lambs are growing very fast and some of the earlier ones are looking very big now. On the 3rd June, I had to give the lambs a worm drench, which is a liquid that you squirt at the back of their mouth so they swallow it, as they were starting to show signs of having worms. Lambs are very susceptible to worms and they can cause them to lose body condition very fast. The ewes however, as they are older, have built up more of an immunity to them and don't need the drench as often. When I was drenching them I was picking up the lambs from the pen and putting them on



the other side. While I was doing this, I had the opportunity to feel how heavy they are and they certainly were very weighty. My mum and dad helped me with this and my mum actually mistook lamb 08 for a ewe he was so big, which shows someone's been pestering his mother for plenty of milk!

On the 24th May I had my friend Stu come out to replace a front wheel hub seal on the big tractor so it's ready for the busy season ahead. This is quite a big job for someone who doesn't know what they are doing, so thanks to Stu for coming and giving me a hand. Once we had the front wheel and the front part of the hub off, I was glad I didn't attempt it myself. Thankfully after an hour and a half it was done and it's now ready to go.



As I write this shearing is only a few days away and by next month Sid will have been and I will be able to tell you the tales of shearing. However, I read this week that because of the pandemic, the price of wool is now at absolute rock bottom which is very unfortunate.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton

Purton Cricket Club



One hundred years ago the club had an enjoyable and successful season with the first eleven winning 11 matches, losing six, drawing two, with one abandoned.

The highest individual score was recorded by A.J. Woolford with 79 not out against Cirencester, with Purton winning by 45 runs.

Funds for the Purton Athletic and Purton Cricket Clubs were raised from a five mile 'marathon' race.

Although the First World War was over, a reminder of A.J. Woolford's contribution to winning the war was printed in the Evening Advertiser on November 19th 1920 'The many friends of Mr Alfred Woolford of Melville House, Purton, captain of the Purton Cricket Club, will be glad to hear that he has received this week from the Minister of War a certificate for distinguished service and gallantry on the field in the closing stages of the war. Mr Woolford was mentioned in the last dispatch of the Commander-in-Chief. To those who are acquainted with the recipient's prowess on the cricket field this distinction will not occasion surprise as Mr Woolford has for many years exhibited on the playing field those qualities which stand one in good stead in more strenuous walks.'

At present there are no signs of cricket starting at Purton this season but both seniors and juniors are practising in the nets, and the square and outfield are kept ready should cricket start.

Joe Gardner, 770681

Purton CC Bicentenary

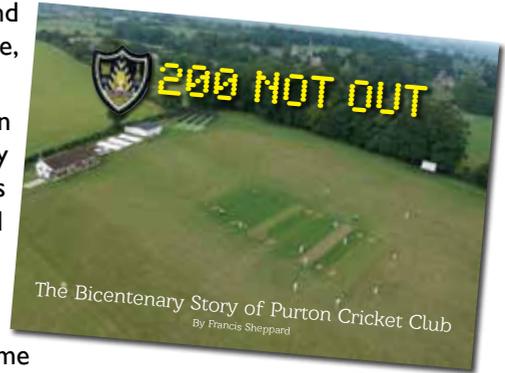
Purton cricket club's bicentenary celebrations have been dealt a huge blow by the coronavirus restrictions although the disease has had – and is continuing to have – substantially more impact on the lives of all those individuals affected, either directly or indirectly.

161 years ago, the 23rd May edition of the Swindon Evening Advertiser reported on the construction of what records suggest was the first permanently constructed pavilion at the picturesque Purton cricket ground. It said that the ground was "really well worth the while of anyone, cricketer or not, to pay a visit to the ground, if only for the purposes of seeing the extremely commodious edifice which has been erected for the convenience of the members and which fully deserves the eulogies lately passed on it and its builder in our columns."

Even in the absence of any games so far this season, club volunteers have continued in their time consuming, effective care and maintenance programmes and the 200 year old ground has hardly ever looked better. Several walkers have passed their compliments about the state of the ground in recent weeks to such an extent that

it can be said again that a visit to the ground is “really well worth the while of anyone, cricketer or not.”

