

Purton. Magazine

March 2020



St Mary's Church Lych Gate in the spring sunshine.

50p

Purton Contacts

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

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www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton. Magazine

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

INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

Observant readers may well have already noticed a change in this edition – the paper is slightly different. The silk stock we used requires more processing, so has more impact on the environment, but it's also more expensive. We are always delighted to receive your submissions each month and long may this continue, although we are also conscious of the increase in the magazine's size. Our aim is to publish a diverse and varied range of village news but urge contributors to do so concisely because Purton Magazine is having to cut costs for a little while.

For 16 years we have survived with around 70% of our income coming from our wonderful advertisers. Recently each copy of your magazine has cost roughly £1.65 to produce. With a cover price of just 50p, the remaining £1.15 has come from selling advertising space. But we are competing with the internet and social media that have forced many industries to adjust their business methods, especially in the light of online shopping. We are no different and are having to change our operating model. Quite understandably, many of our advertisers are focussing their advertising online and several have chosen not to renew their advertising in our magazine. Recent financial projections suggest that we could run out of money towards the end of the year without making some significant changes.

In the short term we are making as many savings as we sensibly can: in the longer term we have some exciting plans aimed at arresting and reversing the decline in our financial fortunes. One thing that will be hotly debated is a likely increase in the cover price. Looking around the other local magazines, we have been able to beat their prices, quantities and qualities – to say nothing about the free deliveries to subscribers. We are always heartened by those readers who are kind enough to pass on their compliments about Purton Magazine.

We are working on some more fundamental changes to our online offering to attract more local businesses and applying for local grants and donations to help us with our restructuring – look out for updates in future issues. That aside, we will continue with our overriding purpose – of publishing and distributing a monthly, not-for-profit community magazine to engage, inform and reflect all aspects of Purton life, and to stimulate interest, conversation, concern and involvement in Purton affairs.

5

Daffodils competition
at the next Gardeners'
Guild meeting
– see page 62

25th

February saw the re-
opening of Purton's Post
Office branch within the
Co-op – see page 10

65

Years of service to
Purton residents
delivered by just two GPs
– see page 23



Let's Celebrate in Style - VE Day

Saturday 9th May 2020, 2pm to 4pm in Purton Village Hall – free community event celebrating the end of WW2 with sandwiches, cake, tea, performances by Purton School of Dance and Purton Village Voices. FREE to all residents who wish to attend. Please email, call or pop into the offices to put your names down – we don't want to run out of cake! Spaces are limited, so please advise your attendance to avoid disappointment.

Welcome

Purton Parish Council are delighted to announce the co-option of a new Councillor, Mrs Charlotte Young, from 10th February 2020. Charlotte's Parish Council email address is: charlotte.young@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Parking in Purton

Do you have spare capacity on your drive to allow those commuting to the village or those living in Purton without their own parking space to space share? Purton Parish Council is acting as a "go between" and will pass on the details of those looking for somewhere to park to people who have a free space. Working together as a community, let's try to ease congestion, ensure parking is kept to allocated spaces and prevent illegal or unauthorised parking. Please email the office if you need a parking space or if you can provide assistance.

Council Meetings (March)

7pm in Purton Village Hall

Monday 9th Full Council Meeting

Monday 23rd Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity Meeting
Play Close Charity Meeting

Granted Planning Applications

19/11638/TCA - 19 Locks Lane, Purton. 25% crown reduction to 2 black poplars, 10% crown reduction to 1 beech tree.

Purton Village Hall Fundraiser

Friday 6th March 2020 – A quiz night in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 sharp. Tables of 6 @ £12 per table. Support this local charity and keep this facility operational for all.

Purton's Cinema

Do you have some spare time and capacity to help get a new project off the ground? Without the support of volunteers, this scheme will not be able to progress. Please consider putting your name down and helping us create our own little cinema here in Purton. Email Gavin Janes (gavin.james@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) to find out more and get involved.

Awards Scheme

Nominations are in and letters inviting those recognised by residents in the community have been sent. The winning nomination will be announced on Monday 6th April 7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting – all welcome. Refreshments available.

Purton Toddlers

Volunteers are needed to keep this little community hub alive and kicking. If you can spare some time please let them know. Contact Dawn on 07793 472103 or Ginny on 07970 505554. Facebook.com/purtontoddlers

How to contact the Parish Council

Full Council details can be found on our website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Telephone: 01793 771066, email: deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

On our website you can sign 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.

Wiltshire Council News

Recycling collection day and system changes

We are making it even easier for you to use the kerbside recycling collection service.

The way in which recyclable materials are collected will change and this means that for many of you your collection day will change. Letters are being sent to every household in Wiltshire from 24 February, to inform you of your new collection day. Once residents have received their letters they can also go online and check their collection day and print off a bespoke collection calendar.

The changes mean that more materials can be placed in your blue-lidded bin. More efficient routes will also see fewer collection vehicles on the road, which will further reduce the council's impact on the environment as part of its pledge to become carbon neutral by 2030.

In summary, the changes are:

- In the blue lidded bin you can recycle: cans, tins, aerosols, paper, cardboard, cartons, foil, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays
- In your black box you can recycle: glass bottles and jars and bagged, dry textiles
- The blue lidded bins and black boxes will be emptied fortnightly on the same day, using new recycling collection vehicles.

The service changes will take place from 24 February to 20 March, so we are asking people to look out for their letter which will tell them the dates of their last black box and blue lidded bin collection under the current system and the date of their first collection under the new system.

Recycling tips:

- Wash and squash all cans, tins, plastic and cartons where possible
- Bottles, jars, cans, cartons and aerosols should be empty; lids can be left on
- Flatten cardboard boxes to make more room in your bin

If you think you may not have enough room in your blue lidded bin, please try squashing and flattening as much of your recycling as possible for the first few collections to see if this means you could manage. Larger or additional blue lidded bins will not be delivered until residents have first tried the new service and demonstrated to themselves that, despite squashing and flattening materials, they need additional capacity. They can then request a larger or additional blue lidded bin via our website.

Purton Post Office re-opening

The long-awaited re-opening of Purton's Post Office took place at 1pm on Tuesday 25 February. Situated inside the Co-op, our new Post Office Local branch is able to provide postal services, bill payments, car tax renewal, and personal banking withdrawals and deposits (up to £1000). Further details and a full list of services are available in store.

We'd like to thank both the Co-op for accommodating this important village amenity and the Post Office, who have provided the weekly van service.

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

PADS would like to thank everyone who made our pantomime a success; the Village Hall is all stripped bare again! Thanks to the Co-op, the Library, Flawless Floors and Dora's Dairy for selling tickets, and to all who came to watch. We have lots of photos on our Favebook page.

Our next production is the Spring Play 'Outside Edge' and details will appear in April's magazine.

Kate Bath, Tel: 771442



Next Information evening - Thursday 19 March, Dr Gomara, Mindfulness

Our next Information Evening will be on Thursday 19 March when Dr Gomara will be talking about Mindfulness. This will be in Purton Surgery from 7.30-9pm. Tickets (free) are needed to manage numbers and are available from Purton Surgery.

Quiz Evening with a Fish and Chip Supper - Friday 27 March, Silver Threads Hall, Purton

We will be holding another Quiz evening with a Fish and Chip Supper on Friday 27 March. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start in Silver Threads Hall, Purton. Teams of six. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets at £9 each are limited and are available from Purton Surgery.

Coffee Morning, 35 High Street, Purton - Saturday 28 March

Many thanks to Sylvia Freemantle who will be holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 28 March with all profits going to the PPG to benefit patients of Purton and Green Gable Surgery. Sylvia's coffee mornings are well known in Purton, so do come and support it. Coffees, teas, cakes plus a variety of stalls.

Purchase of Automated door for Purton Surgery

The automated door is now being purchased, after negotiation the cost has been confirmed at just under £4000.

Future purchases

The doctors have agreed a priority list for future purchases by the PPG and money raised will go towards these priorities which are: Baby change unit; 24 Hour ECG machine; adjustable couches for those consulting rooms which currently do not have them; a chair with arms for patients in consulting rooms; an i-stat blood analyser machine which can quickly test blood; a paediatric pulse oximeter which takes oxygen statistics from babies and young children.

Parking at Purton Surgery

Thank you to those patients who are parking considerately at Purton Surgery, it makes such a difference to pedestrians – in particular those with wheelchairs or pushchairs.

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

Events

Minibus Shopping Trips - Hazel is organising shopping trips on Friday 28th February to Cirencester and Friday 14th March (destination to be confirmed) and Cirencester on the 27th March all of which will leave the village at 9am. For more details and to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

Coach trips this year - Our first outing will be on the 1st April and is a mystery trip with lunch. The cost for this will be £15 for pensioners and £17 for non-pensioners and people that live outside the village. This year you will be able to use your £5 voucher for one of the trips, and I ought to explain that the voucher will entitle you to £5 each if you are a couple, just put both names on the voucher and we will adjust. Yes, even we make mistakes sometimes! Sorry it wasn't made clear on the instructions. Please book through your street wardens.

Our coach trips will be on the first Wednesday of each month throughout the summer so please look out for details either on the Purton Village Diary or in our magazine articles. We are organising a steam railway trip in June, which is bound to be very popular, so watch this space and book early through your street wardens as soon as the details are confirmed.

Burns Night 25th January - A fantastic night with an energetic crowd. Piper, address to the Haggis, and a Ceilidh afterwards. Great food, well prepared by our committee members and helpers, and the hall looked amazing. Some people got the tartan out but were obviously not Scottish dancers! Well done to everyone! We will be holding this event again next year, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Jumble Sale 1st February - We had a queue around the corner as we opened up and it was like the first day of the January sales as the crowds rushed in. We were very busy and we hope for a good profit. Our treasurer is away at the moment so I don't know the final figures. I will put them in next month's article.

A special mention...

Tony Price has been in hospital since before Christmas and came back home on the 8th February, hopefully to remain at home and recover, no doubt cared for by Sheila. They have both had a tough time; hopefully they can relax a bit now. Welcome back Tony.

He has taken up his pen and sent me some words that he wishes to include in the notes about two people who have died recently who had so much influence on our village life and Age Concern particularly.

Glenis Hill

I would like to pay a little tribute to Glenis Hill who was Purton born and bred – Blacklands in Pavenhill in fact. When she was four years old her father was killed by

a bomb and one thing she always remembered was being told “be strong, don’t cry, be strong for your mummy.”

She attended St. Mary’s School and was one of those people who was good at everything, especially sport – she seemed to do it all without too much effort. Along with her great friend Margaret Bunce she joined the Red Cross which Miss Purnell had formed in Purton. She had just retired as matron of the Red Gables Children’s Home. (Margaret is now Margaret May of course and Miss Purnell was Mrs. Sheppard – I remember her husband had two donkeys!) During their first year in the Red Cross Margaret and Glenis won several competitions. This stood Margaret in good stead for when she went on to take up nursing training in London – in fact we used to travel together on the 7.20 pm train from Purton Station as I was doing my National Service and returning to barracks on a Sunday night.

Glenis left school and went to work in the offices in the Railways. She stuck it for six weeks but she hated it and a job came up at Hills brickworks – she applied for it and got it and we all know what happened from then on as she met the love of her life – Victor Hill. During that time Glenis was like an adopted daughter to Tom Bunce, Margaret’s dad, who would do things for her like mending her bicycle.

Eventually Glenis married Victor and they had a long and happy partnership. Glenis started Purton Medical Aids with Victor’s support – that’s what I liked about them – the way they worked together. Glenis was always a great support to Age Concern in our earlier days with her advice about medical aids, knowing where to go to get what. We now carry this on but in a much smaller way. Over the years Glenis was still involved in the Red Cross, rising to Cadet Officer. How many children have benefitted from her expert tuition over the years to help them through life?

Glenis was involved in village life, supporting various functions always with Victor’s help and she was always so elegant and smart. What about dances held in the Angel – Gay Nineties with MC Jessie Reason. Glenis was a regular attender at these and what an elegant couple Victor and Glenis made when going to perhaps a company dinner dance – where they would often head the dancing. Goodbye Glenis, we shall all miss you, your help, advice but most of all for being you. Our thoughts and prayers are for Bronia, Roderick and families and friends and thank you for donations in lieu of flowers being shared between Alzheimer’s Research UK and Purton Age Concern.

Gill Woolford

Another lady I would like to mention who was very helpful in the early days when we were trying to get Age Concern moving was Gill Woolford, who was a committee member and was always ready with ideas for fundraising. She was always ready to help out at any event, as a lot of organisations have found out.

What about her help at Luncheon Club – how many years? What I thought was a nice gesture by her team at Luncheon Club was that, since Gill’s illness, they would go and fetch her and give her jobs to do so that she was kept in touch – a very nice

thought. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dave and his family and friends.

Tony Price

Thanks Tony, he always pours his heart and soul into the tributes and I for one appreciate how important it is to the families to hear his kind words.

We would also like to mention two other people who have died recently and thank their families for money in lieu of flowers coming to Purton Age Concern. Firstly Val Inge who lived in Witts Lane and was mother to Tracy, one of our street wardens. In her younger days Val was always the life and soul of any party and always ready to help where she could. Condolences to Tracy and Peter, Val's partner.

