

Purton. Magazine

April 2020



Re-wilding with native species attracts beneficial insects, especially bees, to our gardens. See Page 40.

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>		

Contents

10 Years Ago	14	No trifling matter.....	51
A Book I will always Remember.....	23	Parish Council News.....	6
Advertiser Index	58	Post Bag.....	34
Age Concern.....	10	Prayer for Purton.....	24
Age Concern minibus	12	Probus Club.....	52
Annual flower, arts, carfts & produce show	29	Profferings.....	21
Beneath the Wool	56	Prospect Hospice events.....	48
Bradon Forest School	36	Purton Contacts.....	3
Cedars Care Home news	51	Purton & District Darts league.....	49
Covid-19 information & advice	9	Purton Surgery PPG.....	9
Christian Aid week 2020	31	Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group news.....	40
Church floodlighting.....	21	Scarecrow trail 2020	16
Cricket Club.....	27	Silver Threads.....	9
Cricklade Band news.....	46	Small business network	49
Debut novel published	45	St Mary's Primary School	25
Diary Pages.....	30	Tennis Club.....	27
Easter greetings for Purton churches...	15	The Other Side of the Gate	38
Gardeners' Guild.....	19	Victorian Purton.....	42
Girlguiding.....	34	We Record	16
Historical Society.....	32	Women's Institute.....	20
Methodist women's fellowship.....	27		

“Now more than at any time in our history, we will be judged by our capacity for compassion. When this is over, and it will be over, we want to look back on this moment and remember the many small acts of kindness, done by us and to us”. The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, 20th March 2020.

Purton. Magazine

Purton Magazine committee: Avril Ainscough,
Barbara Compton, John Creasey, Sheila Fowler,
Sandra Horsnall, Francis Sheppard, Richard McCarthy.

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

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

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

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

Tel: 01793 772954 email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Distribution & Delivery enquiries: Sandra Horsnall 01793 770157

Email: distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:

The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

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

INTouch
Design & Print

The timing of the Government's advice has come after the magazine's copy date and many of the articles this month will be out of date by the time you read this. We have tried to remove information on cancelled events taking place in April and some in May, but as the situation is constantly evolving, please check with event organisers.

From the Editors

With the highest number of residents aged over 65 in Wiltshire, many in our village of Purton are likely to be severely affected by the latest coronavirus restrictions. Yet here is the perfect opportunity for Purton to live up to our special reputation for being such a caring village that we are so often able to publish in these pages.

For decades past, so many readers have written to the magazine with heartfelt praise and thanks for neighbours and friends who have been such a source of comfort and support during some desperately sad and difficult times. For many over 70 and for those with the ominous sounding 'underlying health issues' the coming weeks and months could turn out to be very challenging.

A new word has been coined – caremongering. It neatly sums up all those acts of kindness that Purtonians are so good at in times of adversity. Often it is simply keeping in touch with friends and neighbours to be available to help when needed. This time there are some community wide arrangements being organised; for example, an "Outreach Purton" Facebook page has recently been set up and Age Concern has had a Street Warden system for many years.

In these difficult times it would be wonderful to think that everyone would be on the lookout for neighbours needing help and that those actually needing help felt encouraged to ask. A note through the door or a couple of phone calls are all that might be needed to make contact and be ready to help and support when required.

If you, a relative, friend or neighbour in the village (including Ridgeway Farm, Mouldon View, Benthams, Hayes Knoll and Purton Stoke) require help, please call 772954.

A network of community organisations including; Age Concern, Purton Parish Council, schools and Purton Surgery, along with teams of volunteers is mobilising to ensure that everyone in our community receives the help they need.

1

Weekend was needed to convert Exeter to Truro railway to standard gauge in 1892 – see page 52

33

Volumes of Encyclopaedia Britannica from around 1983 available to a new home – see page 21

110th

Joint birthday party raised £270 for the Age Concern minibus fund – see page 34



Volunteer Awards Scheme

Nominations for 2021 are now open. If you would like to nominate a community spirited person to receive an award from the Council please follow the link on our website or ask for a form from the offices. www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/News.aspx

2019/20 nominations are in and the award will be presented on Monday 6th April at 7.30pm at the Annual Parish Meeting – all welcome

Councillor Vacancy

It is with sadness that we announce Councillor Vicky McKerrow has stood down from her post. We wish to thank Vicky for her voluntary commitment to the Council and community and wish her all the best moving forward. This now opens a space for a new councillor. If anyone wishes to be considered, please contact the offices for the process and procedure.

Youth Club – Temporary Closure

Sadly the provider of our youth club has withdrawn their professional services with immediate effect until they can gain additional staff. We anticipate that the youth club will re-open in April.

Donations Awarded February 2020

Purton Volunteer Footpath Team	£560.00 towards training
Purton Cricket Club	£1000 towards 2020 Celebrations
Purton Patients Participation Group	£1906 towards new doors
Purton Football Club	£500 towards removable goals
Jubilee Garden Project	£956.58 towards new chairs

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](https://www.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.

Useful links for information on COVID-19:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-coronavirus

www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



Future PPG 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 (£150); 24 Hour ECG machine (£3,363); adjustable couches for those consulting rooms which currently do not have them, including Cricklade (£714 x 7 = £4,998); a higher chair with arms for patients in each consulting room, including Cricklade (£120 x 13 = £1,560); an I-Stat handheld portable blood analyser (£7,800); a paediatric pulse oximeter to measure oxygen saturation on babies (£435)

Parking at Purton Surgery

Once again, thank you to those patients who are parking considerably 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

Purton Silver Threads

We certainly had a lively all-singing, all-dancing show for everyone to enjoy when Mary Lou and Steve – ‘The Mary Lou Revue’ – entertained at the Silver Threads Hall. We chose songs from their musical repertoire and joined in with shakers, scarves, bubbles – lots of fun!

Thanks go to Rebecca Seymour from Celebrating Age Wiltshire, who organised the event, and to all the helpers on the day. It was a wonderful afternoon.

A warm welcome is extended every other Tuesday afternoon from 2-4pm to join us at Silver Threads. Sadly we have lost a few members recently and others have decided to move into care homes and we wish them well. We miss them though and remember everything they did for the club.

Jenny Barnes, Tel: 770339

Events

Easter Market - On 11th April we will be holding our Easter Market at the Pavenhill shops where we will have cakes, bric-a-brac, tombola, sausage tasting and a raffle to help to raise funds for the charity. It starts at 9am and runs until noon. Come early if you want a bargain! Again we would advise that this may be cancelled due to the ongoing virus situation.

Special Mention - Barbara Wood

Purton Age Concern has lost one of its great supporters – I am speaking of Barbara Wood who has sadly died recently. When I say a great supporter, she used to make the most of all we had to offer although it was a big struggle towards the end. What we admired about Barbara was her determination not to give in. She was a lady who kept her dignity, always smartly dressed with immaculate hair, make up and jewellery. In fact, if you were picking her up, you had to wait until she was satisfied with her appearance as this was very important to her. She was a lady you would respect and, perhaps I am a bit old fashioned, but I think it shows respect to where you are going and who you are going to meet to be smartly and suitably dressed.

As I have said Barbara made good use of all we offer and, on the outings, she would sit with her friend Ismay Smith. They always had a front seat and woe betide anyone who tried to take it! Ismay and Barbara were friends for years – they were work colleagues at the Dental Factory when Mr. Donald Cakebread was the boss.

One of Barbara's joys was gardening and it all had to be spick and span like everything she did. She liked to try new and different foods – what about the time she was on holiday at the sea and McDonalds had built a new drive through takeaway. Barbara fancied trying a beef burger and the sight of Barbara in the queue of cars with her zimmer frame must have been quite something. I understand she really enjoyed her beef burger though.

Barbara really appreciated all the help she was given and, every Christmas, we would get a lovely letter telling us of all the trips and different things she had been on to do with Age Concern and thanking us all the way through the letter. These letters were particularly special because she had difficulty in writing because of her illness.

When you get somebody like Barbara you know that all the things we do in Age Concern are worthwhile. Thank you Barbara for all your kind words and the way you supported us. We would like to say thank you to the family for money coming to Age Concern in lieu of flowers. Barbara was certainly a character in her own right.

Tony Price

Thanks Tony, he writes in such a natural way. I hope the family enjoyed the piece.

Latest News

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

Information

Minibuses - Please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 if you would like to book the minibus.

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

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!

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

Volunteer drivers and drivers assistants urgently needed for Purton and District Age Concern Minibus Group

We are a small group of volunteers who operate two minibuses within the Purton and District Age Concern catchment area, providing transport to various clubs, activities and Doctors' appointments within Purton.

Our minibuses can be driven using an ordinary car licence because of the number of

passenger seats we have on each bus. Training and guidance will be given to all new recruits to the minibus group. All of our team are DBS checked.