Despite the absence of any on-field action so far, news about the club’s bicentenary is still spreading widely. Francis Sheppard’s book, 200 Not Out has been received and reviewed favourably by the June issue of *The Cricketer* magazine which is for all cricketers, from professionals right through to the grassiest roots of the game with a claimed readership of millions. When production costs have been broadly covered, proceeds from sales of the book will go towards the Ainslie Pavilion fund, which itself is close to achieving its target. To date, sales are around 250 and further copies are available at £10 + £2 P&P from francis.sheppard@live.com or by telephoning 01793 771018.



Keeping Purton Magazine sustainable

In the last three issues we have mentioned the increasing pressures on the income needed to keep our magazine financially viable. The reduction in advertisements was already reducing our income even before the coronavirus made its very unwelcome appearance, effectively locking down businesses around the country for many weeks. We now know that the national economy has been reduced by more than 20%. However, as was mentioned in the April editorial, the magazine committee had already taken steps to improve the situation by creating a new website which includes a searchable database for all advertisements, allowing the details of local trades that advertise with us to be found quickly.

The approval of a grant from the Cricklade & Wootton Bassett Area Board was received just in time to be added to the May editorial. We are now further pleased to let you know that an application for a donation from Purton Parish Council has also been approved and we are hard at work with a local supplier to create the exciting new website. More details will be included in the August magazine.

Once launched, it will still take work and a substantial improvement in the economy before the planned increase in income is likely to be felt. As mentioned previously, we are also – and very reluctantly – having to increase the cover price of each copy; yet everyone who has spoken to me has expressed their full support. Therefore, the committee has decided to increase the cost of each to 80p from the August issue. Subscriptions run for the calendar year and will not change until January 1st. Even then, there will still be a financial benefit (as well as the free delivery) for subscribers when compared with buying 12 separate issues from our retail outlets.

Francis Sheppard, Treasurer.

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Purton Football Club

As Chairman of Purton Football Club I have pleasure in announcing the managerial duo of Dave Terry and Wayne Petrie for the 2020–21 season. Working in a joint role, they have vast experience at Royal Wootton Bassett FC/Cricklade FC and last season at Shrivenham FC, working with the Youth and Senior teams in all locations.



We are looking forward to working with Dave and Wayne next season and welcoming back many players from the 2019–20 season although no doubt there will be new faces, as Dave and Wayne have extensive contacts in the local football scene.

May I put on my second hat as Club Treasurer and explain that as the season was brought to a premature end due to Covid19, we lost the opportunity to boost our funds as many end of season events were cancelled.

To combat this, as we won't be able to hold those events even when lockdown has ended, we run a "£1 a point" scheme to support club finances and would welcome any newcomers to the scheme. Monies are only collectable mid season (Christmas/New Year) and season end which is generally end of April or early May.

I cannot emphasise enough the benefit this makes to the football club, which is such an important asset to the village for our Youth as well as Senior side.

I have pre-printed forms so if you would like to lend your support, you can contact me on 01793 770597 or 0785 406662 or by email to terry.crumbie@gmail.com

Your continued support is most welcome throughout the season and let's hope we can put these last few horrid months behind us and get back to what we used to know as normality.

Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC

Summer Reading Challenge launched for children

Despite libraries not being open at the moment, children can still enjoy the Summer Reading Challenge with support from Wiltshire Council – with this year's campaign having a very 'silly' theme. The challenge, organised nationally by The Reading Agency, is being carried out digitally this year with children being encouraged to join the 'Silly Squad' – a colourful array of cartoon animals. An online platform has been created so families can sign-up safely, create a personal profile, set their own reading goals, view book recommendations and access guides to e-learning.