Also Ray Gray who lived in Hook and will be sadly missed by his brother and sister. Ray used to work in his father Rodney's garden trying to keep it looking nice. Rodney was a well known character in the area. Condolences to Ray's family.

Latest News



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



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

Information

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

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

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

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

Bradies - Each month we will mention Bradies, now known as Phoenix, as they will

continue to cover the Purton area. You need to ring 01249 890794 to book with them. Remember if we don't use it, we lose it!

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

Website - Visit our dedicated website – www.purtonageconcern.com – to find all the details you need about our contacts, events, news and links to other websites in the area. We also have Facebook and Twitter accounts which can be found at 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.

Don't forget the minibus service we offer residents living in the Purton Age



Concern catchment area. Surgery runs, coffee mornings, day trips or general get-togethers, for those aged 60 and over that have disability or mobility issues. Both minibuses have hydraulic lifts and wheelchair security. Call Hazel to book your place 01793 770862.

Peter Berry

Remembering Gill Woolford

Gillian Dearing, known to many as Gillie, was born in Harefield on 27 June 1950. Her parents were Nellie and Harold. Nellie's Mum and sister Bett lived close by, so Gillie always had a second home and spent lots of time with them and Bett's husband Alan. She'd often go out with them at the weekend in whatever vehicle uncle Alan could borrow from the garage where he worked. Gillie had one sister, Trisha, who came along in 1957. They'd enjoy playing in their large garden, swinging from the swing in the apple tree. They would have tea parties, Teddy (who was a constant source of comfort to Gillie, right to the end), was always invited. Teddy is a very much loved bear, however, he's also a bear with very little hair because when Gillie was little, playing hairdressers, she cut Teddy's fur! She was very upset when it didn't grow back... Nellie and Harold rented the lower floor of Miss Bartlett's house until she moved to Broadstairs and they were able to buy the whole house. One of the agreements of the sale was that the girls would visit Bar at her new home, often.

Christmas was a big family gathering, which included next door neighbours Mr and Mrs Arthrell. How Gillie's Mum cooked for nine of them in the tiny scullery that

she called her kitchen, no one ever knew. Gillie attended the local infant and junior school and went to John Penrose Secondary, which was just across the road from her home.

As a youngster, Gillie was a Brownie and a Guide. She became secretary to the District Commissioner and also Brown Owl. At the age of eighteen she became lifelong friends with Pat Boobyer. They spent holidays together, including several to Austria, having seen the Sound of Music together. She was a very busy young lady, playing the piano, making her own clothes, playing tennis at the local tennis club and helping to organise the annual donkey derby at the community centre. When her Dad built a mirror dinghy in his garage, she became a very reluctant crew member. Her first job was at the local chemist, where Antie Bett worked. She then moved into the commercial world working for OSMA. She set up stands at exhibitions and it was here along with her friend, that she first met Dave. They would often come across one another at exhibitions and on one occasion Dave brought strawberries, but her friend had to point out that they were actually bought for Gillie not for them both. Romance blossomed from there.

Gillie moved to 8 Restrop View, Purton with Dave and his son Neil. They were married at the registry office at Harefield on Gillie's 30th birthday, 27 June 1980. Paul was born in 1982, followed by Katie in 1984. They had many lovely holidays in St Ives, the children's favourite place.

Gillie's parents often visited Purton, Nellie spending lots of her time with Katie and Harold showing Paul his skills in woodworking. Gillie continued to make Christmas a big family occasion, inviting her Mum and Dad, Trisha, Auntie Bett and Uncle Alan to join them, along with Dave's Mum, Dolly. Paul and Katie's friends were always made welcome at home, with homemade cake always a hit.

Gillie became a much loved member of our community. When Dave was playing cricket for Purton, she was signed up to do the cricket teas. Paul enjoyed these times, looking forward to cake any left over from the Cricket. She went on to help both Age Concern and the Luncheon Club. I first met Gillie when Katie became friends with my daughter Clare at playgroup; they also attended dance classes together. We became friends – a friendship that has lasted over thirty years. I was always in awe of her style and her talent for cake icing. Gillie worked at Thompson's Garage for ten years, doing the accounts and bookkeeping, work that she very much enjoyed. Katie would often make sandwiches and join her Mum at the garage for lunch during the school holidays. She was very sad the day the garage closed. We'd often talk about how she modernised the filing system at the garage as Ben Thompson's block of wood with a spike on it would never do!

I was so pleased when she agreed to take on the task of Treasurer for the Purton Helping Hand, a job that she excelled at. Gillie became my right hand woman when baking and food preparation was needed. She was someone I could rely on 100%. We always found time to have some fun, whatever we were doing. For several years,

she and Dave peeled potatoes for the carnival lunches – a whole sack! They were both a wonderful help to the Helping Hand. We enjoyed many shopping trips and lunches out; “Ladies that lunch”, Gillie would often say, followed by a giggle from us both.

As Dave was away a fair bit with work, Gillie was a constant help to Dolly, Dave’s Mum who lived in Witts Lane until she passed away. Because of Dave’s work they shared some luxurious holidays. As much as she enjoyed these, she was always happy to come home to Paul and Katie, and a nice cup of tea. She also attended a lot of dinners with Dave, always elegantly dressed “in me posh frock” as she’d say. They made friends through Dave’s work, some of whom still keep in touch.

Gillie was always proud of her children and when her grandchildren arrived she was even prouder, helping when she could. Unfortunately in 2013 Gillie was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s Dementia, but tried her best to keep going despite the challenges it brought. Dave cared for her at home with support from Paul and Katie. In 2017 Gillie allowed me to go into her home a few hours a week to keep her company while Dave went to an appointment or had a few hours well-earned break and help around the house, (a job that Pearlie her ‘bestest friend’ was allowed to do). Who could guess that that dusting along to Joe Brown’s CD could give such pleasure, with us both dancing and singing along. By April 2018 Gillie’s condition had worsened and needed professional care. She was welcomed into The Cedars and was at her happiest when there was music playing and she could have a dance. She was never short of visitors; her grandchildren loved visiting as they’d get chocolates and the best cuddles from their Nannie. Gillie was always up for joining in with the various activities that The Cedars put on. I went in one day to find her with black paint on her hands and face, she was painting a paper plate to make a spider for halloween. On another visit I found Gillie holding a huge spider, followed by a rat and a snake, she was braver than me!

Sadly in December last year, Gillie’s health deteriorated and although her spirit was still shining bright, her time with us came to an end on 8 January. Gillie touched many hearts which was obvious on 28 January, following a family cremation, as over two hundred people packed St Mary’s Church in celebration of Gillie’s life. She was an amazing wife, caring sister, proud and loving Mum, best Nannie and a wonderful friend. She will be missed by us all.

Pearl Lait

The Purton Magazine team needs your help

We are looking for people who could spare just an hour or two a month to deliver perhaps 30 magazines. One of our loyal distributors has suddenly been taken ill and others are always needed to fill in from time to time. For more information please contact Sandra (01793) 770157, e-mail distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk.

Dr John Belt

Although John retired as a doctor 29 years ago and has since been active in the village in so many other ways, I am sure for many Purton residents he will simply be remembered as Dr Belt, their village doctor.

I joined the Purton practice in 1988 and worked with John for two years before he retired at the end of 1989. Some details of his early career were superbly summarised in an article written by Caroline McLean for this magazine in 1994.

While at school in Birmingham, John had always wanted to be an engineer. However, a tricky Higher Certificate Maths paper made him think again and a moment of revelation came when he saw a friend dissecting a frog so he decided to switch to study medicine. He duly completed his university training and worked two six-month house-job placements in West Bromwich and Birmingham.

On his first day as a house surgeon at an old Victorian hospital he entered what seemed to be an enormous ward with two rows of beds disappearing into the distance. Flanked by the ward sister and staff nurse he was expected to stop at each bed and say “something intelligent about each of them”. He was only 23.

He next joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1952 and began a period of very hard but varied work encompassing General Medicine, gynaecological and obstetric practice, orthopaedics and anaesthetics all of which proved later to be an excellent grounding for General Practice. The war was over, but hospital work was hard to come by and poorly paid in the newly formed NHS, making General Practice the obvious choice. After leaving the Army in 1954 John worked several locum attachments round the country until a call came from Dr Alderman in Purton who had a vacancy for an assistant in his practice.

Dr Alderman lived in what is now Norbury Court in the High Street. He had a substantial staff, a fleet of cars and lived in some style. He was very much the gentleman GP. (They obviously paid GPs more in those days!). John remembers that he dressed for the perishing cold surgery in a full-length camel hair coat with riding boots and shooting gloves. What he needed the shooting gloves for is not clear! When, a little later, he offered John a Junior Partnership it was on the condition that he lived in the village, close to the surgery.

Again, it was hard work. Hospital facilities for medical cases were much more limited and heart attacks, strokes or pneumonia would be treated in the village, though a flying squad would come from the maternity hospital on Kings Hill for difficult births. Dr Alderman died suddenly 2 years later, and John was left to take over the practice. He was then joined by Dr Hartwell for a few years then Peter Schaps, followed by Glynis Evans and finally Gordon Barron. John took a lot of satisfaction turning what he described as a pretty poor practice into one providing high quality care to the village.

When I joined the practice, the surgery was based in some converted stables and

garages at the back of John's house. There were 3 consulting rooms (one of which was very small), a waiting room, toilets and a small reception and note storage area. We also ran a branch surgery from a two-room converted shop in Cricklade.

General Practice was very different then. The Purton practice operated open surgeries in the morning and appointment only surgeries in the afternoon. If you wanted to be seen that day, you simply turned up and waited to be seen in the morning or made an appointment for the surgery in the afternoon.

This had the advantage that everyone got seen quickly with the receptionist prioritising the sicker patients, but it had the disadvantage that on busy days a GP could end up seeing 30 or 40 patients in the morning. John also ran a huge personal visiting list, averaging 10 to 12 home visits each day before afternoon surgery. There was no need for government initiatives for regular over 75 health checks or for all hospital discharges to be contacted within 3 days. John would have visited them all several times before any deadline.

The practice was then also responsible for all its own night and weekend cover. You soon got to know well where all the telephone call boxes were (and which ones worked), as this was a time before the advent of mobile phones. Your spouse also had to stay in to answer the phone when you were on call and a good torch was also essential for house numbers or names in the dark. In those days it was an all or nothing job, but with this level of access and 24 hour care you got to know your patients very well, and you established special relationships of trust with them as you were there for them in their times of crisis or distress, whatever time of day or night they might occur.

John's level of commitment to and stamina for the job were at a different level. I never saw him stressed or heard him complain about his workload. I remember him telling me about a time when Glynis was on maternity leave and Peter was off sick that he had to run the practice on his own for 2 weeks, covering all the days, nights and weekends without a break. It was a time when you had to "get on with it" much more. I also remember John telling me of a time in the big freeze of 1962/63 when he was called by a farmer whose wife was in labour out in Minety. The ambulances were snowed in and his wife was in distress. John set off as far as he could by car and then by foot before being met by the farmer on his tractor which duly transported him to his labouring wife. Two hours later John successfully delivered a bouncing baby in the kitchen.

John was a superb clinician who always had a sixth sense of when something more serious was wrong. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of his patients and his clinical examination skills would pass muster in any specialist exam today. He was quietly spoken but always spoke with wisdom and authority instilling a real sense of confidence in his patients. For me as a young GP, he was very supportive and always happy to give a gentle but kindly tip or hint when I was unsure. It may have been his army background, but he was also always impeccably turned out, with

perfectly creased trousers, highly polished shoes and a shirt and tie. This attention to detail and professionalism infused everything he did and helped make him such an excellent and respected doctor.

Despite his professional bearing there was always a twinkle in his eye and a witty observation and smile was never far from his lips. I will always remember my interview at the practice. I was perched on a chair in the middle of his consulting room and was given a very hot cup of tea with a saucer and two chocolate biscuits. The biscuits duly melted and stuck to the cup and he watched with great amusement as I nervously tried to drink the tea and eat the biscuits without covering myself with chocolate while trying to answer the questions in a professional and dignified manner!

John was a kind, dedicated and highly disciplined man who gave his very best for his patients and I am sure there are many who can look back with gratitude for the care he gave them. He was very supportive of the planning and building of the new surgery which was eventually completed soon after he retired. Later, as a patient, he always took a keen interest in what was happening in the practice. John left a medical legacy to be immensely proud of. I am personally very grateful for the example he set me on how to practice as a young GP and the support he gave me in my early career.

Dr Michael McKemey, Retired August 2019

Jean Belt adds: Between them John and Michael gave 65 years of service to Purton Surgery! This article is interesting as it reminds us how GP work has been transformed since John retired. It was a different world for doctors in the second half of the last century!

Exciting news at the Library for younger readers!

In September last year I told you about the arrival of a young poet in the library who left a couple of his books with the Librarian. Well, the really good news is that one of these is now in OUR library! Well, it was there on the last when I was there! The poetry section is pretty small but if you ask one of the volunteers I'm sure they will help to track it down. Did I tell you what it was called? "Werewolf Club Rules" and the writer is Joseph Coelho. It has lots of really fun - and quite short - poems in it which I'm sure you will enjoy. Perhaps a poem before you go to sleep? Or before you set off somewhere? A quickie when you can't think of anything else to do?!

Hope you like them as much as I do!