We pride ourselves on responding to all requests for help received by our co-ordinator. However, without new people coming on board, this is becoming increasingly difficult to achieve and may not be possible going into the future.

Can you spare a couple of hours a week please? You would not have to commit to regular duties unless you wished to do so, you could drive as and when your current commitments would allow.

It would be a shame if we have to curtail our activities or turn down people in need of transport because we can't find enough volunteers to provide this invaluable service.

None of us know when we, or our loved ones, might need the services of our buses in the future and we are very keen to maintain our service in the long term. We can't do this with the small group of volunteers we currently have.

If you are interested in joining us or want to find out more information about what we do please contact – Andy White (Minibus Secretary) on 771656/andywhitepacmb@gmail.com or Hazel Woodbridge (Minibus Co-ordinator) on 770862/pac2bookings@gmail.com Thank you

Andy White (Minibus Secretary)

Ten Years Ago...

In April 2010 Purton Magazine was looking forward to summer with particular reference to the 190th anniversary of the Cricket Club. Not only was the new season contemplated but a look back revealed that in 1864 no less than sixty men of the church were members. And there was even a poem to attract new players.

Emerging from a hard winter, there was little news to report in the magazine but it was full of ideas and arrangements for the coming months. Ps & Qs highlighted five voluntary groups in the village always ready to accept more help and then another score in and around Wiltshire. Another charity proposed a series of events in June for those who wished to avoid the forthcoming World Cup.

The Churches Together page carried a reflection on Easter – or to be precise, the hot cross bun. It didn't say when it originated but that during the reign of Elizabeth I its production was banned. Later, in the present century, it was banned from some schools on the grounds of "political correctness". This column does not subscribe to this philosophy and will enjoy its bun at the appropriate time.

The Football Club beat a neighbouring side 11-0. The losers asked Purton's coach to join them. Unsurprisingly, he declined.

A very Happy Easter to everyone from Purton Churches

William Gibson's novel, *A Mass for the Dead*, tells of a man who picked up his late mother's gold-rimmed glasses and her dog-eared Bible sat down in her favourite chair, put on her glasses and tried



to see what she must have seen in that old book. He was reaching out in desperation for some slender thread of her faith to help him in his grief. But he soon realizes that her faith cannot serve as a substitute for his own. He must find it, just as each one of us must find our own faith. Easter must be something real to us, something personal.

Mary's heart was broken, yet her declaration "I have seen the Lord!" enabled her to see beyond the moment of grief. In three places in the Gospels the Risen Christ appears, but is not recognized at first. So it is possible to be looking at Jesus and yet not seeing what God has done in Him. We can get so overwhelmed in all the ordinary events of life, or so burdened by our losses, that we can miss the Risen Son too, as Mary did at first. Then – "Mary!" – one word from Jesus and everything changed. One word from Jesus and her Easter happened. Her eyes were opened and she recognized Him. Mary saw that Jesus was alive, that God is more powerful than whatever haunts us, and that nothing can separate us from His presence. We can see all of this as well, but we must open our eyes to the possibility of personal faith.

In John Masefield's *Trial of Jesus*, Longinus, the centurion at the cross, gives Pilate his report. Pilate's wife begs the centurion to tell her more about how Jesus died. When he tells the whole story, she suddenly asks, "Longinus, do you think He is dead?" "No, ma'am," he says, "I don't." "Then where is He?" she asks. "Let loose in the world where no-one will ever stop His truth."

Dave Perkins, Methodist Minister

If you or anyone you know need our prayers or would like to discover more about the Christian faith, please contact:

- Rev Ian Tweedie-Smith 01793 770077 vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk
- Rev Judith Wells 01793 770627 judithwells36@googlemail.com
- Rev David Perkins 01793 853197 skyeperky@hotmail.com

After Easter, the Renewal Project hopefully will begin in the St Mary's Church Building. It will then be closed for about 6 months from Monday 13th April 2020.

For other events and activities, please see website www.stmaryspurton.org.uk or find us on Facebook – St. Mary's Church, Purton, Wiltshire.

Purton Scarecrow Trail

**Reminder to save the date for our next Purton Scarecrow Trail:
Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th September 2020 (10am to 5pm each day)
Theme: “Best of British”**

The trail follows a route around the village to find “scarecrows” in gardens or at various sites. Each one will have a cryptic meaning which will usually be easy to solve but with a few tricky ones thrown in to make the competition worth the prizes that may be won.

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

For ideas from previous years you could visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail/

We have already had some excellent entries but would like more, so get thinking and contact us to let us know that you would like to take part. Tell us your 1st & 2nd choices for your “Best of British” and if they have already been taken, we will ask you to choose another. Please email us your contact details to info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk, or ‘phone Ali B (01793 772158) or Ali D (01793 772579).

Entries must be submitted by Sunday 19th July 2020.

If you plan to offer teas, cakes or any refreshments to fund raise for your favourite charity, please let us know so that we can indicate this on the route/trail map and also please consider donating some of the money raised towards our scheme as this will contribute to the ongoing maintenance costs of the village defibrillators.

A quiz sheet with a map of all the scarecrow locations, parking and refreshment sites will be available to buy from various places in the village, beforehand and on the weekend. We shall provide more detailed information on when and where to buy the quiz sheet closer to the time, with updates in Purton Magazine and on our Facebook page.

It is a great day out for the whole family and, as in previous years, we shall run a shorter trail for younger children in a quiet part of the village. All funds raised will go towards maintenance costs for the community access defibrillators located at The Royal George and Purton Village Hall. More information will follow in future editions of this magazine.

We Record ...

Funeral at St Mary’s Church

28 February 2020

Barbara Jean Wood (90)



Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



For our February meeting we welcomed Margie Hoffnung, who is the Conservation Officer and Historic Landscape Project Support Officer at the Gardens Trust, the only UK national charity dedicated to protecting and conserving our heritage of designed landscapes. The title of the evening's talk was 'Garden Visiting - A very British tradition'.

Margie explained that when we think of the English garden, we think of grand estates in their 'natural' settings when in fact most of the gardens are man made.

Blenheim Palace a prime example. In the early 18th Century the River Glyme on the Blenheim estate had been canalised and a triumphal bridge erected. A century on and Capability Brown transformed the canal into a serpentine lake by flooding the valley, so forming the backdrop to the magnificent vistas of English countryside we can see there today.

Stourhead, with its breathtaking 18th century landscape garden with lakeside walks, grottoes and classical temples, is another typical British garden, one that Margie considers has no equal in the world. As with Blenheim, the centre piece of the garden at Stourhead is the lake, which dictates the path you take and the views you enjoy. The damming of the river and the creation of the lake were ambitious undertakings, planned before work began on the garden buildings such as the Temple of Flora, Pantheon and Grotto.

By the 18th century, the grandest gardens were open one day a week to "proper persons" and the owners of grand estates looked at ways of encouraging more visitors by introducing a number of innovations, including water features, grottos and walled gardens. Inside the grotto at Arundel Castle there is a dancing crown fountain that revolves as if by magic supported only by a jet of water in Oberon' Palace, part of the gardens inspired by an Inigo Jones design.

Hermit retreats or grottos were erected in the grounds of some estates, such the one on the 1000 acre Painshill Park estate in Surrey, owned at the time by Charles Hamilton. He hired a hermit, the general terms of the contract spelled out in his advertisement:

"The hermit must continue on the hermitage seven years, where he shall be provided with a Bible, optical glasses, a mat for his feet, a hassock for his pillow, an hourglass for timepiece, water for his beverage, and food from the house. He must wear a camlet robe, and never, under any circumstances, must he cut his hair, beard, or nails, stray beyond the limits of Mr. Hamilton's grounds, or exchange one word with the servant'.

As early as the 18th Century young men keen on gardening would take the grand tour to Italy, where they would purchase statues and other garden ornaments to install in their gardens on their return home, so replicating the magnificent gardens they had visited during their travels.

Using her wonderful photos to accompany the talk, it was easy to understand how garden visiting has become one of our most popular activities.

Congratulations to Mary Read who was the winner of the evening's competition – 'A vase of Snowdrops'.

If you have an interest in gardening we are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors.

Margaret Goodall, Secretary Tel 770906

Swindon City of Sanctuary

On Wednesday 15th January Purton Evening WI had one of its best talks ever by two speakers from Swindon City of Sanctuary. The speakers told us firstly about the ethos and work of the Cities of Sanctuary in the UK. This movement was created in 2005, and in 2007 Sheffield became the first City of Sanctuary. There are now over a hundred cities of sanctuary throughout the country. Their aim is to create a national network of boroughs, towns and cities across the UK and Ireland that will give asylum seekers and refugees welcome, support and a feeling of inclusion in a community.