There will also be a forum to chat to friends, play games, download and print activities, as well as family activities with rewards and unlockable content to keep children and families engaged throughout the summer months. The platform is FREE for children and families to use. Later in the summer, Wiltshire Council will set their own fun reading challenges linked to the campaign. For more information, and to get involved, please visit the Summer Reading Challenge website: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Hello from The Cedars Care Home

Garden clearing and planting pays off



During the warmer days we managed to get quite a few residents outside. Some enjoyed weeding and planting and some played foreperson, directing Tish and me in our endeavours to create tidy pots and planters! Others joined in skittles, sat doing the crossword or just enjoyed ice lollies and chatting. It was a little bit of respite from the awfulness of lockdown and a distraction from missing family and friends.

Coronavirus vigilance continues as lockdown eases

Although, as is normal for a care home, we have had some residents who've needed to go into hospital, thankfully, they have come back to us feeling better, but sadly they must be quarantined in their rooms for two weeks on their return. This is hard for the residents and carers, but, as I write this, we can boast that we haven't had a single case of Covid 19. This is a testament to the vigilance of everyone working at Cedars. We continue to try and keep to social distancing rules although it is very hard at times. However, as the lockdown measures ease, naturally friends and relatives want to see their loved ones. To that end, Tish organised the purchase of a new all-weather gazebo. This has enabled us to arrange a booking system for short visits by individual family and friends to be able to meet with their loved ones. And due to everyone's hard work, the garden is now a lovely space to share these precious meeting times.

Staycation activity ideas are taxing our brains

We haven't been able to book any excursions for the summer and the monthly trips to the Wyvern and Arts Centre are unlikely to restart until the autumn at the earliest. So, Tish and I are now thinking of ways to brighten the days at Cedars as we go into summer. We have a sand pit with shells which some residents find fun and we may invest in a paddling pool if the weather warms up again. We're still planning a movie day once social distancing is relaxed and, in the meantime, Tish and I need to get to grips with the technology of DVD player, projector and screen! One idea we may pursue is to ask residents to share any old holiday photos so we can create a 'Holiday Memories' board. We may even ask for holiday slides to show on the big screen, if residents and families would be willing to share them. After a garage clean-up, we looked at some of our slides at home and were left lamenting the loss of our youthful looks and decided that George Bernard Shaw's sentiment "youth is wasted on the young" is definitely true!

If you have friends or relatives with us as Cedars and would like to book a visit please contact Tish by email to t.kalra@osjct.co.uk. Tish would also be delighted to hear from you if you have suggestions for activities.

Contact Tish on her email: t.kalra@osjct.co.uk or myself Jane j.pitcher@osjct.co.uk if you have any suggestions for activities. Also if you have skills to share on a regular basis then contact: www.osjct.co.uk/volunteering/ Thank you!



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02/21

Purton Club

Hi everybody, I hope you have been well and coping with lockdown. Now hopefully there is a light at the end of the tunnel. At the club, renovations of the gents loos are complete and other work is ongoing. In preparation for opening we have had some more outdoor tables made. Although it is going to be difficult to open and comply with all the new regulations, final details have not been worked out yet but all of us at the club are trying our hardest to make it work in some way. Matt and Louisa have the onerous task of implementing the reopening but knowing how hard this couple work, I am confident we will get there. Watch out for further news on Facebook and from the signs outside the club.

It won't be the same as usual for a while, but with little steps and your cooperation we can get there in the end. Hope to see you soon.

Gerry White (Club Secretary)

COVID didn't stop the 13th Mad March Hare

The annual event based at Lydiard Academy welcomes over 500 participants walking, jogging or running a 5 or 10k route around West Swindon raises money for Breast Cancer Now. Our fundraising in 2019 was over £10,000.

However, this year in response to COVID19, early in March before lockdown, having taken guidance and advice for other organisers of other large events, the Team took the sad decision to cancel the Mad March Hare, which had been scheduled for Sunday 22nd March.

Team member Esther added, "We were very disappointed to have to take this action but we considered it was appropriate under the circumstances. Registration for the event closed but we encouraged all those who had already registered to consider completing their chosen distance as a Virtual Event! The virtual event had been running for the past few years and had proved really popular so we thought it would be a good idea to offer people the opportunity to do this following social distance advice."