Caroline McLean, Library Volunteer

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: Restrop View, Restrop Road, Battlewell, Bagbury Lane, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Quarry Field, Lower Mill, and Mill View

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre (The Red House)

As someone who at that time was involved with the Centre I would like to correct some of the statements made about the Centre in the November 2019 issue of Purton Magazine..

The Centre was not purchased by the Parish Council. It was purchased with donations donated by the villagers of Purton and Purton Stoke. It was set up as a charity responsible to the Ministry of Science and Education. At that time the Parish Council became the Custodian Trustee, which had no say in the everyday running of the charity and would only become involved should ever it become insolvent. A management committee was formed consisting of one representative from each organisation in the village. They in turn elected a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. I became involved after being elected to Purton Parish Council in 1966. They appointed me as their representative on the Red House Management Committee.

At that time Bob Hancock was Secretary, Ewert Bartlett Treasurer and I believe Bob Wightman Chairman. The Parish Council initially paid for the installation of the tennis courts with money from the Proud Bequest and despite my monthly reports, Parish Councillors still felt that they should have more say in the everyday affairs of the Centre. An approach by the Council to the powers that be requesting more representation on the Management Committee resulted in only one more representative being permitted. Mr A.E. Young was duly elected by the Council.

It was customary after meetings to adjourn to the bar. Mr Young, although a Methodist and a strict teetotaler, would come as well and buy us a drink. He of course had lemonade. Purton Red Cross met regularly along with other organisations. Upstairs was a function room and a small committee room. First class catering was provided by Mrs Ovens and her team (Audrey and I had our wedding reception there).

As time went on, Bob became Chairman, Phil Eagle Secretary and myself Vice Chairman. The Parish Council was still not happy about their representation. Meanwhile dry Rot was discovered in the building and extensive repairs were necessary. Drastic action had to be taken. It was decided that four people two from the Parish Council and two from the Management Committee should once again meet the powers that be in London and try to get the Council more involved. Peter Comley (Council Chairman) and John Short (Council Clerk) along with Bob Hancock (Management Chairman) and Phil Eagle (Management Secretary) were the four people that went. Much to the surprise of some, the decision was that the Parish Council would become Management Trustee and they could run the charity as they wished.

Before the takeover could be completed, it was a requirement that the Management Committee must call a parish meeting to get approval of the villagers for the takeover. This was held in the Village Hall. Committee Chairman Bob Hancock unfortunately was unable to chair the meeting due to work commitments so it was me who had

the honour of doing so. The meeting voted unanimously that the Parish Council become the Management Trustee.

Brian Broad, Member of Purton Parish Council 1966 to 2008.

Purton Tennis Club

The new tennis season is just around the corner and we have some exciting news. We are pleased to announce that John Bastin will be coaching at Purton on Friday evenings from 4 to 6 pm. John is a former county player who has worked in several clubs around Wiltshire and is currently working with Team Bath, so we are very pleased to have him at Purton. Initially John will be working with juniors, but hopefully we will be able to expand the programme to include adult coaching as well.

We hosted a very successful and enjoyable Presentation Night at The Red House Club in early January. About 90 players from the Swindon & District League attended. Lots came from Pewsey as they had the most cups to collect!

Our next social event off the courts is a skittles and fish and chips evening on 27th March at The Red House Club. Families are very welcome.

The winter season is now drawing to a close with just a few rescheduled matches to play, because of inclement weather. Both A & B teams had a mediocre season, so we are hoping for better in the summer league, which starts at the end of April.

If you are a tennis fan and would like to take up a racquet we would be very pleased to hear from you. We play on the Red House Courts at the Village Centre in Church Street, and have great facilities and lovely surroundings in which to play. Tennis is a game for anyone of any age to play and enjoy. Come along and see us!

For more details please get in touch, we will be pleased to hear from you.

For further details please visit our web site: purtontennisclub.com

Or contact Janet Saunders (secretary) Tel: 01793 77214

email: janetsaunders@gmail.com

After 8

On a horrid cold winter's evening in January, some intrepid ladies donned their wet weather gear and went to Sandra Horsnall's house, where they were greeted by a smiley face. It was the first meeting of the year of the After 8s.

We were going to have to be awake as Helen had compiled a Quiz regarding things that had happened in 2019, we were asked to pair up for the quiz, it was very interesting, and made me realise what I had forgotten about 2019. Helen was thanked for her hard work.

Then came the tea and natter time, where we treated to various blends of tea and coffee with biscuits! It was a very interesting evening and at approximately 10pm we left a warm house to trudge home through the typical winter weather.

Barb Compton



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,

A Book I will Always Remember

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



Many of the books reviewed in Purton Magazine by our readers are available to borrow from Purton Library. Contact details and opening times are listed on page 3.

200 Not Out by Francis Sheppard

In the early 18th Century, Purton had a perhaps more significant position in the area than it does today. It lay on the long-established coaching route from Oxford to Bath and Bristol which may account for the fact that its population was marginally greater than both Wootton Bassett and Swindon itself. We don't know why one of the country's first cricket clubs was founded here but it was clearly a place of some importance.

In (or even before) 1820 Purton Cricket Club was formed and it was soon to be joined by the man once regarded as the finest player in all England – one E.H. Budd. From this point it flourished. By the 1850's opponents from Marlborough College regarded it as a “divine Cricket Olympia” while a few years later the membership included 55 clergymen, 5 MPs, 3 lords and over 20 army officers.

So the club in the 19th century was definitely one for the gentry from a wide area, even though the Swindon Evening Advertiser described Purton itself as a “wealthy little village” in 1856. One might argue that a part of this wealth derived from the gentlemen of the club. It even employed a professional. Certainly on occasions lavish hospitality was offered to the villagers, including those from the workhouse.

The club had become a centre of village life though losing wider prominence after the start of the national County Championship in 1873. This led to a gradual decline in its fortunes until the arrival of James Sadler who, recognising the “enthusiastic but

not very successful” club, set about its revival, believing that by so doing “we shall do much to keep the best of young men in the village”. It is clear that he made a great contribution to the welfare of the club, culminating in the purchase of the ground in 1911 for its free use “for all time.”

Francis Sheppard and his team have crafted a book about not just the first century of Purton Cricket Club, from which this review has shamelessly drawn, but also about the second century, with many tales related to him first- or second-hand by old members. Illustrations are varied and profuse, with anecdotes highlighted on a red cricket ball. Unlike some books on cricket, it contains few statistics, but the story becomes one of the people involved and the work they put in to keep the club ticking over and, indeed, developing. The facilities are frequently upgraded (I say nothing about the bar), while on the coaching side success can be measured by the fact that last year, fifteen out of 89 youth cricketers were invited to play at district or county level.

200 Not Out is a fitting tribute to those who have, either through generosity or hard work, formed the club of today. It may be unrecognisable from the one that was created in 1820 but, without those pioneers, would it have existed?

Peter Sharp

Purton Evening W.I.

Since our President’s last report in this magazine we have had a lovely pre-Christmas meeting where we sat down to a delicious meal cooked and served to us by Hospitality Services. Afterwards we were very well entertained by The Purton Entertainers who told stories, gave readings and then led us in Carol Singing. The evening was given extra sparkle by our members glittery clothes or Christmas jumpers and the table decorations.

The January meeting’s speakers came from Swindon City of Sanctuary, who filled in at the last moment when our original speaker was unable to come. This was one of the best talks I have heard at a WI Meeting.

Our speakers, Cristina and Sarah, spoke of their work with this charity including the practical help and support given to refugees before the Home Office decided where they can live. Our speakers also told us about the Cities of Sanctuary movement, which aims to build a culture of welcome, inclusion and give support to anyone asking for sanctuary.

Our next meeting is on 18th March and will be our AGM and social time. On 15th April it will be the WI Resolutions evening. We should know the chosen resolution soon and will publish it in our next report. After the serious discussion, we can then relax with refreshments and a Trading Game. All are most welcome at our meetings which are at The Silver Threads Hall at 7.30 pm.

Jane Smith - Secretary

Latest news from Pips Community Café

Pips Computer Help Club – starting 6th February



Roland Read and Roger Heaton are volunteers for the Wiltshire Council Digital Inclusion Initiative. This means they are approved by Wiltshire Council to provide free advice to the community on IT issues and have both been DBS certified for the work.

They are already running the Cricklade Computer Club which meets every Monday from 10 am to 12 noon at the Cricklade Leisure Centre. They offer a help-surgery to those having difficulties using their laptop, tablet or mobile phone. Those seeking advice can simply bring along their device and Roland or Roger will do their best to answer any questions. They can also help install free software and get it working, for example anti-virus software. The service is offered free of charge.

Roland and Roger have now agreed to run a similar surgery every Thursday from 10am to 12 noon at the Pips Community Café for the people of Purton. This will start on 6 February. All are welcome; there is no need to book.

Some computer challenges, like getting your printer to work, can only be solved in the home. So Roland and Roger are also able to make house calls. Clearly this is by appointment and you will need to provide your name, address and contact details. Again this is free. What is not on offer is the repair of equipment, that is, the hardware itself. So if you have any problems with your laptop, tablet or phone, just bring it along and they will help you out. There is no charge, but it would be nice if you buy a cuppa whilst you're here!

Dementia Friends sessions

We have planned two more of these interesting sessions on the following dates. They start at 10 am. Please come along to one of these informal and informative 45 minute sessions. 22nd April and 24th June.

Super fast Broadband and card payments now available

Pips is proving very popular for local school pupils popping in for drinks and a biscuit on their village walks. Why don't you do the same?

We now offer children's portions and children's Picnic Bags (sandwich, yoghurt, box of raisins, Pom Bears and a carton of juice) - £2.50

Our popular breakfasts now include sausage plus bacon, egg, tomato, beans and jam/marmalade/marmite and toast all for only £5. 50p per extra item

Check out Facebook for occasional extra treats e.g. pancakes and Crème Caramel. These are usually snapped up so be quick. Plus don't forget our other old favourites – Ploughman's, Paninis, jacket potatoes, toasted sandwiches, soups and of course homemade cakes. As much as we can we source locally to further support the village community. Why don't you pop in and try our delicious food for yourself?

Contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

Opening hours can be found on page 8:

Remember – Please do let us know if you can spare even a few hours per week or month. It's good fun, full training is given on the easy to use equipment and it's a really good opportunity to meet your fellow villagers.

Regular Clubs and Activities

Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
Talking Table 10am	Talking Table 10am	Talking Table 10am	Talking Table 10am
Frances Barrone – Local Area Coordinator	Hand sewing, patchwork and quilting, 1-3pm	Computer Help Club 10am-12 noon	Crochet Group 10am-12 noon
Knitting group - alternate Tuesdays, 10am to 12 noon. Don't worry if you can't knit – come along and you will be shown how. It's a good way to meet people.	Book Club – 1st Wednesday of the month	Art Group 1.30-3.30 pm	
After school chess and board games club - until 5:30pm			

Pips continues to offer a space for a diverse range of groups and activities. Let us know if you would like to hold a group or activity at Pips. All clubs and activities are run by members of the village (not Pips), have no membership fee, are quite small groups and would love new members. So why not come along?!

In good weather well behaved dogs and their owners are welcome to sit at the tables outside the front of Purton club or on our bench in the car park. Remember if you don't fancy the walk you can always hop on the 53 bus at the top of the village, pop in see us then get the next bus back.

Are you in a hurry?

Do you only have a certain amount of time for your tea or lunch break? Never fear! You can call the Pips team to place your order. It will be ready and waiting when you are ready to collect. This is proving very popular with the various builders working locally. Call 07498 526872.

Contact us: marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk 01793 772298 or look for updates on the Pips facebook page - facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe or call 07498 526872 to place an order.

The Pips team

Ten Years Ago...

The winter of 2010 was harsher than most and it is clear from the March edition of Purton Magazine that very little of note had happened in the village during the preceding months. Even the football club had come to a halt. The Churches Together column probably captured the mood best: "Suddenly road traffic has decreased to a trickle. Swindon is now a long way away and we catch a glimpse of what living in a Wiltshire village has been like for most of its communal life".

Paradoxically, there were many articles on the subject of climate change and global warming. The Gardeners' Guild had its long-anticipated talk on Antarctica which turned out to be a study of the increasing amounts of CO₂. There were also more reflections on the conference held some months earlier in Copenhagen. It was felt that Britain was doing far too little and was in danger of sitting back and giving no lead to the great polluters such as China. Ps & Qs proposed "Transform Purton Parish", encouraging residents to consider sustainability of the resources we use. It was a long and detailed challenge which this column will follow in future months.

With the virtual absence of village news, many articles referred to future events, even those planned for the summer months. On a more serious note, St. Mary's began the long search for a new vicar. Much of the process was out of the parish's hands but it was expected that it would take "a year or more". As memory serves, it was a long wait.

There was a lighter note tucked away. One of the current pillars of the village came from a family with a somewhat turbulent history, involving attempted rape and actual fratricide. When the family (or what was left of it) then wished to move from an outlying farm into the village itself, the villagers made a petition to keep them out, fortunately for us without success. Out of respect, the pillar is not named here!

Purton Silver Threads

We started the year playing bingo. John, with his expertise and poem about Purton, reminded us how the village was years ago!

Paul entertained with songs and his ukulele, quizzing us on singers, songs and dates, getting a very good response.