It was interesting to hear that the vast majority of countries that accept refugees are not the rich countries in the west, but the developing countries. Apparently 9 out of 10 refugees are sheltered by these poorer countries, for example, the Sudanese in Uganda. People fleeing their country can only take the possessions that can fit into a rucksack. Sadly papers and items of sentimental value can get lost or stolen over the often lengthy time taken to travel to a country that will accept asylum seekers.

We heard that the asylum system in Great Britain is extremely tough, as very few of the initial decisions made grant asylum seekers protection. They are sent to a centre in Croydon where they are interviewed extensively. Whilst going through the asylum process, which can take years, they will live in Home Office accommodation. They cannot work and children have no automatic right to be educated, though some children are able to attend school if there are places available in schools prepared to take them. Many asylum seekers do not speak good English and they are not interviewed by someone who speaks their language. If they do not give the same information when interviewed several times, they will not be considered for refugee status. Once people successfully get refugee status, the Home Office will decide where they will live. Refugees will be given a National Insurance number and other papers needed, including those proving that they are no longer asylum seekers.

Swindon is a dispersal town for refugees. Swindon City of Sanctuary seeks to build a culture of welcome, inclusion and support for everyone in Swindon, with a focus on people seeking sanctuary. It introduces refugees to helpful organisations by providing practical advice and support. Swindon City of Sanctuary also works to raise awareness and campaigns for social justice. It runs events to bring people together and is committed to developing a culture of hospitality in Swindon that



welcomes all, particularly refugees wanting sanctuary from war and persecution. There is a hosting scheme in Swindon called Room for All. This scheme helps sanctuary seekers who are destitute. The scheme provides a bedroom in a volunteer host's home, a bus pass, a designated volunteer support worker and plans for moving on that are tailored to an individual's specific needs.

There is also a weekly social called 'We're Open' which takes place, between 6.30 pm and 8.30 pm in Coffee #1 in Canal Walk. There, people can come together through their love of coffee or tea, music, conversation and friendship. There are board games available and everyone is welcome.

Swindon City of Sanctuary also works in schools to help the next generation understand the asylum system. This really was a very informative and thought provoking evening for members of Purton Evening WI.

Jane Smith - Secretary

Church Floodlighting

- | | | |
|----------|--|--|
| March 29 | St Mary's was floodlit in memory of Dom Tovey . Always in our thoughts. Love Mum, Dad and Leah xxx |  |
| April 3 | The Church will be floodlit in memory of Norman Mills on his birthday. Always in our hearts and very much loved by Karen, Garry, Amy, Martin, Jay, Harry and Lydia. | |
| April 12 | St Mary's will be floodlit to wish all in Purton a very Happy Easter . He is risen! Alleluiah! | |

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. If you would still like a loved one or special occasion remembered, please send a short dedication to Purton Magazine (contact details on page 4) for inclusion in the We Record section.

Please contact Libbie 771018 if you need further explanation.

Purton Profferings

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

- 3 foot wide single adult bed, slatted, pine head and foot boards, dusty. Tel: Nick Yerbury 770552
- Set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, approx. 1983 vintage, 33 volumes. Tel 770552



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.

An Entirely Different Game by Aidan Hamilton

The British Influence on Brazilian Football

I still have a vivid recollection of a June night in Rio when I joined thousands of Cariocas to welcome back the Brazilian team from their fifth World Cup victory. The planned schedule meant their open bus should have passed our street at about 9.30 but the crowds were such that I think they finally came by around midnight. The closer the bus came the greater the noise, until it reached a crescendo and then gradually died away as Cafu, Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and the others waved and danced their way past, holding aloft the Jules Rimet trophy to the adoring crowds.

More than a hundred years before that memorable night, Aidan Hamilton describes, in a very absorbing way, the origins of football in Brazil and the influential role of a small number of British and Anglo-Brazilian individuals on the development of the game. The strength of their influence is best summed-up in one word “Charleira”, a byword in Brazilian football for the one-touch heel pass – a skill of an exceptional level. It is actually a corruption of the name “Charles” from Charles Miller, Brazilian football’s founding father, who was born in Sao Paulo in 1874 to expatriate parents. He was subsequently educated at a school in Southampton, where he acquired a passion for football. His talent attracted the attention of the recently-formed St. Mary’s Church team, forerunners of Southampton FC.

In 1894 he returned to Brazil to a strong British expatriate community which, through a network of social clubs, organised and played both football and cricket. He excelled at both and enthusiastically set about establishing a more organised structure for football. His focus was on the British workers in two companies – Sao Paulo Railways and the London Bank and Gas Company. Their first match was April 1895.

From this beginning interest snowballed and more players were found. The German community took an interest and the sport caught the eye of a newspaper reporter. Gradually, Brazilian players participated but while the English contingent was diluted, it still remained strong, with clubs such as Fluminense still fielding several English players. British clubs that had previously ignored Brazil and sailed past on their way to play in Argentina began to stop for pre-planned with the increasing number of local clubs. Throughout it all, the presence of Charles Millar remained a major force both on and off the pitch.

In Rio, a Liverpoolian was to have a major impact in the early 1900s: Harry Welfare, long-forgotten by many. He had a remarkable career that began as a top amateur footballer on Merseyside and spanned four decades as player, coach and administrator of Brazilian football. Attracted by a teaching job in Rio, he was quickly recruited by Fluminense based on his playing record from Liverpool. He did not disappoint.

As the game caught hold, public attention and enthusiasm grew, and English players were active then too. By the 1920s, it was clear there was a new style of Brazilian football, summed up in the Sao Paulo Sports magazine. The article was headed “Brazilian Innovation”, with the key elements of surprise, speed and supreme skill being in sharp contrast to the familiar structured style of play common during this period.

Hamilton cites many other English players and officials who held key roles in the formative years of football in Brazil and I would recommend any keen football fan to read what is a well-written book, packed with detail and some amusing anecdotes from that period. My favourite captures perfectly local knowledge of the game in 1903:

“An English player making his way to a game in Sao Paulo was stopped by a policeman. As he did not speak much Portuguese he ended-up being detained for “being dressed for carnival, out of season, offensively showing his legs in public in the centre of the city “.

Paul Ballard

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Dogridge, Orchard Gardens, Waterfield, Ringsbury Close, Restrop View, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Dew Pond Close, The Farm and Moses Mead.*

St Mary's Primary School

We have returned after our February half term break and our school value for Term 4 is 'Trust and Truthfulness'. Year 1 children were therefore very excited to be visited by Sue and her trusted and gorgeous guide dog, Millie.

We were lucky enough to be able to give the stamp of approval to Purton's new Post Office which is now



inside the village's Co-op. Four pupils helped to officially open the new branch on 25th February and having held a colouring competition, children were able to see their winning entries made into a beautiful postcard.

The school celebrated World Book Day on

Thursday 5th March with everyone dressing up in wonderful costumes featuring favourite book characters. Parents were invited in to read a story with their children and there was a lovely buzz about the school with so much shared reading going on!

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

Purton Cricket Club



Thank you to all those villagers who phoned with the names of the Purton CC's darts team in 1949. I now have names for all in the photograph except the tall gentleman in the middle standing behind the trophy.

From the Archives

The Evening Advertiser on 14th July 1856 reported on a match between Swindon and Beckhampton. Playing for Swindon was a Purton CC member, Charles Bradford. Playing for two or more clubs was common at this time, as the few clubs in the area rarely played more than a few games a season.

Amongst the spectators the reporter noticed and listed five Purton CC members: J. Grimwood Esq of Stanton Park, J. Alexander Esq, J. Simpson, the Rev Giles Daubeney and E.H. Budd. Have you ever been mentioned in a game report merely for watching?

Joe Gardner 770681

Methodist Women's Fellowship

Our meeting in February began with tea, coffee and biscuits as we sat around tables and chatted together. Rose Stump encouraged us to talk about our experiences of Christmas, sharing her personal thoughts on the subject and including an amusing anecdote of her own. This led into a lively discussion about the Christmas season, how practices have changed over the years, and our personal reminiscences of Christmases past.

If any ladies would like to join with us you would be very welcome. We meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 2.30 p.m. in Purton Methodist Church to enjoy a time of fellowship together with tea, coffee and biscuits and varying activities. Although this is a Methodist Church activity, our times of fellowship are open to all ladies whatever their denomination or if you are of no denomination at all. The Age Concern minibus is usually available. If you would like any further information please contact Sylvia Freemantle (telephone 770686)

Purton Tennis Club

The summer tennis season is nearly upon us so the committee has been busy getting the courts ready for play, hiring a new club coach and organizing teams for the leagues both at senior and junior level.

Our new club coach, Jon Bastin, has visited the local schools to give taster sessions to encourage children to attend the club for coaching. It is hoped that the children will then want to join the club as junior members which entitles them to a lower coaching fee and attendance at my Saturday Club sessions, which is run free of charge exclusively for members.