"Within a few hours' people had already started to send us their completed routes or images! Images of happy families completing their runs filled our Facebook page. We then busily started to deliver the medals which had been so deservedly earned. This did take us longer than usual but yet again the understanding and thanks we received from participants were overwhelming. This year we have so far raised over £4,500!"

We will be back next year, our 14th year. We obviously don't know yet whether this will be in person or whether we will have to hold a virtual again, but, either way, we look forward to seeing lots of happy smiling faces taking part, keeping fit and raising money for Breast Cancer Now. In the meantime, if you are interested in being part of our team please contact us on info@madmarchhare.org.uk, telephone 0845 680 8064.

Purton Tennis Club

With the easing of the lock-down restrictions, we are very pleased to be playing tennis again. Obviously social distancing and hand hygiene rules need to be observed, but it is wonderful to be back on court again – especially as the weather has been so glorious!

Our courts have been very busy and we have welcomed new players and members to the club this year, as some facilities around the county are still closed. This gives us the opportunity to meet new people, which is always nice, and tennis is a very social game that can be played by anyone of any age or ability.

Our club nights are: Men – Mondays, Ladies – Tuesdays, Mixed – Thursdays. Guests are welcome to come along, meet everyone and have a game.

We are also pleased that two top coaches are doing 1:1 adult coaching at the moment, so if you would like to book a session with either Richard or John, now is a good time to get in touch.

On a personal note, I will be missing Wimbledon very much this year, so will have to make do with watching repeats!

So in the meantime, on behalf of the committee, we hope you stay safe and well, and should you wish to get in touch, either to give tennis a go for the first time, or to join us as a full member we'd be pleased to hear from you.

Please visit www.purtontennisclub.com or email me.

Purton Tennis Club committee, Janet Saunders (secretary) janetsaunders@gmail.com

We Record ...

Burials in Purton Cemetery

12 May 2020 Douglas Desmond Raikes May (Des) (86)

13 May 2020 Earnest Ronald Saunders (Ron) (90)

20 May 2020 Peter Charles Howse (80)

10 June 2020 Deric James Edward Wadsworth (Reg) (84)



Rotary Pledges Support for Carers in New Partnerships

Carer Support Wiltshire are delighted to announce that Royal Wootton Bassett & District Rotary Club has chosen to support unpaid carers by selecting them as one of their charities for the year ahead.

Earlier this year, President Elect of Royal Wootton Bassett & District Rotary Club, Richard Everitt, chose to make Carer Support Wiltshire one of his charities for his year as President commencing in July 2020. Richard supported the charity in 2011/12 and we are extremely grateful to him and his Rotary Club members for their continued support. We hope that the partnership between the Carers UK and

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Rotary GBI will help to strengthen connection with RWB Rotary, and encourage other local Rotary groups to support unpaid carers in their communities.”

Richard Everitt said: “Royal Wootton Bassett & District Rotary Club is keen to provide some support to carers in the local community. It is estimated that there are about 2900 carers in Royal Wootton Bassett and the surrounding area.”

The partnership has launched just ahead of Carers Week (8th-14th June), a national awareness raising week for caring and unpaid carers. There are an estimated 47,500 carers in Wiltshire who care for a friend or loved one who is older, disabled or seriously ill. 65% of people are likely to care in their lifetime, so this is something that will affect almost all of us, often more than once.

About Carer Support Wiltshire

Carer Support Wiltshire is a local charity supporting carers in Wiltshire that is jointly funded by Wiltshire Council and the NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group. A carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a family member or friend who could not always manage without their support. They might look after someone with a physical disability, long term health condition, mental health issue or a problem with substance misuse. We help carers to access support, services, education and training, and breaks from their caring role. www.carersupportwiltshire.co.uk

My memories of Purton in the 1970s by Eve While

I arrived in Purton as a teenage bride in 1971 and left as wife and mother in 1985. I returned as a pensioner in 2015. I still have a watch and necklace that my husband bought for me from Mr Broad's shop.