In February our friends from Ashgrove and Dorcan choirs kept us singing and enjoying social time together. We meet every other Tuesday from 2-4 pm. Why not come along for a cup of tea and cake?

Friendship club happens once a month and this March we are fortunate to have 'The Mary Lou Revue'. This event is free and will be on March 6th 2-4pm. Please let me know if you would like to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Jenny Barnes, Tel: 770339

Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group

There's loads going on with this group now. Numbers at meetings are increasing every month and there are several projects on the go, including development of a country park, completion of the cycle path to Swindon and rewilding of road verges. These projects involve collaboration with the local authorities and charities such as the Canal Trust and Woodland Trust. I was going to be reporting on a tree planting session, but we've had to postpone it because of Storm Ciara!

Closer to home, there's also a lot going on in Purton. Although we have no formal group, people are quietly getting on with re-wilding their gardens, cutting down on single-use plastic and looking at their diet. Speaking of which, I know many people who signed up to 'Veganuary' and tried to live as vegans for a month. This has sparked off a lot of debate about which diet is best for the planet – animal based or plant based foods? An article in The Guardian suggested that the real question should be 'How is your food produced?' Vegan foods can be highly processed from intensively farmed ingredients, just as meat and dairy can. For example, most almonds grown for almond milk in California have been sprayed with large amounts of insecticides and fungicides, which are harmful to bees and other soil organisms. However, organically produced almond milk does not use chemicals.

Unfortunately, the claims that meat and dairy are destroying the planet are based on a 'one size fits all' approach where most of the data comes from huge industrial 'feedlots' – the growing of soya to feed animals on land that used to be rainforest and intensive indoor bred animals. But small herds of cattle raised on pasture as part of a mixed farm can actually help the environment as permanent grassland acts as a carbon sink. Pasture fed cattle also tend to have more Omega 3 fatty acids that are good for your health.



Photo Credit: Alex Thomas

Another article in The Guardian entitled 'Life after Veganuary' gives an ethical guide to eating meat, eggs and dairy. It gives examples of small farms up and down the UK that produce animal products that are healthy and have positive effects on the

environment. Purton House Organics received a mention for its organic free-range eggs but there are many other farms in this area who are signed up to better ways of farming. Chris and Lyndsey Rummings use the 'Pasture for Life' scheme at Lydiard Turkeys and our own Jon and Sarah of Dora's Dairy are one of only ten UK 'Cow-Calf Dairies' who produce milk from cows that are allowed to raise their own calves – outdoors in the fresh air on grassland!

www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jan/22/veganuary-animal-foods-plant-vegan

www.theguardian.com/food/2020/feb/04/life-after-veganuary-the-ethical-guide-to-eating-meat-eggs-and-dairy

The RWB Environment Group meets once a month at The Cross Keys pub on the High Street. For dates of meetings and events see our website – <http://ecorwb.org> – or ring me to find out more. We also have an active Facebook page; search Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group and join the many Purtonians taking part in discussions!

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

Royal Wootton Bassett Community Nature Reserve

How many people know about the Council-owned nature reserve adjoining the Jacqui Woolford Memorial Park behind Lindisfarne? Over the years the area has gradually become overgrown by brambles and, while this provides one sort of habitat, it is not encouraging a diversity of species.

A new charity has been set up specifically to enhance 'green areas' in the town for the benefit and enjoyment of the local population. This charity, the Royal Wootton Bassett Community Garden and Nature Reserve Trust recently commissioned a study of the existing area of the nature reserve by Wiltshire Wildlife, and their Wild Landscapes team has drawn up a proposed plan.

RWB town council has signed on to the Trust's proposals for improvements to the area of the reserve and over the next few months the Trust and the Council's grounds staff will be working together to implement this plan. The first stage of this entails the clearance of some of the brambles, their subsequent management, and planting new trees and wildflowers. Our joint vision is to greatly increase the variety of wildlife in the area. In due course, looped walkways will allow local residents access to what should become a pleasant habitat where they can quietly enjoy close access to nature.

This project will proceed relatively slowly in order to minimise the disturbance to existing flora and fauna. In year one, the major task will be to clear some areas of brush and then to manage it carefully to allow other plants to thrive. There will also be some planting of new trees, so the broad outline of the longer term plan for the area will begin to emerge. If you would like to be involved as a volunteer, either in the initial development or in the long-term maintenance of this Community Nature Reserve, please email info@rwbnaturereserve.uk

Purton Village Diary - March 2020

Su 1	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Songs of Praise service at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
W 4	12noon	Lent Lunch served at Purton Methodist Church
Th 5	10.30am	Communion at The Vicarage
F 6	2.00pm	Friendship Group at Silver Threads Hall
	7.30pm	Purton Village Hall quiz night fundraiser in the Village Hall
Su 8	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
M 9	7.00pm	Full Parish Council Meeting at Purton Village Hall
Tu 10	10.00am	Purton Probus Club meet at the Red House Lounge for a talk 'All about bees'
	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
	2.00pm	Co-op Choir perform at the Silver Threads Hall
W 11	12noon	Lent Lunch served at Purton Methodist Church
	2.30pm	Purton Methodist Women's Fellowship meet at the Methodist Church
	7.00pm	St Mary's Church renewal fundraiser at Fabio's Restaurant
Th 12	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
F 13	9.00am	Age Concern minibus trip, destination TBC
Su 15	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Primary School
M 16	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a "Devotional Afternoon" with Liesel Parkinson.
	TBC	After 8 trip to Swindon Arts Centre to see 'Wanted'
W 18	12noon	Lent Lunch served at Purton Methodist Church
	2.30pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
	7.30pm	Purton Evening WI Annual General Meeting at Silver Threads Hall
Th 19	7.30pm	Talk on Mindfulness with Dr Gomara at Purton Surgery
Su 22	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	United Parade Service for Mothering Sunday at St Mary's Church
M 23	7.00pm	War Memorial and Village Centre Charity meeting at Purton Village Hall

Tu 24	10.00am	Purton Probus Club meet at the Red House Lounge for a talk from 'the Airport Manager'
	7.30pm	Purton and District Gardeners' Guild welcome Dr Frank Burroughes for a evening of 'Tales from the Potting Shed'
	2.00pm	John and Maragret Craig entertain at the Silver Threads Hall
Th 26	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society AGM followed by a talk from Joe Gardner about Purton Cricket Club's 200th Anniversary, at Purton Village Hall
F 27	9.00am	Age Concern trip to Cirencester
	7.30pm	Purton Surgery PPG Quiz evening with Fish & Chip supper at Silver Threads Hall
Sa 28	10.00am	Coffee morning at 35 High Street in aid of Purton Surgery PPG
	10.00am	Purton Museum will be re-opened by Dr Malcolm Morrison
Su 29	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm Primary School

Every week

M	7.00pm	to 8.00pm Purton Village Voices choir practice at the Red House Skittle Alley (term time)
Tu	9.00am	to 11am: Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
	1.45pm	to 3.45pm Post Office van stops at Purton Village Hall car park
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	to 12 noon: Coffee and chat at Silver Threads Hall
	2.00pm	to 5.00pm: Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)
	6.15pm	Purton Youth Club for school years 4-7 at Purton Village Hall
Th	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
	2.00pm	to 3pm: Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall (term time)
	2.20pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Purton Methodist Church (term time)
F	10.00am	to 11.30am: Tea, coffee and cake at The Cedars
Sa	10.00am	to 12.30pm: Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)

Every month

1st Wednesday	10.00am	Story Time at Purton Library for pre-school children
2nd Wednesday	(except Aug) 2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church
2nd & 4th Tuesday	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

April

W 1	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery trip with lunch
F 3	7.00pm	Age Concern 3Bs evening at the Silver Threads Hall
Sa 4	10.00am	Easter Coffee Morning at the Silver Threads Hall
M 13	2.00pm	Until 4pm, lambing open afternoon at Rogers Farm.

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

Lent Lunches at Purton Methodist Church

Lent Lunches at Purton Methodist Church this year will start on Ash Wednesday (26th February) and run for the following three Wednesdays – 4th, 11th and 18th March – from 12 noon until 1.00 p.m., £6 per lunch. Monies raised will be sent to Mercy Ships, a medical charity which works in some of the poorest countries of the world delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need. If you would like any further information please 'phone Sylvia on 770686.

Church Floodlighting

- | | | |
|--------|--|---|
| Feb 22 | St Mary's Church was floodlit in loving memory of Ray Suddaby . Loved always by his wife Pat. |  |
| Mar 5 | St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of my Darling Partner Jeffery Waite on the 8th anniversary of his death. He was very much loved and is missed by Iris, Roslyne, Lesley and family, and also Jeff's family, Ann, Julia, Robert and Helen. | |
| Mar 7 | The Church will be lit in memory of Raymond Herbert (Ray) . Loving husband and Dad, Forever in our hearts. You're never far away. Jane and family. | |
| Mar 19 | St Mary's will be floodlit for Bob Totterdell . Always in our hearts and sadly missed. Jean, Mark, Simon and Becca. | |



As you will know St Mary's Church is likely to be closed, probably in April, 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 from Easter onwards, until further notice. Please contact Libbie 771018 if you need further explanation.

St Mary's Primary School

This Term we have been trying to spread happiness in our community



Our Foundation children have visited Peardrops Playgroup, decorated it with bunting and given tissue paper flowers out to brighten up their community. Foundation Stage also went on a smile walk in the village saying, 'good morning' and smiling at the people they met. They even sang a song to the post lady! In response, we had a lovely message from a lady who they had met on their 'smile walk'. She said, "they filled my heart with joy" and, "it was absolutely wonderful to see the children. Thank you very much!"

We are delighted to be able to share with you a piece of artwork that Mr Crump, a local Purton artist, and parent, has done for us, which ties in with our school ethos of Everyone Shining Brightly.

Staff News

We say goodbye to Miss MacDonald who has been covering sickness absence for us since September. She is off travelling and we wish her well. We welcome Miss Neville, who will take over her teaching role for Year 2. We also welcome back Mrs Tew, our SENCo who is back from maternity leave after half term.



Our Year 5 and Year 6 swimming team competed in the North Wilts Cluster Festival on Wednesday 22nd January. There were some outstanding performances and excellent demonstrations of perseverance throughout the afternoon. Congratulations to the team. We were very proud of you!

On Monday 10 February a team of three Year 6 children entered and won the Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' competition! We were extremely proud of them all, as it was such a high standard of competition and a big thank you to Royal Wootton Bassett Rotary Club for organising this annual event.

We do have spaces in some year groups, so should you be considering St Mary's for your child, then I would be delighted to show you around our school. Visits can be arranged through the school office admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk or by phoning us on (01793) 770239.

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



Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher

Act now to advertise at 2018/19 rates!

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

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

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

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

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

Playlist For Life

Royal Wootton Bassett & District Rotary Club will be launching a weekly Drop-In Centre at The Croft, Church Street, Royal Wootton Bassett on 28th February from 2 pm until 4 pm. This will be FREE and it is open to ANYONE. They will offer support and advice to carers and families of people living with dementia to help them identify and source music to create a personal playlist.

"Playlist for Life" charity is based in Glasgow and covers the whole of the UK.

It was started in 2013 by writer and broadcaster Sally Magnusson after the death of her Mother, Mami, who had been living with dementia. Its mission is a very simple one – to get a personally meaningful playlist to everyone living with dementia to make life easier and happier not only for them but also for the people who care for them. Music is special because it access lots of parts of the brain at the same time – just like a firework display. If a part of the brain is damaged, music still will activate many other parts.

Music brings people together, keeps families together and provides a structure and focus of a visit.

Please call in, ALL ARE WELCOME. See: www.playlistforlife.org

Linda Locke, Royal Wootton Bassett & District Rotary Club, Tel: 07890 142530

2020 News From The Cricklade Band

The festive season of 2019 all too readily becomes a memory, and as ever we were out and about in Cricklade and a good bit of its surroundings at 19 events from the beginning of December. We were invited back to the prestigious Westonbirt Arboretum 'Enchanted Christmas' display, playing for about 4500 people during the evening! Our 'Christmas Present' show played to a packed Town Hall too!

We sincerely thank everyone for their donations for our festive carol-playing. Thank you to the increasing numbers of people coming to the doorsteps, families in matching onesies, those singing along and tagging along with us. We did wonder, with all the social media posts, filming and recording, just how many people worldwide get to see and hear some of our Christmas cheer – you're all very welcome!

We fund the considerable annual costs of our rehearsal and storage facilities from the donations we receive. It's been 'wassailing' along like that all the way from 1887 when the band was first formed at the Three Horseshoes in Cricklade High Street.

The Performance Band events list for 2020 has filled up quicker than ever and sees us returning to Chippenham, Weston-super-Mare, Swindon and Stratford-upon-Avon bandstands and Westonbirt too. We always like to try pastures new and there may well be a new bandstand addition to the list this year. Our participation in many local community events also make welcome repeat listings.

If you're a bit jaded and looking to join a band that makes its own conventions, then have a look at Facebook, get in touch and look forward, not back!

BandAcademy continues enthusiastically with our student youngsters and not-so-youngsters taking part in several community events of their own and also joining the Performance Band at times. If you would like to learn to play an instrument, it's time to sweep away the obstacles and just do it, regardless of age or anything else! Just find out the contact details from Facebook, or call in at the Town Hall on a Thursday and say hello.