Nicola Gardner

Purton Annual Flower Arts Craft & Produce Show

The 2020 show is scheduled to take place on Saturday 22nd August in the Village Hall as usual, but if the current measures are extended throughout the summer, that may have to change; keep reading the Purton Magazine for the latest updates. Due to the success of the event and increasing number of entries, we have had to change the way we receive them.

All adult entries will need to be received by 9 p.m. on Wednesday 19th August. We shall have two booking-in sessions on that day; one at Pips Community Café in the afternoon and the other at the Village Hall meeting room in the evening. Entries can also be submitted by email or put through my letterbox at any time prior to the 19th. We will still accept entries on the day from children until 10 a.m. on the morning of the show. Of course, all details will be clearly set out in the schedule so that everyone will be aware of the change.

At our meeting in February we decided on the schedule and group challenge for this year. Our meeting began by remembering John Belt, who passed away last year. John was a founding member of our committee and I think he only missed one meeting since I joined the committee three years ago. John always listened to us newer members gabbling on, and usually offered some very succinct suggestions. We shall all miss him on the day of the show, and especially his vine tomato entries which usually received a place.

I shall again be highlighting the schedule in the coming months in the hope that our British weather finally improves and that we are not all confined to barracks! The five categories for the photography section are as follows:

Sport, Yellow, The Farming Year, Just Trees, and Modern Life.

Only 2 entries per class, per exhibitor please. The photographs must be 18 x 13cm/7" x 5" and unframed.

Our Group Challenge this year is "The Sunflower Head Challenge". We want you to grow the biggest sunflower head. From seeds supplied by us, grow your sunflower in anything you like. Then on the morning of the show you will need to cut the head off and bring the flower in for measuring. Cash prizes will be given to the group with the largest sunflower head and also to the group with the smallest sunflower head!

All groups taking part will be able to enter up to four sunflowers. Entry forms have already been sent out to previous entrants, but if your group would like to take part please contact me for a form.

Closing date to enter the Group Challenge is 30th April 2020.

Lorna Robinson-Wardle
Show Secretary 01793 778013 or 3rwardles@gmail.com

Purton Village Diary - April 2020

Due to the Corona Virus we will not be meeting in our Church Buildings for our Easter Services. We hope to be able to have some online interactive events during the following service times - see our website www.stmaryspurton.org.uk or phone 01793 770077 for details. After Easter we hope to continue to provide online services each Sunday at 10.30am.

The Parish Council have taken the following steps in line with Government advice on COVID-19 as follows:

- Close all halls with immediate effect - re-open pending Government Advice on 8th June 2020 (Village hall/Millennium Hall)
- Close our office to all visitors (incl no access to any rooms/storage facilities)
- Close Public Toilets
- Cancel all Council/charity events in coming 12 weeks to include Annual Parish Assembly (6th April), MAY VE DAY (9th May), Cinema Night (8th May) and Power of Three Charity event (5th June)
- All Council/Charity meetings cancelled until 8th June

All other events taking place throughout April and May have been removed from the village diary, please check with individual groups and organisations for the latest updates.

Su 5	10.30am	Family Service online
F 10	10.00am	Good Friday Walk of Witness starting at Pavenhill Shops
	2.00pm	Hour at the Cross online
Su 12	10.30am	Easter Celebration Family Communion online
Th 30		Deadline date for collecting your sunflower seeds for this year's sunflower growing competition

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

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

New plans for Christian Aid Week this year

As you can imagine, we are really disappointed that Christian Aid Week activities will not now be taking place in Purton this year in May.

We already had a sale of Plants and Cakes sorted plus a delicious meal at the Maharajah , thanks to Khalique.

We were also offering a village breakfast and several other activities.

But all of these... including the little red envelopes... will have to be put on hold until a later date has been agreed.

Meanwhile I see no reason why we can't have the usual Christian Aid Week Quiz, which so many of you seem to love and hate in equal measure! So...the Quiz will go ahead, as usual, in May.

I'll set it up and send it out via e-mail, to regular participants , after Easter. If you know of others who would like a go please let me know.

I could try somehow to deliver a copy to your door, tho' I am concerned about passing on any virus by posting papers, so email is safer.

Please save the £2 cost until we meet, or post it through my letter box, next time it is safe to do so: and of course all the funds will go to Christian Aid.

Another suggestion is to encourage your children to make a fundraising money box...in a box or a plastic bottle or small tin...for collecting spare coins to give to Christian Aid at the end of this period of isolation. We shall be asking children to take on sponsored tasks and get paid, with some of the money going into their money box. A fun idea for children off school would be to have a sewing or craft competition to see whose design for the money box is the most exciting.

We could ask you all...The Big Ask...to think of others while we are all going through this challenging time for ourselves. Usually we have The Big Breakfast... how about The Big Ask? asking you to put some of your Christian Aid Breakfast money or Curry Night money into your money box and pass it on to Christian Aid as soon as we are all up and running again. In some countries the people are dealing with the virus without the amazing backup and support that we have here....we have fresh running water, good drainage and sewage systems, shops that are well stocked, heating and lighting and, most importantly, the amazing NHS. It's a Big Ask...but can we also think of others less fortunate than ourselves at this time?

Another Christian Aid supporter has offered to do a Children's Quiz... something the children could do at home.

And if anyone has any other bright ideas for home activities which could be sponsored please do bring your ideas to us. We really look forward to reading new ideas, from children and adults. Thank you so much everyone: Libbie: 771018: libbie@sheppard.org Mary 770505: mary_hodges_28@yahoo.co.uk

Purton Historical Society



On 27th February, Purton Historians braved a wet winter night to attend an illustrated lecture titled "St. Dunstan & the Miracle of Calne" given by local historian Nick Baxter in our Village Hall. This was a very detailed and fascinating account of a little known event in the long life of St. Dunstan, a long-time resident of Malmesbury and Abbot of Glastonbury in the 10th Century. At the time of the miracle, Dunstan was Archbishop of Canterbury; a powerful man, influential with the King. Unusually he could read, write, paint and he had started life as a blacksmith and then became a goldsmith.

He was the King's right hand man in the Anglo-Saxon period. In 978 AD, he called a "Witan", or State Council meeting, in Calne (mentioned in the Domesday Book) to be held in the upper floor of the council building in the centre of the town.

For local historians, there is a similar 2 storey council building in the High Street of Royal Wootton Bassett and in Tetbury. 64 other local dignitaries, churchmen, merchants & soldiers were invited, but all were killed or severely injured when the floor of the building collapsed. St. Dunstan survived unscathed, and this event has since been known as the "Miracle of Calne." The cause of the tragedy can only be blamed on shoddy workmanship during the building's construction, as no plan of evil intent was ever found.

This added to St. Dunstan's popularity with the people: A man who had restored the popularity of both the monarchy and the church by restoring the tarnished reputation of monks who did good works in Anglo-Saxon society. St. Dunstan even planned the drainage of the Somerset Levels (We need him now!)

The lecturer also illustrated how he had traced the exact site of the unfortunate council building in the centre of Calne. The whole of our area was well known to the Anglo Saxons and is part of our rich Domesday Book heritage, if we care to look. Refreshments, questions and a vote of thanks rounded off the evening.

Jill Watts

Annual Outing

Saturday 27th June 2020 - Our outing this year takes us to Salisbury Cathedral and 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 meeting on 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 £19.00. Booking slips are available at Society monthly meetings and from Clive or Liz Rushen (email: cliverushen@btinternet.com). New members and visitors are always welcome to any of our meetings or events.

Janet and Tony Neate, Telephone: 01793 770117, E mail: tjneate57@gmail.com

Museum Report

The Purton Cricket Club Bicentenary Exhibition will be on display until the Museum closes at the end of October 2020.

Thank you to Joe Gardner and his family for creating this excellent record of Purton's sporting past and sharing all the memorabilia that they have accumulated over a lifetime of interest in the sport with the museum.

Marion Hobbs, Telephone: 01793 770185, E mail: roy.marion@btinternet.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.

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.

Drive by pooping - response

I completely agree with the sentiments expressed by the writer. Sadly attempts to highlight the official footpath continue to be ignored and dogs allowed to run free. It's sadly all too easy for irresponsible dog owners to walk around the field and ignore what their dog is doing (if you regularly walk a golden Labrador which runs loose while you walk around with a phone clamped to your ear you'll know what I mean!).

Sadly, human nature being what it is, the small number of owners who couldn't give a damn mean that the only way this field will be protected is by the installation of fencing. Perhaps then this field, and the adjacent one, can be used once more for farming.

David Arnold

Gill Woolford

On behalf of everyone at Purton Luncheon Club, we would like to thank all who donated in Gill's memory, and to Dave, Paul and Katie who so kindly shared the proceeds between us and Alzheimer's Research. We received the grand sum of £539, which will ensure we continue serving delicious meals to our members. Gill enjoyed her volunteering role with us and was a great asset to the Club. She is sadly missed by us all.