There was the time Mr and Mrs Matthews' (who had a shop in Station Road) bees swarmed in the garden one sunny afternoon. I had to get him to come and collect them. Mr Matthews had a field behind the garden of the Police House, where we lived. He kept a bull there and I'd often hear it snorting as I was hanging out the washing. I was always worried this bull would crash through the privet hedge that separated him from me. Fear and trepidation were never far away whenever I ventured outside with my washing basket.

I remember I used all the local shops; hairdressers, grocers, Mrs Berry's for clothes. Not forgetting Lloyd's Bank, forming part of the where the Co-op is now, alongside Mr and Mrs Hicks' shop, and two butchers. Everyone was always greeted by name with old-fashioned cheery courtesy.

I started my married life in Purton, arriving on the evening of my marriage in 1971 as a young and happy bride. I insisted on being carried over the threshold by my husband, nervously hoping he wouldn't be seen. Luckily there was a big privet hedge surrounding 10 Station Road. We lived happily in Purton, finding the village friendly and welcoming. I worked full time, commuting by bus to Swindon daily, until a job came up in the village. Luckily I got the job at the Bran Chemist shop as it was known then, now an Indian restaurant.

Working locally I was now able to meet more village folk regularly and I enjoyed my time there very much. I left in 1979 when my first daughter was born. In 1982 my second daughter was born and in 1984 I was expecting my third child. Perhaps some Purton Stoke spring water got into the system and caused the fertility?

In 1985 my husband and I were actioned to move on to Amesbury with his job as local Bobby. I was saddened to leave Purton as it held so many happy memories for me, including my time in the amateur dramatics song and dance group. It was in this group that I would escape from being the staid Bobby's wife and dipped into my more extroverted side. We met in the tea shop next to Bran's chemist to discuss ideas for a show in the Village Hall.

We ran a few ideas past each other and I got together with a male member of the group to create a comedy sketch. He was a ventriloquist and I was his dummy. On the night he was so nervous and forgot a few lines so we had to improvise; the audience didn't seem to notice! Of course there were singing solos and group dances. It was all great fun and the villagers attending seemed to enjoy it too; oh happy days!

Purton Police House had an office on the side, still with a siren alarm which when switched on emitted a very loud high-pitched sound. I believe it was activated in case of attack to the village, dating from the second World War. The Police House did have one attack whilst I was there. Late at night a pole was smashed through a downstairs window. It was probably pranksters or a drunk maybe. My only concern was all the glass to clear up and a tall vase that had been broken.

A funnier mishap happened when my husband was working at the Cricklade office, working a 4pm to 12am shift on a Sunday, leaving myself, my parents, and my visiting nephews at the house. The seven year old nephew went into the office from the door that adjoined the house. He found a set of handcuffs and put them on himself, locking them closed. The more he tried to free himself, the tighter the ratchets clicked around his wrists. We were getting worried and I had to call Swindon Police headquarters to locate my husband and ask him to return home with the key! Everyone except my nephew saw the funny side — my husband joked that the key couldn't be found and the handcuffs would have to be cut off. I'm glad to say that wasn't the case and my nephew survived the ordeal no worse for wear but perhaps a little wiser.

After many events, in 2015 I returned alone to Purton, a place in which I hold so many happy memories, and the people are still very friendly! Although there's been lots of changes, there's still some familiar faces. As I go down memory lane, it's tinged with sadness. This is the village where I felt I belonged and it still has lots to offer, with support in abundance.

I lost my original wedding ring in 1982, in the playground at Play Close whilst visiting with my daughter, perhaps that's what drew me back? Something special was lost and never found... Perhaps a metal detectorist might find it? My wedding ring was replaced, but it was just a ring, not THE ring and it didn't hold the same meaning. Unfortunately, like the original wedding ring, I lost the man who gave it to me too.



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07/20



A wet winter and a warm, dry spring has been causing problems for our Purton farmers. See pages 42 & 43.