Thanks for reading our news, just a couple of diary dates to finish:

Saturday 21 March – Spring Table-Top Sale, at the Town Hall, Cricklade, 11 am to 1 pm. If you're a table-top seller, get in quick and call 01793 750516 to book your place for just £6. Set-up is from 10 am. If you're a table-top browser, who knows what you might find? The band itself will have not only our famous eat-in or takeaway home-made cake array but also bacon rolls, tea, coffee, games of chance and a raffle or two. Come for brunch and a browse!

Saturday 25 April – To launch a major new initiative at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade, we've been invited to fill the church with sound. It'll be a concert of music you'll know and love, making full use of the magnificent acoustics of the building. Keep an eye out for more details and watch out for the posters or social media posts – it will be an experience you won't want to miss!

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.



The recent sad loss of Mrs Valerie Indge

We would like to thank everyone who visited Val during her recent illness in hospital and to those who attended Val's funeral and gave her the great send off which she so deserved.

Also thank you to everyone who sent cards, messages and flowers to the family, this was very much appreciated at this sad time.

*From Tracy, Nigel, Pete
and all her loving family*



Drive by pooping - a response

Dog fouling is very unpleasant and dog owners should pick up their dogs waste so I fully sympathise with the comments made.

I would like to emphasise that the field adjacent to the allotments is private land and not a dog exercise area or children's playground. Walkers should keep to the legally defined paths and not walk all over the field. Dog owners should always pick up their dog's mess as it contaminates the land and makes it unsuitable for farming.

Name and address supplied



Response to Parish Council's reply

The attached is a letter I sent to the Parish Council. This in response to a reply made by the Chairman of the PCC to my letter in the November issue. I had hoped for a response especially as I took the Chairperson and Council to task over the many misinterpretations and attack on my credibility.

Sadly I have now left a village I truly love, moving to a town nearby whose response to speeding is all to be seen by the many innovations and signs around the town, and as such I remain of the firm conviction to get change in Purton would be best done at the ballot box in the next PCC elections.

To Purton Parish Council,

I have no wish to continue a protracted 'conversation' with the Chair person of your Parish Council, however having read his response to my open letter, his attack on my credibility deserved a response.

Words such as 'despicable' and 'insulting' do not sit easily with myself, particularly as he begins his epistle with totally inaccurate information.

I. In the first place, I was responsible for setting up the Speed Watch in the village of Purton, entailing cajoling people along 'The

Fox' to initially join, getting them trained and then getting them out onto the road. Was there any support from the Council in getting these volunteers? – No!

We worked hard getting out as often as we could, providing reports to the police, as well as sending in local reports to the Council. Did any members of the Council show any interest in our efforts? Same answer as above – No! With no interest being shown by the local Council it was not long before volunteers began to ask – 'what is the point? Why are we doing this when nothing is being done to curtail obvious speeding in our village? I would remind Mr. Thomas, that we provided factual evidence of cars speeding, and not as he blithely put it, a 'residents belief of a speeding car'.

2. Yes, Council did take some action, cutting back foliage and putting two rubber strips in the road. Did Mr. Thomas or any member of the Council take it on themselves to actually come and talk to residents about the issue, even after they had completed a simple survey outlining their dismay at the total inaction? You may well guess the answer!! Having attended that meeting that put forward the process of cutting back foliage and rubber strips, I found it further insulting when a member of the Council stated that the average speed along The Fox was 29.7mph – anyone with any real understanding of statistics would know that 'range' is far more important than 'average' i.e. for every 20 there will be a 40.

I do note with interest that the Council intends to put 'speed restriction indicators' in the village, not now but somewhere between 2020 and 2021, why were these not arranged back in 2015 when Speed awareness was to the fore? No doubt other

priorities took precedence. This brings me to my third point.

3. Mr. Thomas's comment saying I 'imply that the Council do not care about lives' is sad, as yet again your Chair person misses the point. Caring about lives is about actions, actions such as setting up Speed watch volunteers, actions such as putting speed restriction signs on refuse bins, people canvassing to have the speed through the village restricted to 20mph, actions such as the people of Hook – in putting up their signs – these are all actions carried out by local people concerned about their environment. Some years ago I held a position on a Parish Council and had the pleasure of working with a very action orientated Chairperson. When a major problem occurred, and I would suggest 'speeding' is one, he and all of his Council were left with clear instructions to be 'out and about' canvassing comments and gaining as much insight as possible before setting out a plan of action. (The Chair person makes comment about my joining the Purton Council – let it be noted I have done my share in the past so I do not to be reminded how hard some Councillors do work!)

4. Finally I would ask you to remind your Chair person that using words such as 'despicable' and 'insulting' without taking the time to find out what a section of the village feel about speeding in their area does not make this concerned villager feel that something tangible will ever really be done about speeding through Purton.

Gordon Hall

Purton Parish Council replied:

Following receipt of the letter from the Cricklade resident, we would advise that our previous comments stand and no

further discussion is necessary or will be entered into. The letter was discussed and the decision resolved at the last Council meeting held on Monday 10th February 2020.



Purton Surgery

Since I have suffered from Type 2 Diabetes and now severe cardiac issues I have been all too aware of how our surgery has been under so much pressure to cope with the problems we face of late. From my personal experience, the surgery, the practitioners, staff and the 'Patients Participation Group' has been excellent in trying to satisfy the incredible demand upon its services. Trying to obtain an appointment is understandably difficult due to demand. The influx of more patients from the estates of Tadpole Gardens and Ridgeway Farm has certainly added to the pressure and now we have more houses being built in Purton which will add to the problems.

I am now registered 'Disabled' but, at times cannot park easily at the surgery car park and I struggle to walk very far, taking a breath every few paces!

All of that said, I wonder what are the prospects for any improvement of facilities all round as we move through the years etc. It seems that no more space is available to improve parking and even if the surgery take on any extra staff, that will require an extra parking space I imagine.

What does the future hold I wonder?

From my own personal experience, compared with some of my friends and relatives, our own surgery and staff have been wonderful.

The staff may come to work, not feeling on top of the world but have to devote that 'Smiley and Welcoming Face' towards patients.

From me, " 'Well Done', I appreciate the conditions that you all work under but I do wonder what the future holds, for me and our Surgery"!

Kind Regards, Chris Gleed



Tony on the road to recovery

Sheila and I would like to thank all our relations and friends for all the kindness shown to us during the last ten weeks – the first two weeks when I had to go daily to GWH and then the next eight when I was an in-patient. When you consider that Sheila doesn't drive but she didn't miss a day visiting me with lifts there and back and she was provided with 'ready' meals from kind cooks as well. Then there were all the cards and kind enquiries – it made us both realise what a caring village Purton is, if we didn't know it already. We feel so lucky to live here. They told me it would be a very slow process to get me right but they have done it and at the moment it's still going the right way. So, once again, very many thanks – it has all helped us so much and is greatly appreciated.

Tony Price

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



On Thursday 23rd January 2020, Sarah Finch Crisp talked about the conservation project taking place at St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze. The Church in Lydiard Park is currently undergoing a one million pound project, which is vital to save the church from deterioration and to preserve the building's medieval wall paintings and decorative paint schemes. The project began in 2012 with essential repairs to the roof and windows to make the church wind and water tight. Conservation students from all over the world have come to practice their skills under the expert guidance of the church's conservation team and exciting discoveries have been made along the way, including features obscured during the Reformation and at the time of Oliver Cromwell. St. Mary's is currently closed to install new heating and to undertake repair works to the pews. It is hoped it will re-open in time for this Easter. At some time in the future the Society hopes to organise a guided tour of the church.

**Thursday 26th March 2020 at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall
Annual General Meeting Followed by Joe Gardner – Purton Cricket
Club Bicentenary**

In March 2020, Purton Cricket Club will celebrate its two hundredth anniversary with an exhibition of some of the club's history in the Purton Museum. Founded by the Vicar of Purton, John Mervyn Prower, only members of the upper classes such as the landed gentry and the clergy were able to play. It was to be thus for the first fifty years before, in 1870, the local residents, the farmers, shopkeepers and railway workers, replaced the upper classes.

It is hoped to present the story of cricket in Purton in four fifty year sections. Also available will be the two hundredth Anniversary Book compiled and written by Francis Sheppard. The membership hopes that local people will support the exhibition and share in the history of the last two hundred years in Purton.

Joe Gardner, Purton Cricket Club

**Thursday 23rd April 2020 - Salisbury Cathedral with Paul Smith,
a Preview to our June outing**

The Cathedral was built in just 38 years in a single architectural style, early English Gothic. The spire is Britain's tallest and weighs 6,500 tons! Salisbury also has Britain's largest close (40 hectares) and loisters, and its quire stalls are the largest and earliest complete set in Britain. It is home to the best preserved of the four surviving original Magna Carta manuscripts (AD1215), which is housed in a permanent interactive exhibition in the Chapter House which also has a unique 13th century stone frieze of Bible stories. The world's oldest working mechanical clock (AD1386) is also on permanent display here, alongside more contemporary installations, such as the spectacular flowing 'Living Water' font by William Pye (2008) and Gabriel Loire's 'Prisoners Conscience' stained glass window (1980).

Annual Outing

Saturday 27th June 2020 – Our outing this year takes us to Salisbury Cathedral and the Cathedral Close, leaving Purton at approximately 9.00 am and returning from Salisbury at 4.00 pm. The organised part of the outing will be a guided tour of the cathedral (for more details, see the information above about the on meeting Thursday 23rd April) and the rest of the day will be your own to allow you to visit your choice of the city's many other attractions.

The total cost of the outing, which includes the coach (and Driver's tip!) will be £19. Booking slips are available at the Society's monthly meetings or from Clive or Liz Rushen by email to cliverushen@btinternet.com.

Purton Museum News

Purton Cricket Club Exhibition

A new exhibition to celebrate the bicentenary of the Purton Cricket club will be on display when the Museum re-opens for the spring on 28th March 2020. The exhibition will be opened at 10.00 am by Dr Malcolm Morrison, who was a Consultant at the Great Western Hospital and who played cricket at Purton during the 1960s and 1970s. New members and visitors are always welcome at any of our meetings or events.

Janet and Tony Neate, tjneate57@gmail.com tel: 01793 770117

Do you have an interest in Purton's past? Then join us as a volunteer steward at Purton Museum!

The museum re-opens at the end of March with a special display celebrating Purton Cricket Club's bicentenary. Our volunteers steward once a month, for a maximum of three hours either on Wednesdays from 2 pm to 5 pm (during library opening hours) or Saturdays from 10 am to 12.30 pm. Duties involve welcoming visitors, sharing any stories you may have and, if you wish, a bit of dusting!

If interested, please contact Lucy Lewis on 01793 772466 or peterluce@hotmail.com

DISCLAIMER

Contributions to Purton Magazine are welcome for consideration, the contributor's name and address must be supplied (but may be withheld on request). Copyright must be agreed for publication in this magazine - especially those recognisable in photographs. Opinions expressed in the Magazine are solely those of the respective contributors. Contributions are to be written concisely and we reserve the right to edit contributions and advertisements. Submissions received after the copy deadline will only be included at the editors' discretion and if space allows. Articles and information relating to the Parish of Purton and relevant to its residents, will be given priority. Advertising is accepted in good faith and does not imply the Magazine's endorsement of the product or service.ment of the product or service.

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



The Rainbows are busy working towards the 'Be Well' theme award. So far, they've learnt about who can help us if we are out and about, deciding that the police, community support workers, security guards and shopkeepers would all help us. They've also learnt some basic first aid and all cleaned a fake wound (lipstick) and put a plaster on. Thinking about moods came next: What makes us feel happy and what makes us feel sad? 'Be Well' is a very appropriate theme for the Rainbows at the moment as they wish leader Bluebird a speedy recovery from her recent shoulder surgery; they are all missing her!

2nd Purton Brownies seized the opportunity of a clear night to look at the night sky. Their target was to see the moon, different constellations, aircraft and planets – they managed 3 out of 4! They've also been creative; an evening of making monsters from recycled plastic and boxes produced some very strange characters! Another evening of creativity involved making sock puppets, giving them names and personalities before using them in short plays they devised in small groups.

1st Purton Brownies are working on their Network skills builder badges, discovering what it takes to build a team and how to be a good team player. They've completed competitive challenges in teams, worked on communication skills and considered how to interact with others – all valuable life skills.

Guides have been focusing on food, not for themselves but for the community. They played a game about nutrients and then set to create a meal plan which they then used for a shopping trip at Asda. Each patrol was challenged to buy food (not fresh or frozen) which could be put together to provide a three-course meal for a family – within a budget of £5. The Guides rose to the challenge and each patrol's basket was quite different. The Guides donated their shopping to the Swindon Food Collective the following week when the charity's manager came and told them about food boxes they give to people going through hard times. She explained to the Guides what foods were included in the box and how to make foods go further to feed a family. It was a humbling evening. Having fed people, the Guides then went on to an activity all about feeding the birds as they made citrus bird feeders.

At the end of January, eight Guides joined with others from Melksham and Minety for a weekend of fun and activities themed around the badge 'I'm a Survivor, Guide Me Out of Here'. Guides made survival bags, went on a scavenger hunt and even took part in a bush tucker trial! They also enjoyed an indoor campfire with marshmallows – finally they fed themselves after all that feeding of others!