Sue Giles, Secretary, Purton Luncheon Club

Joint 110th birthday party

Clive and Chloe would like to say a big thank you to all their family and friends who came to their joint 110th birthday party. (Clive 70 and Chloe 40). Party goers donated £270 pounds for the Age Concern mini bus in lieu of presents.

Clive Rushen and Chloe Eastman

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers

On 22 February we celebrate World Thinking Day and consider the international aspect of guiding. Guides celebrated by 'visiting' the five World Centres. In London, they handcrafted sugar-paste roses, in Mexico they played bingo and completed puzzles, in Switzerland they sang songs from the Alps and clapped out some tunes, in India they donned traditional saris and, finally, at the moving centre in Africa, they played the traditional game of Mancala. A very busy evening!



2nd Purton Brownies limited themselves to just Mexico as their theme, but were equally busy. They made God's eyes, edible sombreros from biscuits and marshmallows, and Day of the Dead masks on a lolly stick. They did a quiz, a word search and of course a piñata, which took a lot of battering before the sweets fell out!

1st Purton Brownies learnt about the World Badge which all members of WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) can wear, and what each part symbolises. They also played a game involving saying thank you in ten different languages.

More celebrations came in the form of promise celebrations for lots of Brownies across the two units. Maisie, Georgia, Chloe, Elle, Sophie, Emma, Maisey, Aimee, Olivia, Anusha and Savannah all made their Brownie promise, with proud parents looking on.

There have been a host of activities in the different groups: Rangers made pancakes, Rainbows have practised handwashing (whilst singing happy birthday twice to make sure they were thorough enough) and decided what should go in a first aid kit. 2nd Purton Brownies completed an activity on planets and the solar system, putting the leaders to shame with what they already knew. Guides looked at relaxation methods and the impact that lack of sleep has on physical and mental wellbeing.

As well as relaxing, Guides have been out and about. Some took a trip to Rockstar Climbing Centre where (you guessed it) they did some climbing. Bath Army Training Centre was the venue for the next trip where eight girls took part in leadership and teamwork activities led by the Army, gaining their Stage 5 Lead Skills Builder badge along the way.

London was the destination for the Rangers when a team took part in a Monopoly Run. This was a real-life game of Monopoly on the streets of London, along with around 4,000 other Guiding and Scouting participants. What an experience that was!

As you can see, there is never a dull moment in guiding; there's always something going on! We have lots of girls in our units, with waiting lists, so filling places is never an issue. What we really would like though is some more adult volunteers to help us deliver our fun and exciting programme of activities. No previous experience is needed, just a willingness to get involved. If you could spare 1-2 hours on a Monday evening, Tuesday afternoon or Tuesday evening we would love to hear from you.

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 (braydondc@wncounty.org.uk). You can also register interest in joining at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/

Bradon Forest School

Wow Shows

We have been delighted to welcome Year 5 pupils from St Mary's, Ridgeway Farm, St Sampson's, Peatmoor, Lydiard Millicent, St Francis and Haydonleigh to Bradon Forest during March. They came to see the WOW shows run by our Science teachers, Mr Vizer and Mr Hutchings. Our WOW shows have coincided with British Science Week with a focus on energy.



Careers Fair 2020

We held our second careers fair at school on Friday, 28 February. Students had the opportunity to meet representatives from a wide range of organisations including Nationwide, the Fire Service, the NHS, Norland Nannies, Mercedes, De Vere Hotel Group, Southern League Football Academy, Swindon Dance, BMW, Oak & Furrows, the Army & RAF, Shoebox Theatre, along with universities and local colleges.

Mr Bray said, "Thank you to all the students who attended, for showing excellent behaviour whilst at the fair and for making the most of the opportunity. The feedback we have received from our visitors has been outstanding."

Here are some of comments received:

"The students were really engaged, no matter which year group they were in." – UWE

"Nice to speak to students who were polite and genuinely a pleasure to talk to." – Norland College

“Your students are good ambassadors for the school, well behaved.” – The British Army

“Students were really interested in what I had to say and were all very polite.” – Brunel SEN



Monthly Photography Competition

Our Art Department hosts a monthly Photography Competition where students are challenged to take photos that link to a changing set of words. February’s winning photographs can be viewed here: <https://bradonforest.org.uk/News/February-Photo-competition-winners/>

Great Bradon Make-Off 2020

Mr Sturla reports: On Wednesday 4 March, 30 students took part in the 2020 Great Bradon Make Off. The competition gives Year 8 students an idea of designing and making a prototype to a deadline, something they would experience if working within the design industry.

Competitors were given the brief to design and make a prototype Maze Game based on a theme and a design of their choice, working in teams of one, two or three. Students used a range of design and technology skills to make their mazes, including hand tools, a wide range of materials, laser cutters, computer aided design (CAD), matchsticks, craft knives and, of course, the revered hot glue gun!

Judges Mr Sturla, Miss Fennell and Mrs White were amazed at the quality of the products and the standard of work completed in the limited time given.

We congratulate all students who signed up for this competition and we hope they enjoyed taking part.



The other side of the gate

Calving has started, although so far only one! Bernie produced a set of blue twins, however, unfortunately the female (first out) was dead. Not sure why; bad presentation perhaps. The bull calf is small, but healthy and growing well. Next to calve will be Sameen, Rowie, Toffee and Mrs Brown. By the time the next magazine goes to print, we should have 15 calves running around!



We've had a few cases of mastitis this month, which is not normal for us. The new cow housing is a large and open space and the cows lay on straw. This had built up and I hadn't realised that it had also started to heat up. This makes conditions perfect for bacteria to grow and that can then put extra bacterial challenge on the teats and udders. We promptly removed all the straw and the problem was fixed. It's a learning process and I'll be monitoring the temperature of the beds closely in the future. We will find the optimum time period for the cleaning cycle as time goes on.

Putting fresh straw down is always exciting for the cows. Fresh straw is great fun to run through and the bales are great for climbing on. Toyboy, Coco's calf, thinks he's a goat and will climb up and jump off anything if given the chance! Looking back through the records I note that by this time last year we had already grazed Jackson's field and were moving on to Berkfield. With the weather as it is



and the ground waterlogged and damaged from the very late housing date last year, I can't see the cows getting out for another 3-4 weeks!

James, our bull, finished serving the cows at the end of February and is now taking a well deserved rest until he joins the girls in May. We had 3 cows that needed some help to get cycling (coming into heat) correctly, so with help from our vet Alex we inserted a progesterone releasing device into the cows' cervix, which gets the uterus ready for implantation of the fertilised egg. Seven days later we inject a prostaglandin to release the egg, the next day the insert is removed, and 56 hours later she will ovulate. At about 72 and 96 artificial insemination hours post injection, she will be bred. It's no different from human fertility treatments.

Shaky (when she milks she hangs a foot over the step and shakes!) became badly lame on a back foot. As prey animals they don't show lameness until the pain is extreme. I promptly got her in the crush, which restrains the cows when carrying out procedures, and started to investigate. My first job was to correct the angles and length. Second was to find the source of pain. It didn't take long before I found the pus! When I broke through the hoof it squirted everywhere... it just missed my face! The pressure must have been incredible and she must have had immediate relief. Not sure what caused the abscess; a stone or thorn probably. The next job was to remove any dead tissue. In this case, I removed most of her hoof back to the quick! I blocked the sound hoof so the infected one was elevated off the ground. We use a natural antibiotic called Stockholm tar. It's runny, black and indeed, looks like tar! This is applied with a cotton wool wad and then wrapped using a self-adhesive bandage called vet wrap. I've since removed the first bandage, had a bit more of a clean up and reapplied the tar and bandage. This will be removed in a few days to be exposed to the air. With the help of some cow strength painkiller/anti-inflammatory drugs, she's already walking with ease.



Jonathan Cook

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

Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group



Tree planting finally went ahead in Royal Wootton Bassett, having been previously postponed due to yet more stormy weather; possibly a good reminder of the need to plant more trees! Over 50 people turned up and it took less than half an hour to plant 132 trees in a vacant plot

owned by the Town Council in Stoneover Lane.

‘Re-wilding’ is really taking off locally and around the world in response to the rapid loss of biodiversity and mass extinctions caused by habitat loss. Turning land back to nature also helps to capture carbon from the atmosphere as a means of keeping global warming in check.

There are two main schools of thought about re-wilding. One is to just leave the land alone and allow local plants and animals to re-colonise. This has the advantage that local species are the best adapted to the area and so have the greatest chance of survival. The downside is that it can take up to 200 years to reach its natural potential! In the beginning, you get fast growing ‘pioneer’ species that outcompete everything else for a while, such as stinging nettles and brambles. Gradually though, the



odd tree or shrub will establish itself and as it grows it will shade out the ‘weeds’ and a woodland will emerge – in areas suitable for woodland that is! If it’s a very damp area you might get a marsh ecosystem, or, if it’s grazed by wild or domestic animals, it could become grassland. Nowadays though, we also have many non-native invasive species that can throw a spanner in the works!

I tried this method on my allotment last year, partly due to lack of time to do anything more active. By the end of the year I had a mass of Himalayan Poppies (not native), Borage and not much else. Both these plants are attractive in their own right but you can have too much of a good thing!

For small areas of land, like domestic gardens and road verges, it's probably better to give nature a hand so that you get something attractive and easy to manage – in other words, gardening for wildlife.

A very knowledgeable chap from Swindon, John Ball, taught me how to collect seed from wild flowers and grow them in pots in the greenhouse over the winter. Then, you just plant them out in spring like other perennials to create a wildflower border. Over the years they spread their seed so you get more plants popping up – all for free. I find they mix very attractively with cultivated 'Cottage Garden' perennials. You manage them just the same – weed out the ones you don't want, dig them up and move them in the spring or autumn to just where you want them.



They really do create a haven for bees and other pollinating insects, and later, seeds for birds and mammals. We will be selling potted wildflowers at the Farm Shop from early April if you want to have a go!

Another easy method for encouraging pollinators is to follow the 'No Mow May' system. If your lawn hasn't been intensively fertilised and weed controlled, you'll be surprised at the mix of colourful flowers that emerge. As May is generally quite dry (we'll see this year!), the grass doesn't grow too fast anyway so the flowers really show up. It's best to give the lawn a good cut at the end of April to prevent overgrowth and too much hard work for your poor old mower later on!

Since writing this article, John Ball has sadly passed away. He was a real inspiration to me and many others with his hands on practical support and sharing of knowledge

which he gave freely. He also helped design and plant up the wildlife pond area at the Pear Tree in Purton.

The Royal Wootton Bassett 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 the discussions.

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

Purton in the time of Victoria

Part 10: Africa — Zulu and Sudan Wars

Africa was an unknown continent, a dark continent and, surprisingly to its inhabitants, an uninhabited continent. It was fabled to contain untold wealth in minerals. It was a plum ripe for picking. And the African Land Grab, characterised in the 1800s and accelerated in the 1880s, displayed incredible economic greed. Every major power in Europe began a tide of conquest originating from coastal trading ports.

In the north, along the Mediterranean coast, the declining Ottoman Empire, and before it the Berber (Almohad) Empire had seen domination followed by colonisation: stretching from west to east were the Spanish (Western Sahara, Morocco), French (French Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia), Italian (Tripolitanian Libya) and British (Cyrenaican Libya and Egypt). Further colonisation developed into the hinterland behind important trading ports on the western coasts of Africa and along the Indian Ocean coast on the east. The far south was settled by Dutch immigrants following the formation of the Cape Colony as a trading and provisioning point by the Dutch East India Company in the 1600s and 1700s.

History at the time said that the taking of lands in Africa was justified because there was no one there. This was very true ... except for the fact that it wasn't so. There were many peoples there. Perhaps they didn't wear wigs, starched collars and carry guns. But the British and other colonial powers didn't really need to look too hard to find them. That was the cause of many a colonial war. The missionary zeal of the 1860s (Livingstone and others, in Part 9) now became a great search for wealth.

The Anglo-Zulu War

The Dutch East India Company had established the Cape Colony in southern Africa in the late 1600s and early 1700s as a provisioning base for their fleets and a post for trading inland with the inhabitants for food. After the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-14), the Treaty of Utrecht not only gave Gibraltar and Menorca to Britain, but also made Britain the leading commercial power in Asia. The Dutch Treaty (1814) allowed British occupation of the Dutch Cape Colony and led to a migration of Dutch-speaking settlers (boers/farmers) from the Cape to lands further east and north where they hoped to develop isolated communities. Those settlers on the Great Trek became known as the 'Voortrekkers' the pioneers or pathfinders. They set up autonomous republics: Transvaal ('across the Vaal river'), the Orange Free State, and Natal ('birth of Christ'). In the process they displaced the Northern Ndebele people of the Zulu Empire.

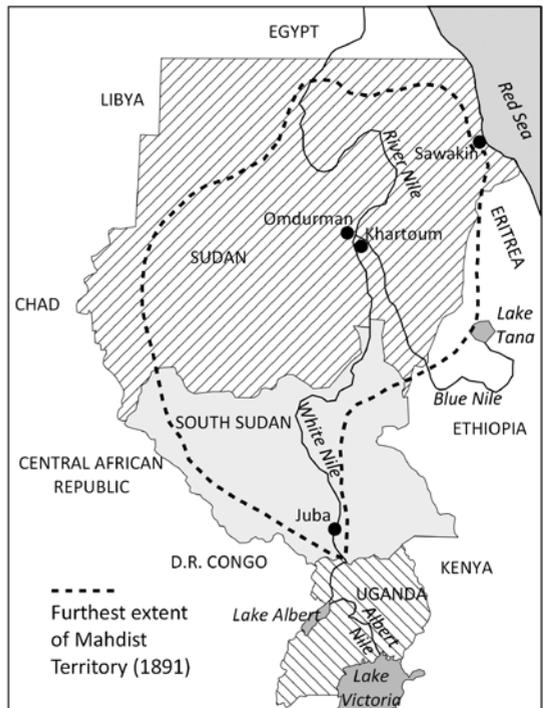
It was in Britain's interests to stabilise the region. Sir Henry Bartle Frere was sent to South Africa as High Commissioner in 1874 to sort out the rival differences between the Zulu Empire, other African kingdoms, the independent Boer Republics and other tribal areas. Behind him, he had the high ideal of the 'compromise federation'

in Canada between the British and the French colonies. In 1879, a seam of diamonds was found near the Vaal River. The diamond rush turned Kimberley into a town of 50,000 in a few years and drew in people from around the world like a magnet. The Boer isolation was ended and Britain annexed West Griqualand, in Transvaal, where the diamonds were.

Without approval from the British government, Frere demanded that the Zulu king Cetshwayo disband his army. When this didn't happen, he sent an army to invade Zululand. The first battle was at Isandlwana which the Zulus won decisively. The following battle at Rorke's Drift was won by a small force of British troops defeating a massive Zulu army, immortalised in the 1964 film *Zulu* ... gosh was it that many Christmas afternoons ago? The war (January - July 1879) ended the Zulu's dominance.

The Sudan

The Ottoman Empire's territories in Egypt extended south into modern-day Sudan and South Sudan. The official ruler of Egypt was the Khedive. From 1881 an Islamist movement, not dissimilar from the 21st century Syria-Iraqi ISIS, was launched by Muammad Ahmad bin Abdullah (later known as Muhammad al-Mahdi). As the Ottoman Empire was in no position to counter the Mahdist threat, Britain sent forces under General Gordon to bolster the Khedive and defeat the Islamists, but the initial actions were unsuccessful. The Mahdi's armies conquered the Sudan as far south as Uganda and set up its capital in Omdurman. The British failed to organise an orderly withdrawal of their and the Egyptian forces from Sudan, and the defeat at Khartoum left only Sawakin and Equatoria under Egyptian control after 1885. Gordon was killed on 26 January 1885 at Khartoum.



Sawakin (Suakin) is a port city on the west coast of the Red Sea and used to be the region's chief port, but is now secondary to Port Sudan, about 50 kilometres to the north. Equatoria is a region of southern South Sudan, along the upper reaches of the White Nile. Originally a province of Egypt, it also contained most of northern parts

of present-day Uganda, including Lake Albert. The map shows the extent of Mahdist controlled area in 1891 and the strategic importance of the Nile. The Mahdist area is overlain on today's country borders.

The Mahdi himself died of typhus in June 1885 and was succeeded in the Caliphate by his son Abdallahi ibn Muhammad.

From 1892, Britain assembled a new force under General Kitchener which eventually defeated and destroyed the Mahdist state at the decisive Battle of Omdurman on 2 September 1898. There is a large picture on the wall at Purton Museum depicting



the battle. It is typical of a genre of battle scenes painted at the end of the nineteenth century and hung for some years in Lydiard Millicent School as a gift from a pupil, J.J. Ball – an ancestor of Eric Ball (d.2019). It was rescued from dereliction by the late Doug Payne, a former headmaster of the school and he and Eric

were both good friends to Purton Historical Society and the Museum. During the Battle of Omdurman, the 21st Lancers delivered the last full-scale cavalry charge of modern warfare. Winston Churchill took part in the battle as a reporter and described the operation in his book “The River War”.