It's been a challenging month for the Guide unit leadership team as work and family commitments have taken priority at various points. Thanks go to the parents who have stepped up to help out so that the weekly meetings could go ahead.

If you were at the Friday night PADS performance of Sleeping Beauty you can't fail

to have seen Purton Brownies, Guides and Rangers out in force and in full voice for some audience participation. For some it was their first experience of a pantomime and they were thoroughly enthralled. A big thank you goes to the PADS cast and support crew for involving us in the performance and looking after us so well. It was a great show and we're already looking forward to next year's pantomime.

We finish with another thank you, this time to one of our volunteers who is moving away from the village. Jo Cook (aka Dragonfly) joined 1st Purton Brownies as a Young Leader before becoming an adult leader a few years ago. The Brownies and leaders are going to miss Jo's energy and enthusiasm and wish her every happiness in her new home.

Jo's departure leaves a gap in the regular volunteer line-up for 1st Purton Brownies. If you have some time on a Tuesday evening, perhaps you might consider volunteering. Why not contact us to arrange a visit and see what it's all about? No previous experience is needed and you don't need to have been a member yourself as a child; what's important is enthusiasm for empowering girls and giving them new experiences.

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

Bradon Forest School

India Link go to Bhaktivedanta Manor

A small group of Year 10 and 11 students will be visiting India in April. In preparation for this adventure of a lifetime group organiser, RE Teacher Mrs Cousins, took the students to visit Bhaktivedanta Manor.



The purpose of the visit was to broaden the students' understanding of Indian traditions, both cultural and religious, as well as increasing the bond within the group. Bhaktivedanta Manor was purchased by George Harrison for ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) and is now their UK headquarters. ISKON is a branch of Hinduism.

Students learnt that 80% of Indians are Hindus and about how the religion shapes Indian culture. They were informed how important the cow is to Hindus and met a number of the animals who live on the farm at the Manor. They were able to explore a number of Hindu artefacts before witnessing a ceremony in the temple. After lunch they dressed in saris and had their faces painted before taking a tour of the grounds including the George Harrison Memorial Garden.

Wiltshire Basketball Champions – again!

Our Under 14 Girls Basketball Team, already Swindon Champions, are now Wiltshire



County Champions too and retain the shield! They beat Sheldon and St Augustine's, conceding only 9 baskets! Our PE faculty is very proud!

Year 9 Oxford University Trip

24 students from Year 9 recently visited Merton College at one of the most prestigious and acclaimed universities in the world, Oxford. Well renowned for its excellent academic

teaching for undergraduate and postgraduate students, the college sits in the heart of the city. During the day, the students got to experience life at Oxford through the lens of a student, learning more about college life, the types of accommodation on offer, the extensive social opportunities and the beautiful surroundings. Past alumni include Stephen Hawking, JRR Tolkien and Lewis Carol to name but a few.

Students were also grilled on their knowledge of what it takes to get a place at a university such as Oxford. Throughout the day students participated in Q and A sessions related to the stringent application processes, the career paths a degree can lead to and, perhaps most importantly, advice on GCSE option choices, which the Year 9 students are currently finalising.

The afternoon session was finished off with a self-guided tour of the famous Bodleian Library, which has copyright privileges meaning it is only one of three libraries throughout the country that is required to have a copy of every book printed and published. The students also seemed to enjoy the cake selection on offer at the Bodleian!

Year 7 Swindon Netball Champions!



Congratulations to our Year 7 netball team who became the Swindon Schools Champions after beating Warneford School in the final. Mrs Evans, Head of PE, reported that it was a tightly fought

match with a great team effort. The player of the match was Ruby Alford.

Congratulations also to the Under 16s who reached the final against Warneford School, just missing out on the top spot. Their player of the match was Jazmine Painter.



The other side of the gate

Weather is again going to feature heavily this month. As I write, the wind is gusting at about 60mph and the rain is so thick, it's like fog! Luckily we managed to get all the work done and I'm sat at the kitchen table watching it lash the windows. We're just coming off a week of good weather and I know my arable friends have been hard at it, getting winter crops sown and fertilisers on. We potentially face a shortage of winter wheat later this year. Flour prices will probably rise and winter wheat straw will be short on the ground. I'm hopeful we can fill the barns without it costing the earth. Only time will tell.

We had the grand opening this month of our new winter cow housing (the first phase). It's been a long road with lots of bumps, but finally the milking cows came in on 19th January. We gave the job of cutting the tape (baler twine in this case) to Sarah. It actually wasn't that grand with just the two of us and the cows, but it felt grand to us. The cows absolutely love it. It's bright and airy and just what they needed. Myself, Sarah and all the residents are very relieved to be out of the mud and rain.



We managed to complete the second house the following weekend and the dry cows and beef animals ran in on Tuesday 28th January at 6.30 pm. When I say ran, I do mean that they actually ran whilst bellowing and bucking with delight. It was a sight to behold and their joy was infectious. Not sure I've smiled that much in a long time. It was one of the best birthday presents I've ever given myself! The cows are so quiet in the new housing that I had to check the following night they were still in and had not escaped.



Sarcoptic Mange sounds horrible, and it is! Not sure where it came from but the cows had it and it spread quickly. It's a really itchy condition with mites burrowing into their skin. The cows were scratching on everything. I've never seen so many shiny gate hinges and the brush they have was

abused day and night. Luckily there is a quick fix that kills the mites, but it's also very expensive! Two days after the treatment they stopped scratching. I've treated them to a new brush too. The simple things can make all the difference!

I had the pleasure of showing Navaratnam Parbeethan around our new cow housing.



He is a vet who lives at Purton Stoke. As well as being a lecturer at the Royal Agricultural University and working at a large animal practice, he has done a variety of jobs and is currently working for a company promoting the reduction of antibiotics by improving cow immunity. This is exactly what we're about. Last year I only treated one cow with antibiotics and that was at drying off to cure an infected udder quarter. He has done research on massive farms in China (60,000 cows) so our 55 cow operations is pretty

much on the other end of the scale! As usual, a quick tour for us was four hours long. He really liked our set up and we had a great debate about nutrient dense foods and the type of farming we hope becomes mainstream. We're both working towards the same goal – healthy, happy cows.

Jonathan Cook

Beneath the Wool

This month has been a bit busier than last month with several major jobs on the to-do list. First of all, the ewes were all moved down to Mopes Lane on to some winter grazing which they all enjoyed as there was a lot of grass there for them to eat, which will help lamb development and keep the ewes in good condition. Grenville nearly scuppered the move though! He had been a bad boy again and managed to get out onto Collins Lane via the kissing gate. With thanks from the Council for giving me a ring to tell me, all the ewes had to go up the road into another field which meant all the hurdles had to be moved from where they were already set-up. Luckily the move to Mopes Lane all went well in the end.

The next big job has just happened as I'm writing this. Bob Blandan came to scan the ewes and, at the same time, they were given some wormer and treatment for liver flock, which they are prone to in wet weather and damp fields. The sheep had to be brought in at 1 pm, as they need to be as far away from food as possible because they are much easier to scan with empty stomachs. Bob arrived at 5 pm and we soon got set up to try and get it done in as much daylight as we could. By 6:15, Bob was finished and the results were 16 Singles, 12 twins and two empty. This is a lot better than last year and about average for my flock, so we're expecting 40 lambs in the spring.

In last month's issue I said I was thinking of organising another lambing open day



and I have decided to do it this year on Easter Monday, 13th April, from 2 pm till 4 pm. I hope as many people can make it along as came last year. It's advisable to wear wellies or other appropriate footwear and please don't bring any dogs. There also might be a smaller viewing area in the lambing shed than last time, as the ewes will probably need more room this year, so fewer people will be able to be in the shed at the same time. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and lambing will soon be round the corner once again.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton

Purton Cricket Club

Many of the words and measurements used in the game of cricket come either from the days of Saxon farming or the textile trade of the Middle Ages.

The Saxon farming measurements of the furlong (220 yards) and the chain (22 yards) were well known in the Middle Ages when the acre strip was the amount of land which the oxen could plough in one day. The chain measurement was chosen as the length of a cricket pitch and it has always remained the same. Until recent times Purton CC used a chain of a chain's length to mark out the pitches.

The markings on the pitch, the height of the stumps and the length of the bails are based on the cloth yard length of 45" used in the textile trade. The longbowmen of the time were also familiar with this measurement – it was the length of the arrows which proved effective in the wars against France.

When sticks pushed into the ground replaced the stumps of trees as targets the cloth yard was used as the measure. The stumps were one half of the cloth yard; namely 22 and a half inches, the length of the one bail was one eighth of the cloth yard (five and half inches) and the crease in front of the wickets/stumps was marked out at a distance of one cloth yard.

In the Daily Telegraph on 31st October 2019 it was announced that Lisa Keightley, a former Australian international, had been appointed the first full-time female head coach of England Women.

On the 31st July 2011, Wiltshire Girls' U15 team was to play Dorset on Purton's ground. All the arrangements were made and I was to host the day. Arriving early to get everything ready I was able to relax with a book and wait for the early arrivals – there were none! It transpired that the date and location had been changed and that the match had already been played BUT Purton CC had not been informed!



Who was the coach of the Wiltshire U15 squad? I hope she turns up for England's Tri Series in Australia next month.

Lisa wrote a sweet letter of apology and Purton CC wishes her every success in her promotion.

From the Cricket Club Archives

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Purton Cricket Club Darts Team for The Angel Hotel 1949.

We've managed to identify Basil Marchant, Ron Webb, Graham Miles and Harry Bunce in the photograph above, but if anyone can name any of the other Cricket Club Darts Team, please let me know. Thank you.

Joe Gardner 770681

Purton in the time of Victoria

Part 9: Exploration

By the 1860s, much of the world's coastlines were known and charted ... except for the far north and the far south. Even the terra australis incognita or 'Unknown Land of the South' had been occupied by the British as Australia and found to be a good place for transporting people for imprisonment with hard labour for crimes as horrible and satanic as poaching.

From the 1830s, evidence to Parliament showed transportation didn't work but it wasn't until the 1853 Penal Servitude Act, that transportation was abolished except for long-term sentences, then reduced under the 1857 Act. The last transportation was in 1868.

The outsides of Australia were well known, especially as you could see them from a ship. The inside was another matter. In 1860, Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills were commissioned by the Royal Society of Victoria in Australia to mount an expedition from Melbourne, up to the coast on the Gulf of Carpentaria across territory totally unknown to Europeans. At the time, the Government of Australia wanted to connect the country to a new telegraph cable link from Java to Europe. The 19-man expedition used camels as pack animals for the 2,000-mile trek. The mapping expedition got to within a few miles of the northern coast before they turned back. On the return journey, Burke and Wills both died (about 30 June 1861). Only one man, an Irish soldier named John King, crossed the continent and returned alive to Melbourne.

If it wasn't hot and dry, it was probably hot and sticky. The African continent was unknown except for coastal trading ports. After kicking France out of Egypt in the Napoleonic Wars, Britain had acquired an interest in the governance of Egypt, though not formally until 1882. However, the Nile was a fascination. The mighty river that watered the lands of the Pharaohs must come from somewhere. But where? Britain had trading posts in Zanzibar, later to become the 'zan' in Tanzania. There was also missionary zeal in Britain to 'take the gospel to the heathen'. A good setting-off point for visiting the interior of the continent.

And this is where men such as David Livingstone came in. Livingstone joined the London Missionary Society and became interested in Africa. Among many of his missionary journeys he travelled inland from Zanzibar in order to teach Christianity and to search for the Nile while he was there. He didn't find the source of the Nile, but during his time in modern-day Zambia and Malawi, he was the first European to see Mosi-o-Tunya ('the smoke that thunders'), which he renamed the Victoria Falls on the Zambezi river. Eventually he reached Quelimane on the Indian Ocean, having mapped most of the course of the Zambezi. On a later expedition he was reported missing. An expedition including a Welsh reporter working for a US newspaper, Henry

Morton Stanley, found him at Ujiji on the shore of Lake Tanganyika. Livingstone died in 1873, aged 60 at Ilala, southeast of Lake Bangweulu, in present-day Zambia, from malaria and internal bleeding due to dysentery. His loyal attendants Chuma and Susi removed his heart and buried it under a tree near the spot where he died. The tree has been identified variously as an Mvula tree or a Baobab.

In 1856, John Hanning Speke and Richard Francis Burton, both Lieutenants with the East India Company, had gone to Zanzibar to travel inland and find the 'Great Lakes' in the continent's centre and the source of the Nile. They arrived at Ujiji in February 1858 and became the first Europeans to reach Lake Tanganyika. They heard of another lake to the north-east. Leaving Burton ill at Kazeh, Speke went on to see and name Lake Victoria. Although sure this enormous water flow was the source of the Nile, they'd lost their survey equipment and couldn't prove that Lake Victoria was higher than Lake Tanganyika.

Together with James Augustus Grant, Speke made a second expedition in October 1860. Although personally sure, Speke's expedition did not resolve the issue though he found Lake Albert and the Murchison Falls. In 1874–77, Henry Stanley mounted a new expedition and took a boat along the entire shore of Lake Victoria. He proved that Lake Tanganyika and the Nile were not connected. So, Speke had been right all along: the Nile flowed from Lake Victoria via Ripon Falls and Murchison Falls to Lake Albert and north from there.