At the time of the charge it was glorified for its indisputable heroism, as was the earlier Charge of the Light Brigade, but a war correspondent, G.W. Stevens, wrote that it was a flagrant mistake for cavalry to charge unbroken infantry of unknown strength over unknown ground.

The battle re-established Anglo-Egyptian rule in the Sudan. Britain didn't own Egypt, it only sort of did. It continued to govern Egypt and the Sudan on behalf of the Ottomans until the end of the First World War. Sort of.

Egypt gained independence after a coup in 1952 and the Suez War of 1956. Sudan also became independent in 1956. Omdurman, the Mahdist capital from 1885 until 1898, is now a suburb of the present Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

Next month: The Boer Wars

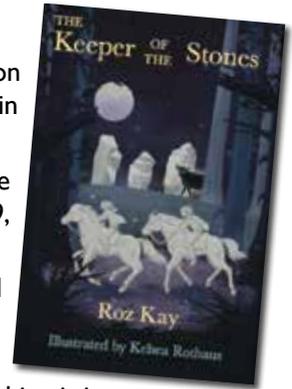
Rick Dixon

Purton writer has debut novel published

Purton resident Roz Kay is thrilled to see the publication of her debut children's novel, *The Keeper of the Stones*, in March this year.

Roz, who was born in Tidworth and has lived all over the world both as child and adult, settled in Purton in 2019, partly to be near family in Swindon.

In 2017 *The Keeper of the Stones* was accepted by a small independent press, Hayloft Publishing, but the journey started more than 30 years ago.



“Imagine starting to write a book in 1987,” Roz said, “finishing it in 1995. Having interest from publishers, but not getting a bite. Imagine it sitting on various hard drives until more than 20 years later, you open the file, rewrite it from top to bottom, and start looking for independent publishers who might consider it.” Then, in the midst of a Twitter discussion on writing in 2017, Roz received a tweet from Hayloft: ““Why haven’t you sent me a manuscript?”

And a few weeks later, her book was accepted. Roz is proud that it’s essentially the work of three women: Roz as the author, Dawn Robertson, as the publisher at Hayloft, and a young American multimedia designer and artist, Kelsea Rothaus, as the illustrator.

“Despite being an American in her twenties, Kelsea somehow captures the magical, dark edge in the story that to me is straight from the heritage of English and European fairy tales,” Roz said. “I loved them all as a child, from the Brothers Grimm to Alan Garner.”

Roz has had a lot of help along the way, notably from her first writers’ group which consisted of published and unpublished children’s authors, and from membership of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. She’s also had short stories published under the name Roz DeKett in Fish Publishing’s 2017 Anthology, literary journals *The Nottingham Review* and *The York Literary Review* and the Bedford International Writing Competition 2018 Anthology. Roz has also appeared in the American children’s literary magazine, *Cricket*. As a news journalist, Roz worked for *The Journal* in the North East, *The Liverpool Echo*, and BBC local and national radio in Manchester.

There’s a sequel in the offing for *The Keeper of the Stones* and she’s hoping it won’t take thirty years this time!

Roz will be at the Henge Shop in Avebury on 9 May signing books from 11:00 a.m., and is also giving a book reading and creative writing workshop for Year 7 students at Bradon Forest School on 30 April. Any early buyers of *The Keeper of the Stones* are entered into a raffle to win an original illustration from the book.

Cricklade BandAcademy boost from Red Lion Charity Fund

Cricklade's BandAcademy has received a tremendous new year windfall from a Charity Fund based at the town's popular Red Lion pub. At an informal ceremony, Bandleader Paul Hewer was presented with a cheque for £3,500. This recognises the 'Charity of the Year' status that BandAcademy was nominated for in 2019 by Richard Sarjent, Trustee of the Charity Fund. Richard had this to say about his nomination: "The BandAcademy fits all the criteria for our Charity of the Year. Finding, training, supporting and nurturing local musical talent, offering all this with virtually no charge to the recipients. It deserves the support of the whole community".

BandAcademy is the education and training arm of The Cricklade Band and was set up to provide a training ground for those of any age within Cricklade and its surroundings who wish to learn to play brass instruments. By doing so in a supported environment it has proved its worth and Cricklade continues to enjoy what some describe as the luxury of its own community band – nowadays an increasingly rare asset.

This award will provide a ring-fenced fund, designated to BandAcademy, from which to pay for purchases that otherwise would be unaffordable.

On the shopping list is a saxophone for one student who's currently borrowing one, music arrangements to better suit those still learning, and additions to a programme of basic music theory provision to run alongside the practical music-making

mentoring. Bandleader Paul promised that the money will be used very wisely and thanked everyone in the Red Lion Charity Fund, all those who have contributed towards this funding award throughout 2019 and especially Richard for his nomination.

Find us on Facebook – The Cricklade Band and Cricklade BandAcademy



Richard Sarjent, front row right, Trustee of the Red Lion Charity Fund, and next to him Paul Hewer, Bandleader of The Cricklade Band – surrounded by members of the Charity Fund committee and BandAcademy

Prospect Hospice

Starlight Walk

Location: Swindon Town Football Club, County Road, Swindon, UK

Start: Saturday 20th June 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

End: Sunday 21st June 2020 @ 2:00 a.m.

Prospect Hospice is going back to the 80s with this year's annual Starlight Walk to celebrate how the hospice has been caring for local people since 1980! Now in its 13th year, Starlight Walk is a 10km or 15km circular walk around Swindon and is one of the hospice's biggest fundraisers, with hundreds of people coming together to raise vital funds to support end of life care in the local community. Tickets for this year's event are £15 per person and the suggested sponsorship for the event is £100 with all money raised going directly to patient care. For more information and to register, please visit www.prospect-hospice.net/product/starlight-walk-back-to-the-80s/

It's a Prospect Hospice Knockout

Location: Swindon Cricket Club, County Road, Swindon, UK

Start: Sunday 19th July 2020 @ 12:00 p.m.

This year Prospect Hospice is holding a brand new event – It's a Prospect Knockout! For those old enough to remember, 'It's a Knockout' was originally a BBC TV game show that was very popular with family audiences during the 70s and 80s. The show saw a variety of games played by the whole team which involved maximum fun, crazy tactics and usually a lot of dressing-up and crazy mishaps, along with a good dollop of very slippery foam. This year's event, held at Swindon Cricket Club, can be described as a 'school sports day for adults' and is ideal for a group of friends or a team building exercise. You can register in teams of ten people, with one nominated captain. All participants must be over 18.

This is a fantastic way to support Prospect Hospice and all money raised will go towards providing specialist end of life care to local people. It's certainly a day you'll never forget! Entry to the event is £300 per team and the minimum suggested sponsorship is £50 per person. For more information and to register your team, please visit www.prospect-hospice.net/product/its-a-knockout/

Run the Rainbow fun day!

Location: Lydiard Park, Swindon, UK

Start: Saturday 5th September 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.

The annual Prospect Hospice Run the Rainbow event is back for 2020, but with a few changes to celebrate the hospice's 40th anniversary. Run the Rainbow is a family friendly 5km run, jog, walk or dance around Lydiard Park. The route passes through a number of vibrant paint stations so the white t-shirt that is provided as part of your entry fee will be a rainbow of colour by the end!

This year, there will be a change at the finish line as the Prospect Garden Fete, which is traditionally held at the hospice in Wroughton, will be at Lydiard Park on the same day. There will be a range of stalls including homemade crafts, cards, gifts, games, raffles, tombolas, food, a Prospect Hospice retail stand and a range of live music!

Registration for the run is £20 for adults and £15 for children. Minimum suggested sponsorship is £100. For more information and to register, please visit www.prospect-hospice.net/product/run-the-rainbow/

Purton And District Darts League

Phoenix A have knocked Bee's Knees from the top of the table, after Bee's Knees having held pole position for most of the season. With only a few matches left to play, it is going to be a tough call as to who will end up top of the table. Our doubles competition was held on 20th February and was well supported with 25 pairs competing. The final four couples who will battle it out for the cup on finals night are Paul Boulton and Lewis Gibson (Bee's Knees), Paul Baker and Loz Shalaei (Bell Inn), Ben Rogers and Morgan Selwood (Purton Club) and Clive Taylor and Andy Turner (Phoenix Club). Congratulations to all our finalists.

The current league looks like this:

1. Phoenix 'A'	255	7. Red House 'C'	159
2. Bee's Knees	250	8. Purton Club 'A'	153
3. Purton Club 'B'	211	9. Phoenix 'B'	135
4. Angel 'B'	182	10. Bell Inn	114
5. Red House 'B'	175	11. Phoenix 'C'	97
6. Red House 'A'	169		

Our current season ends in April and the new season will begin again in September. We are looking to sign up more teams for the forthcoming season, so if your local pub in Purton or the surrounding area can make a team of six or more players and would like to join the league, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sue Giles, Secretary

Purton Small Business Network

At the end of February we held the first meeting of this new venture which we hoped would encourage the self employed and solo workers of Purton to socialise and share experiences. The gathering, at Pips Community Cafe, was an overwhelming success with a total of thirteen businesses represented. Many of the attendees didn't know each other, either professionally or personally, and it was great to see everyone chatting and starting to connect.