Why didn't they just get on a boat in Cairo and head south? Unfortunately, between the source at Lake Victoria and the free-flowing Nile, the waters pass through an almost impenetrable marsh called the Great Sudd in southern Sudan.

If it wasn't hot, it could be cold... very cold. A quick passage to the Orient had been sought ever since the earth was found to be round. Even as far back as 240BC, Eratosthenes had known the planet was a globe and had even calculated its circumference. From measurements of the sun from 2 points in Egypt, a known distance apart, he calculated to within 1% of the true value of 24,860 miles around the poles. Then Columbus found America, although he thought he had found Asia. If he had taken Eratosthenes's calculation into account, he would have realised that his "West Indies" were nowhere near the "East Indies". The distance west from Europe was nowhere near enough.

But still the new-found continent was a block in the way to the east. The Panama Canal was a dream still far from reality, so you couldn't go straight through the continent. Magellan's route via Cape Horn was long and dangerous so the ethereal dream of the North West Passage over the top of Canada was resurrected.

An Irish explorer, Robert John Le Mesurier McClure, is credited with being the first to circumnavigate the Americas, although he lost his ship in the process! In 1848, he joined an expedition with his commander, Richard Collinson. Collinson was captain of HMS Enterprise while McClure, his subordinate, had command of HMS Investigator. They sailed south in the Atlantic but became separated at Cape Horn

at the bottom end of South America. McClure sailed north all the way up the Pacific and through the Bering Straits into the Arctic. Investigator had to be abandoned due to pack-ice. McClure, and his crew, built sledges to cross the ice before being rescued by HMS Resolute which had been exploring from the east. Resolute itself got stuck in the ice and had to be abandoned though it was recovered later.

The North West Passage has only more recently become a realistic future through the unfortunate modern agency of global warming.

Charles Robert Darwin is best known for his contributions to the science of evolution. Much of his theory came from the voyage of HMS Beagle (1831-36) circumnavigating the globe, exploring and charting coasts but also acting as a scientific expedition. Darwin was on board as expedition naturalist and geologist. As Beagle surveyed the coasts of South America, Darwin theorised about geology and extinction of giant mammals. He experienced an earthquake in Chile in 1835 and saw that the land had just been raised, with mussel-beds stranded above high tide. High in the Andes he saw seashells, and several fossil trees that must have once grown on a sand beach. He theorised that as the land rose, oceanic islands sank, and coral reefs around them grew to form atolls. He began to doubt the prevailing wisdom that all changes on earth were gradual.

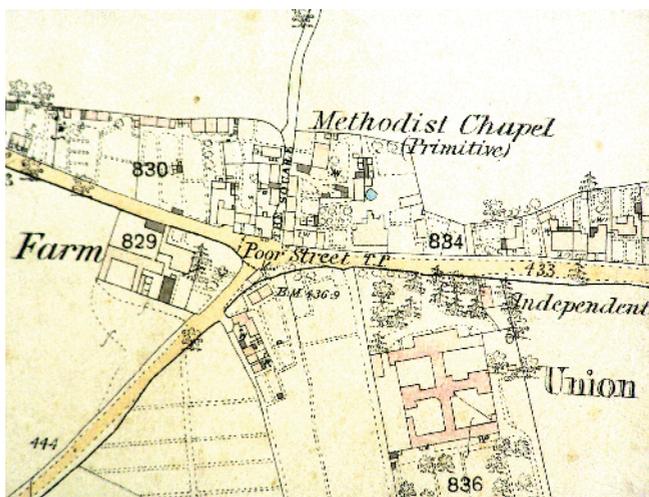
Seeing the diversity of life between animals of the same species on different islands in the Galapagos caused him to postulate a pattern of evolution resulting from natural selection. The natural struggle for resources had a similar effect to manipulation by man in selective domesticated breeding. He wrote his seminal work, *On the Origin of Species*, in 1859. By the 1870s, science had accepted the theory but some still do not accept today.

Exploration abroad was mirrored back at home with a spate of map making. The Ordnance Survey (OS) is the national mapping agency for Great Britain and, as its name suggests, it was initially set up for military purposes. After the Jacobite rising of 1745 (Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Battle of Culloden) the government realised it had little knowledge of its own land and where the rebels had been hiding, let alone the rest of the world. A general survey was carried out in Scotland, expanding via Ireland then to England and Wales.

Eventually a series of maps with 25 inches to the mile was produced. An excellent example hangs on the east wall of Purton Museum. It represents the Civil Parish of Purton as an enormous map, which appears to have been produced in four sections: the village was surveyed by the Ordnance Survey from 1876 to 1885. The bottom left section, ie south-west part of the parish, was published in 1880 - the other quarters in 1886.

I have always found it a most interesting record of the village as it was at that time. It is way too big to show here in its entirety in any detail so I have photographed and reproduced here just 2 portions. The first map is a little bit of the south-west section and shows the junction of the High Street with Restrop Road and Pavenhill. On this

junction between Pavenhill and Restrop Road were the buildings of Blacklands Farm where the Pavenhill Parade of shops is today. Further along Pavenhill, the fields of the farm became the row of houses called Blacklands running as far as the Royal George pub. Stretching across the road at the ends of Pavenhill and Restrop Road were the gates of the Poor Street turnpike, with a dashed line across the road just to the left of the words 'Poor Street TP', where you would be charged for vehicular or animal droving use of the road. There was no charge to walk! Poor Street itself was the footpath that runs due south from the farm along the middle of the present allotments opposite on Restrop Road.



Two buildings are shown which later became the site of Thompson's garage, and now the site of the houses at Thompson Court. At that point, the map shows a benchmark (B.M.) height of 436.9 feet above the UK national sea level datum at that point. At Lower Square it is only 368.7 feet, a climb of 68.2 feet along the length of the High Street.

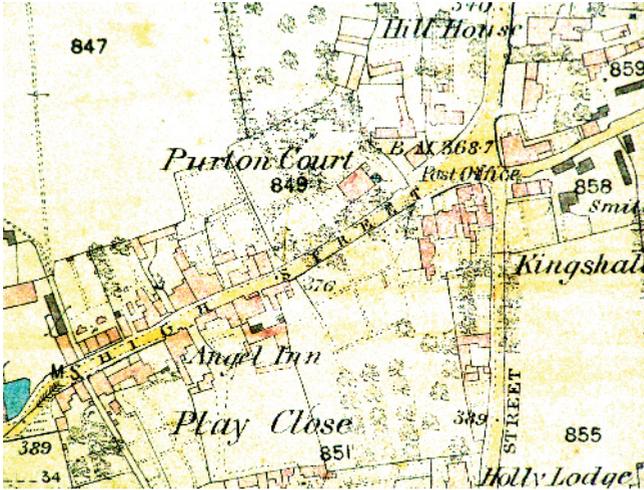
Opposite, the little road really called Hoggs Lane is itself labelled as The Square, although today it is the junction that is called Upper or Top Square. Even the OS can contain mistakes! The Primitive Methodist Chapel (now a private house) is clearly marked.

With a magnifying glass you might see 8 little 'w's marking the location of wells. On the extreme left of the map, there is a cottage. Arthur Mullard owned it, probably before the 1930s, and knocked the cottage down, building a tin shed to store milk and eggs during WW2, as they couldn't be stored outside, and he needed to be able to back a truck in. After the war he turned it into a garage and it later became Pryton Engineering, and is now a car sales business.

In the south-eastern section of that picture is the biggest building of the lot, the Workhouse of the Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Poor Law Union which was described in part 3 of this series and which was still in use in its original function back in the late 1800s.

The second map shows the area around Lower Square. The Institute building where the Library and Museum are situated today is by the square underneath the 'M' of

B.M. (the benchmark height of 368.7ft; top right quadrant). Across the road is the old smithy in Hyde Lane and, in Church Street, is the Kingshall Turnpike Check. At the bottom left of the map is a large pond, coloured blue on the original, just left of the milestone 'MS', where the road bends slightly. This pond, at College Farm, is



no longer there as the road was straightened in the 1960s, effectively running straight over the old pond. The bend is still there as a lay-by (west of the vet's) used for parking during the 'School Run'. The milestone has obviously been moved as it is now on the roadside below the Angel car park.

The Museum also has a map of Lydiard Millicent

Parish rolled in a long box on the floor.

If you love maps like I do, another wonderful resource is worth looking at on the internet. Be precise but type in (without www and there's a minus sign after "lon="): maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=16&lat=51.5905&lon=-1.8763&layers=168&b=1. I'm happy to send the link if you have problems with the typing! rickdixonmail@gmail.com

If your typing is correct, it should show you the 25 inch-to-the-mile OS scans from the National Library of Scotland, centred on Purton – that's the 'lat' and 'lon'! Once you've read and dismissed the re-usage disclaimer, you can zoom in and out, scroll any direction and there's a side panel that allows you to view the present-day map. You can even change the transparency level and see yesteryear overlain on today's map. Brilliant!

Next month: Zulu & Sudan Wars

Rick Dixon

Purton Profferings

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

- Quality fertile, chemical-free topsoil available. Bring a spade and bags to help yourself for a small donation to the wildflower project. Tel 772930.

We Record ...

Baptism at St Mary's Church

09 Feb 2020 Ava Catherine Violet Reilly

Funerals at St Mary's Church

20 Jan 2020 Ian Charles Mead (87)

Funerals at North Wiltshire Crematorium

13 Jan 2020 Val Indge (82)

15 Jan 2020 Glenis May Hill (83)

28 Jan 2020 Gllian Elizabeth Woolford (69)

Followed by a Service of Celebration at St Mary's Church



Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

There was a good attendance at our first meeting of 2020 which began with a brief AGM when Moira White, as chair, thanked both the committee and members for their continuous support.

The business side of the AGM completed, it was time for members to turn to the social side of the evening – our annual American Supper. As usual members had come up trumps and we soon settled down to the 'task' in hand, sampling the delicious array of offerings on display, with plenty left for a second turn around the table.

Dr Frank Burroughes will be joining us in the Silver Threads Hall at 7.30 pm on 24 March to present a talk entitled 'Tales from the Potting Shed'. The competition will be '5 Daffodils'. Pelargoniums, Mistletoe, Euphorbias and shipwrecks, bombs and buggles feature among the topics of our programme of talks for the coming year. If you have an interest in gardening and would like to share a sociable evening with like-minded folk, we are always happy to welcome visitors and new members. The annual subscription is £16. Visitors £3.



Margaret Goodall, Secretary Tel 770906

Purton Air Rifle Club

Purton air rifle club belongs to the Swindon and District league and we meet at the Purton Club on Wednesday evenings. Currently there are ten teams in the league, including another team who shoot at the Red House Club. The Purton Club team is in desperate need of some new members. If you think you would like to give it a try, you can contact me on 07726 333624 or call in at the club and ask for details. All equipment and tuition is supplied. Participants should be not younger than 15 or 16 (parental consent required) because of the strength required to hold the rifle as they are quite heavy and we shoot standing. We look forward to meeting you.

Gerry White (team captain)

Purton And District Darts League

The Bees Knees are still riding high at the top of the league, with Phoenix A hard on their heels - just a few points separate them now.

We have a few competitions coming up as we head towards finals night in April, with the Red House Club hosting the Pairs Knockout on 20th February. Purton Club hosted the 4-A-Side Tournament on 23rd January and Purton Club B will play Phoenix A on finals night. We are now waiting to see who will be up against Red House A on finals night to win the coveted Bottom Four Cup. Purton Club will host the Singles Knockout competition on 19th March and will also host the Arthur Bevan Pairs Knockout on 26th March. There's lots going on as we head to the end of the season!

The league currently looks like this:

1. Bee's Knees	232	7. Purton Club 'A'	147
2. Phoenix 'A'	229	8. Red House 'C'	137
3. Purton Club 'B'	179	9. Phoenix 'B'	119
4. Angel 'B'	170	10. Bell Inn	102
5. Red House 'B'	155	11. Phoenix 'C'	91
6. Red House 'A'	149		

Sue Giles, Secretary

Pram Service

Preschool children with their carers have attended Pram Services Thursdays (term time) 2.20 pm to 3.00 pm at The Methodist Chapel, Playclose, Purton for nearly four decades. Those who attended themselves as toddlers are now bringing their own children along. We have happy memories of the late Canon Roy Blake, the late Canon Brian Fessey with his guitar and puppets, Diana Offler (Hains), Rev Jane Haslam and more recently Revd Judith Wells all leading the Pram Service.

The children enjoy Bible stories adapted for them. They especially had fun baptising Jesus, seeing the dove land on his head and a voice from heaven saying "This is my dear Son, with whom I am well pleased". The children wanted the dove included in the prayer, resulting in "Thank you God for Jesus, John and the dove" finished off with a resounding "Amen"!

During Lent we will be creating a giant colleague with the theme 'Jesus riding on a donkey into Jerusalem. This will be on display at St. Mary's Church during Holy Week.

Thank you to all the children who come, the adults who help and especially Amy who directs the singing accompanied by the children making happy noises with shakers and tambourines. Find us on Facebook at pramservicepurton

Marion Hobbs, Co-ordinator.

Purton Placard



PURTON SURGERY
Patient Participation Group

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



Quiz
With Fish & Chip Supper

Friday 27 March

Silver Threads Hall, Purton
7pm for 7.30pm start

Teams of 6

Tickets £9 available from Purton surgery
Bring your own drink and glasses



**Purton and District
AGE concern**

Mystery Trip with Lunch
Wednesday 1st April 10am.
See notes for prices

**Three Bs Evening
at the Silver Threads**
Friday 3rd April, 7 for 7.30pm.
£7 each



Coffee Morning

At 35 High Street, Saturday
28th March, 10am-12noon
Cakes, Tombola, Raffle,
Bric-A-Brac

£1 for tea/coffee/biscuits
For Purton Surgery to buy
equipment not provided by
the NHS



Norman Thelwell
(1923 - 2004)
Celebrated cartoonist and artist

An illustrated talk by **Tim Craven**
featuring plump ponies, idyllic landscapes and social satire

Tuesday 17th March 2020 at 7:30pm
in The Assembly Room, Marlborough Town Hall, SN8 1AA
A one hour talk. Doors open 6:45pm. Cash bar.



Tickets £10 each (17 for friends of The Merchant's House)
Available in person at The Merchant's House Shop or
online at: www.themerchantshouse.co.uk/events



All profits in aid of the Merchant's House (Marlborough Trust, Charity No. 1020902)

PLAYCLOSE METHODIST CHURCH
invite you to bring preschool children
to have fun at the
Pram Service
Singing with percussion
Bible story activity
and Refreshments
Every Thursday during term
time at 2.20pm,

PURTON VILLAGE HALL
FUNDRAISER
Quiz Night

Friday 6th March 2020, in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm sharp. Tables of 6 at £12. Support this local charity and keep this facility operational for all.



RWBCS
ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT CHORAL SOCIETY
SPRING CONCERT
SATURDAY 25th APRIL 2020
SACRED HEART CHURCH
ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT
STARTS 7.30pm
Schubert Mass in C,
with CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
and SOLOISTS
Free Admission Refreshments

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH RENEWAL
Fundraising Dinner**

7pm Wednesday 11th March at
Fabio's Ristorante, Bath Road,
Swindon
3 Course Charity Set Menu £20
per person
To book please Telephone
07884 212196 or Email
christines seals@hotmail.co.uk

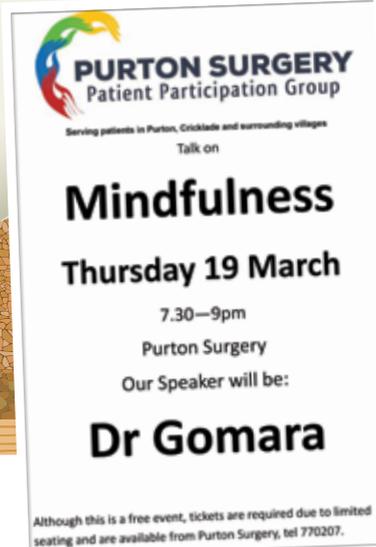


**CELEBRATING
Age Wellcare**
The Mary Lou Revue
Friday 6 March 2020
A lively all singing, all dancing show for everyone to enjoy. Come along and choose your song from their Musical Refreshments!

Venue: The Friendship Group,
Silver Threads Hall, Purton
Time: 2.00—4.00pm
Call Jenny for more details: 01793 770339
Celebrating Age: bringing live music, theatre, dance & art to your local community
Wiltshire Arts Council, Wiltshire Music Centre, Wiltshire Museum, Wiltshire Creativity, Wiltshire Council, Pound! First!

Lent Lunches

Wednesdays from
12noon to
1.00pm 26th
February,
4th, 11th, 18th
March at Purton
Methodist Church.
Cost £6



PURTON SURGERY
Patient Participation Group
Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade and surrounding villages
Talk on
Mindfulness
Thursday 19 March
7.30—9pm
Purton Surgery
Our Speaker will be:
Dr Gomara
Although this is a free event, tickets are required due to limited seating and are available from Purton Surgery, tel 770207.

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

Hello from The Cedars Care Home



Slow, Slow

We started January with the obvious New Year revels and many residents were able to enjoy a taste of haggis on Burns Night. Unfortunately the piper was running late, which delayed proceedings. I attempted to read a bit of Rabbin Burns to fill the void, channelling Janet from the TV programme Dr Finlay's Casebook, which I'm sure some of you will remember. However, one resident wasn't impressed and told me very sternly to "shut up and get off!" Ah well, that'll teach me to improvise... The piper eventually made it and was wonderful. He wasn't told to shut up or get off, thank goodness. Next time I'll slow down and wait it out.

Quick, Quick

Grabbing the days of reasonable weather to take residents out and about has been a bit hit and miss. Although we've been very lucky when attending the Arts Centre or Wyvern Theatre for the Memory Cinema and Music sessions. Recently we had a couple of residents who expressed a wish to see 1917 and with a bit of teamwork from family, carers and activities, we managed to take them to Cineworld. In the process I discovered something: The UK Cinema Association (UKCA) offers a CAE card (www.ceacard.co.uk – check out the criteria for more info). It enables someone escorting a disabled person to receive a complimentary ticket. Clearly, I need to get a bit quicker on these things!

Slow!

As I write this, we are already halfway through February and the evenings are getting lighter. I don't know about you, but I need the year to slow down! Many people's lives are being turned upside down with the awful fires in Australia and now the coronavirus. I'm sure many of us would like to stop 2020, rewind and start again. Our 'whoa' moment came when Chris announced her return as a carer at Cedars. She has relinquished her full time post as Activity Coordinator but left us with a magnificent array of activities and events that she has spearheaded. We all say a HUGE thank you for all her hard work. Tanisha Kalra (Tish) has taken on the full-time position and together we will be working hard to continue Chris's successes. So, activities will continue to grow and flourish, with chair football and mainstream cinema trips just some of the new things for 2020! Hopefully we will pick up the pace and not be too slow in continuing Chris's great work! Please don't forget, we'd love to hear from you with ideas you think will help us in our activities.

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

Thank you!

Crimestoppers Wiltshire

Crimestoppers is an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up to help stop crime – 100% anonymously. We believe everyone has the right to feel safe from crime, wherever they live. Crime can be worrying and some people refuse to speak to authorities for a host of reasons, from fear of retribution, embarrassment or awkwardness to cultural expectations. It's good to know that Crimestoppers is trusted by hundreds of thousands of people who each year safely pass on information about crime.

Our professionally-staffed UK Contact Centre is open 24/7, 365 days a year. Information can be given by phoning 0800 555 111 or by completing an untraceable online form at Crimestoppers-uk.org – our charity is here to listen and here to help. Last year over half a million people trusted us with the crime information.

Since Crimestoppers began in 1988, we have received over 2.1 million actionable calls, resulting in more than 149,000 arrests and charges, over £138 million worth of stolen goods have been recovered and over £351 million worth of illegal drugs have been seized.

Alongside our national campaigns, we have a network of volunteers across the UK who help promote our services to those who need them. In Wiltshire and Swindon, the Crimestoppers Committee, working with our Regional Manager from Crimestoppers HQ, is responsible for all Crimestoppers activity in our area. The Committee is Chaired by Matt McGinn, a serving Army Officer, and he and the rest of the Committee, are passionate about making our communities safer and are keen to enlist your help to make sure that the good work of Crimestoppers in Wiltshire and Swindon can continue. If you would like to know more about the work of Crimestoppers in our County or would like to volunteer or help fundraise, please contact us by email at Matthew.McGinn@crimestoppers-uk.org or visit Crimestoppers-uk.org for more information.

To help keep your community safe, speak to police or if you prefer, you can trust Crimestoppers and stay completely anonymous. Together we can make our communities safer.

Purton and District Probosc Club

The scheduled speaker for the 14th of January was to be our own member, Peter Jinks. Unfortunately Peter had a fall and was unable to attend. He suffered some bruising, particularly to the ribs, but we were pleased to see him at the meeting on the 28th.

Paul Booy, stalwart of the Purton Historical Society and a retired Teacher of History, stepped in to present a talk on 'The Empire Windrush'. Having served time in the Royal Navy on the C-Class Destroyer HMS Cavalier, now a memorial ship at



Chatham Dockyard, ships are a favourite subject for Paul.

The 'Windrush' began life with the Hamburg Süd shipping company, laid down in 1931 as a cruise ship, the Monte Rosa, as part of the Kraft durch Freude (Strength through Joy) programme. Abbreviated as KdF, this grand programme became a state operated leisure organisation intended to bridge the class divide by making middle-class activities available to the masses. When the Nazi regime came to power in 1933, state-sponsored cruises, on such ships as the Monte Rosa, became a tool to promote the advantages of National Socialism to the people. By 1934, over 2 million Germans had participated in KdF trips rising to 25 million by the outbreak of war in 1939. With the intensity of war, the Monte Rosa was allocated for military use, first as a barrack ship and then as a troopship for the invasion of Norway. Later, she served as an accommodation/leisure ship, attached to the Tirpitz, stationed in the north of Norway to counter Allied Convoys to Russia. In 1942, she was one of several ships used for the deportation of Norwegian Jews to Denmark. Of 46 Jews who travelled on the Monte Rosa, only two survived Auschwitz. It was about this time that the British S.O.E. organised Czechoslovakian Exiles to assassinate General Reinhardt Heydrich of the SS, the most powerful figures in the Nazi hierarchy, who played a key role in planning the "Final Solution".

On 30th March 1944, Monte Rosa was attacked with torpedoes and armour-piercing rockets by a combined squadron of RAF and RCAF fighter/bombers, but enemy fighters drove them off and the ship limped back to Denmark. When, in 1944, the ship left Oslo with 3000 Germans on board, bound for Germany, she was damaged by 2 limpet mines. 200 lives were lost, which may have included 'Lebensborn' children with Norwegian mothers & German fathers. Mined again in Polish waters and repaired, in early 1945 she travelled to Copenhagen, carrying 5000 German refugees fleeing from the advancing Red Army. In May '45 she was captured by British forces at Kiel and taken as a prize of war. The ship was refitted and, early in 1947, became the HMT Empire Windrush.

In 1948, while a bill concerning the citizenship of the local populations of British colonies was going through Parliament, the Windrush, enroute from Australia to England, called first at Trinidad and then at Kingston, Jamaica, to pick up servicemen who were going on leave. As the ship was only partially full, a Jamaican newspaper advertised passages at reduced fares, encouraging Caribbean migrants to "jump the gun". The ship sailed on to Mexico, Cuba and Bermuda, collecting more passengers before setting sail for the "Mother Country". The Windrush docked at Tilbury on 21st June and 1,027 passengers disembarked the following day. 802 of them named a country in the Caribbean as their place of origin and the only available record seems to be the ship's passenger list, which also included some refugees from Europe.

Paul provided an excellent analysis of the recent Windrush Scandal and his talk highlighted the broad spectrum of racial prejudice and the complexity of the immigration problem.

Our speaker on the 28th January was Piet Velzeboer, who delivered an illustrated talk on Fracking for Shale Gas. Piet joined the Shell Oil Company as a Petroleum Engineer and, during his career, worked in nine different oil-producing countries. For ten or more years, he has worked, as a Consultant and expert on fracking for Shale Gas.

Oil and gas from subterranean shale reservoirs is not new. Vertical wells, up to a mile deep, have been producing fossil fuels since the late 1940s and Southern North Sea Gas was founded in 1970. However, the game-changer, which offered an economic method of recovering larger amounts of gas at a competitive price, came in the 1990s, with the development of Horizontal Drilling.

Fracking is carried out by drilling vertically down to the shale bed, normally ½ - 1 mile below the surface. To avoid the contamination of water supplies, when the bore passes through the water table, usually only tens of feet underground, a sleeve is carried down the bore-hole and set in place to seal the bore from the outside water. At the foot of the well, the drilling progresses horizontally with the shale layer and several bores can radiate like the spokes of a wheel. Bores can reach as far as 5 kilometres. To fracture the shale, so that the gas can be drawn off, a small explosive is detonated. This can be repeated with further drillings. The explosive force creates fissures to release the trapped gases.

The second phase of the operation is to pump a high-pressure water mixture into the rock to release the gas inside. Water, sand and a lubricant (guar gum), are injected at high pressure, which allows the gas to flow out. The sand is there to keep the fissures open and provide a route for the gas back to the well-head. For commercial extraction large quantities of water are required but are claimed to be 80% recoverable.

The basic fear of fracking is that the explosives detonated are likely to set off earthquakes. Natural Seismic shocks of 2.3 magnitude on the Richter scale in Devon and 2.8 magnitude in Lancashire have been recorded and are hardly noticeable. The present guidelines for fracking are a maximum of 0.5 magnitude, but officially, commercial fracking is currently suspended. Attitudes to fracking differ considerably. The USA has substantial reserves and the extent of shale gas beds indicate that a target of zero gas & oil imports is achievable by 2035. However, the attitude of the USA to air pollution is somewhat different to that of Europe. Shale beds in the UK under the Bowland forest, stretch from Blackpool and Chester in the west to Scarborough in the east, but estimates of the yield are uncertain. The research of shale gas extraction in this country continues, but commercial extraction has not yet been licensed. Piet gave an interesting and reassuring talk.

Purton Probus Club meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month in the Red House lounge. Visitors and new members are welcome. Programme for March: 10th: All about Bees, 24th: The Airport Manager.

Bob Stevens