While plans are afoot for our next meeting, we are also mindful of the current health advice on Covid-19 and the impact this is having on small businesses. We have not set any dates for future meetings yet and plan to set up an online collaboration tool so we can all stay in contact.

Karen Valdez & Heather Ponting-Bather

Hello from The Cedars Care Home



Coughs and sneezes...

More chest infections have closed the home to all but essential visitors, with relatives and friends entering at their own risk. The coronavirus is very unsettling and is causing all of us confusion and uncertainty. Needless to say we at Cedars are being extra vigilant. However, the activities team will be striving hard to make sure our planned activities continue. Sadly the wonderful M4 Stompers danced their last line dancing session for us in March due to new commitments. They will be missed. We are now on the lookout for a dance group which would like to share their routines with us once a month. If you can help, do get in touch.

We continue to enjoy keep-fit, quizzes, chat and singing sessions and monthly trips to the memory cinema. The next one is "Dad's Army", which will bring back memories for many I'm sure. Right now though, with the coughs and sneezes perhaps we should all adopt Lance Corporal Jones's mantra – "Don't Panic!"

Spread diseases

We had to curb our baking sessions while we managed the chest infections, but that didn't stop us having a pancake tossing competition. With a small frying pan and a cling film covered mini pancake, I went around the home challenging all residents to have a go at 'tossing the pancake'. Most were up for the challenge and our successful winner, with 6 flips was delighted with her prize. The challenge generated smiles and laughter for those trying and those watching. The pancakes didn't survive the many drops though! Our sights are now on brighter days and Easter celebrations, hopefully with no more diseases to curb our plans.

Stay healthy and 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!*

No Trifling Matter

As many of us are having to isolate ourselves in these uncertain times, a new craze is sweeping the village to help alleviate the unavoidable stress that Covid-19 is bringing. The Ultimate Trifle (eating) Championship 2020 is the brainchild of Purtonian Spencer Leak and invites competitors to eat a 600g family-sized traditional fruit-based trifle (which thankfully has not succumbed to panic buying... yet) with their choice of spoon, as quickly as possible. The attempt must be timed, filmed and accompanied by a suitable soundtrack, before being submitted to the Championship Facebook page. Our local shops stock the appropriate desserts but homemade versions and those for special dietary requirements are also accepted. Good luck!

Purton and District Probus Club



At the meeting on 11th February, John Macartney from Evesham gave us a story, entitled “The Crocus and the Cornflower”, of two resilient people who had the foresight and the ingenuity to escape, the terror of Hitler’s Third Reich in 1938.

In the early 1930s, Austrian aristocrat, Hans Koch and his wife Monika, ran a business which was the exclusive importer to Austria of cars for the Standard Motor Company and for Swallow Sidecars manufactured by Triumph Motorcycles. Our speaker’s father, Charles Macartney, was at the time Chief Inspector (quality control) at Standard Motors under the Managing Director, Sir John Black. Business exchanges and Alpine road trials had engendered friendships between the people of the Coventry companies and the Vienna distributors.

Koch held very jaundiced views on Hitler and the Nazi Party and was not fearful about expressing his opinion in public. In the early days, this caused him no difficulties, but with the Anschluss, the annexation of Austria in 1938, things took a very different and sinister turn. With Monika being a Jew and Koch a Gentile with strong Jewish sympathies, life became threatening. Monika instantly made the decision to leave the country, hoping to join relatives in the USA, and simply disappeared from Vienna. She believed Hans could carry on running the business, but he knew otherwise. When a friend knocked on his door one night in the early hours offering an escape route, Hans was persuaded to give up searching and move quickly towards the border.

The whole story is one of ingenuity and survival, covering distinctly separate, but equally dangerous routes across Europe, to be reunited in Coventry and the eventual resurrection of the company in Austria. The flowers of the title are icons of the love and nostalgia shared by Hans and Monika. John, our speaker, was privileged to work for the Koch business in Vienna at the end of his apprenticeship with Standard Motors in the 1960’s. He researched and published the story for Hans’ daughter.

Our speaker on the 25th February was Mike Turner from Bath; his subject was “The GWR – The Holiday Line”. The core theme of the talk concerned the promotion and economy of providing holiday rail travel, primarily from London to resorts on the South Coast, in the southwest counties and South Wales.

Brunel’s Great Western Main Line linked London Paddington to Bristol Temple Meads following the completion of the Box Tunnel in 1841. By the 1880’s, the GWR had taken over a number of local companies and the network included extensions from Bristol to Exeter, Exeter to Plymouth and Plymouth to Truro. In the Vale of Glamorgan, the Barry Railway was acquired by the GWR in 1899. By the mid 1800’s most of the railways of the country were running on standard gauge, some with 3 rails to accommodate both standard and broad gauge. The last section of broad gauge track, from Exeter to Truro, was converted to standard gauge over one weekend in 1892.

At the dawn of the twentieth century, an important aim of a passenger rail service was to provide fast, non-stop travel to popular holiday destinations. The Southern Railway commanded the South East of the country, including Southampton and the Isle of Wight, and competition between the two companies intensified. The GWR, in addition to adopting standard gauge (including 250 miles of new track), also laid new connections and cut-offs to reduce distances and journey times. The Stert to Westbury cut-off was completed in 1900, the Wootton Bassett Junction to Patchway line opened in 1903, creating a more direct route to South Wales and Bristol, and in 1906, the Castle Cary to Langport line opened, shortening the journey to Taunton, Exeter and Penzance. In return for permission to run its line through 3½ miles of the Duke of Beaufort's estate, the GWR agreed to give the duke and his successors the right to stop any train at the new Badminton station on the South Wales Main Line. The introduction of fast long-distance trains brought with it technical problems: carrying enough water for a 200 mile journey was not practical. Troughs were therefore introduced to allow the engine to scoop up water without stopping, an operation which needed considerable care.

The initial instrument of promotion for the GWR Holiday Line was the 1908 issue of "Holiday Haunts", a company magazine. Mostly taken up by railway employees, it soon became recognised as a tool to encourage more use of the railway by the general public. In the 1920s it was updated to carry colour plates with phrases such as, "Sunny Cornwall", "English Mediterranean", "A Wonderful Summerland" etc., advertising holidays which were more informal, but with active participation.

As the result of a depression during the interwar years, government grants and loans were offered to the railways. In 1929, Temple Meads was vastly improved and in 1931, Cogload Junction was realigned with a flyover to allow through connections from Taunton to both Bristol and London.

The centenary edition in 1935, of "Holiday Haunts", carried 1018 pages, with seven specific sections covering different holiday areas, including information on accommodation and amenities. Other marketing media included: GWR lantern slides available for hire with 74 slides of Cornwall and 66 slides showing-off "The Romance of the Scilly Isles", plywood jigsaws at a third of the normal price featuring pictures of the Cheltenham Flyer and the Cornish Riviera Express, bookmarks featuring St Michael's Mount and memorable posters in Tea Rooms, advertising holidays with rambling and tickets for the dog. Books entitled "Through the Window" were offered to occupy the children with spotting items of interest along the way. Sometimes, clowns travelled and entertained on the children's outings.

The use of slip coaches was an intriguing new concept, introduced to meet increased demand for rail travel. On trains with slip coaches, passengers had to be careful to board the correct coach for their chosen destination, because the guard would uncouple the last coach with the train still in motion at about 45mph. Coaches would be uncoupled at Westbury for Salisbury and Southampton, at Castle Cary

for Yeovil and Weymouth and at Exeter for Newton Abbot. Guards needed to be experienced in judging the free-wheeling distance of their coaches!

Mike's talk stirred memories of the 'good old days' and many railway workers' children still remember the excitement of Trip Week.

Bob Stevens



Beneath the Wool

The countdown for lambing has started. The shed is slowly being prepared and the field the ewes and lambs will go into is gradually greening up, although it is still very wet. The ewes have been eating plenty of grass down Mopes Lane and have been moved into another field. They are all getting quite a size now and quite fat, especially Polly, who got a bit out of puff running down the road the other day.



As I write this, there's promising news of some high pressure coming in the next week giving us some dry weather, which I think everyone is looking forward to. I think the ewes will also be pleased to see it, as they have unfortunately been lacking webbed feet this year! On the plus side, as this winter has been quite mild the grass hasn't really stopped growing, it just slowed up. This has helped to get a bit of grass growing in the fields at home.

Unfortunately due to the latest advice regarding Covid-19 it is with regret that I will have to cancel this year's lambing open afternoon.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton