

Purton. Magazine

May 2020



This fabulous display on Church Path has caught the eye of many a Purtonian out for their daily exercise.

50p

Purton Contacts

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

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Current government advice is to stay at home

- *Only go outside for food, health reasons, work (but only if you cannot work from home) or to care for a vulnerable person.*
- *If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times*
- *Wash your hands as soon as you get home*
- *Do not meet others, even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.*

Purton. Magazine

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INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

While the world has been in lockdown, with no 'release date' at the time of writing, your magazine continues to keep our community up to date and informed of developments. Apparently, several readers were "absolutely thrilled" to receive their April issue, fearing that it may have gone the way of many other things at the moment. Instead, we are delighted to announce that Purton Magazine's grant application – see page 46 – has just been approved.

It is at times like these that our "caremongering" community comes together (at a social distance) to help others. Reported experience and direct evidence confirms that people are largely staying at home and fewer journeys are being made, giving us all a breath of better air quality – even at the cost of a shrinking national economy. Purton is thankfully not populated by "Covidiot", another term coined in recent weeks.

Although not specifically formed in response to the coronavirus outbreak, Outreach Purton was able to leap quickly into expanded action and now has well over 300 volunteers. Working closely with other village organisations, it's ready and able to offer help to those in our community with shopping and other tasks that they might not be able to complete themselves at the moment. Details can be found on page 38.

Other groups have developed new ideas and initiatives to make the best of the changed circumstances and current restrictions. For example, the main Sunday service from St. Mary's church is now being broadcast using Zoom, an online conferencing tool that allows people to take part remotely. Currently it is attracting congregations sometimes larger than the physical services used to, recently including a family who used to live in Purton but who have returned to live in Japan. All the joining times and details are on page 30.

St. Mary's school has also moved quickly to put learning on-line and stay in touch with their families through their Home Learning Hub virtual school. On page 35 you will see that the teachers have made sure that there is a variety of activities to keep "learning alive, bodies active and brains engaged."

Thankfully, such electronic communications have not completely replaced the more traditional activities such as an indoor tent holiday with "fake-away" fish and chips (page 16), jigsaw puzzles available for anyone stuck at home (page 19) and the usual Christian Aid quiz (page 36). And as if we didn't already know, page 56 confirms that the goal posts have indeed moved.

30%

Of the cost of each copy of Purton Magazine comes from the cover price – see page 46

3, 30 or 300?

Different types of slugs in our gardens – see the gardening quiz on page 20

300+

Outreach Purton volunteers available to help those in need – see page 38



Unprecedented Times

It is a strange time where our streets are empty, our businesses closed and social distancing in force in a village full of clubs and community activities, which can no longer take place. The Parish Council is classed as operating an essential service for some areas under their remit and will be carrying out these duties with support from their dedicated team of employees in and around the village and working remotely.

Please do not go to the offices as they cannot allow you in. However, you can email or telephone. Please do not feel offended if the ground staff do not speak to you when doing their essential work; they are only protecting and distancing themselves.

The Parish Council has set up a dedicated phone line to aid the work of the Outreach Purton group and the information has been posted around the village and on social media sites and is in use. The number is 01793 387888. This will be manned throughout the week, day and night, if however, you do not get an instant answer, leave a message and your call will be returned.

Play Parks

Please do not allow your children (young or old) to use these facilities. The parks are closed under government legislation. If you see anyone using these facilities or not keeping to the social distancing restrictions, please call the Police on 101 and report it – this is your community to protect.

Future events to look forward to

Due to the current restrictions the following events will be held at a later date, yet to be determined: Our Volunteer Awards Scheme, Purton Cinema, VE Day Celebrations and charity fundraisers, "power of three".

Councillor Vacancy

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

Annual Parish Meeting report

As the Council was unable to meet on the 6th April, the Annual Report has been published and is available on our website as follows: www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/News.aspx

Once we return to normal working patterns, you will be able to gain a hard copy from our offices and the library, but currently the only option is a downloadable copy. If anyone has a question they wish to raise with Councillors, please email the Clerk and we will, depending on the nature of the enquiry, post the question and response on our website.

Meet Your Councillors

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

Youth Club – Temporary Closure

Sadly, the provider of our youth club withdrew their professional services in February due to staffing issues. It is now closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Full Council details can be found on our website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk. Telephone number 01793 771066, email address: deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

We also hold Facebook and Twitter accounts.

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

Ten Years Ago...

What a difference a month makes! Should I still be invited to write this column ten years hence, the preparatory reading will come as quite a shock. Indeed, it is now hard to feel light-hearted even when reviewing Purton Magazine for May 2010.

St. Mary's church was in the throes of an interregnum and parishioners were writing the monthly notes. Although the theme is different, the sentiments are just as relevant in the present crisis. "Anticipation is often a traumatic time. Time when nothing seems certain... How or when will it all happen?" It then discusses "the strong supporting the weak and the practical ones keeping life as normal as possible, preventing the panic of the fearful". The article concluded that if we clung together good things would happen.

Last month we noted that a charity had proposed a series of events for those not interested in the upcoming World Cup. This month it announced that the programme had been cancelled... through lack of interest.

The Editor had a flight of fancy, discussing whether proper nouns such as Kyrgyzstan (try typing that quickly) were acceptable in the game of Scrabble. He described it as a "rule abdication" but as he is the expert I am not going to comment further on the finer points of the sport.

An article on cats stated that "there is no way to stop a cat from roaming other than to make its life at home more attractive than at someone else's". At any time, this could equally apply to humans but at this time perhaps we all need that special effort.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



Talk on Mindfulness, Quiz Evening, Sylvia Freemantle's Coffee Morning. How wrong I was! These were all postponed; hopefully we can hold them later this year but that may be optimistic.

Purton Surgery Facebook Page

The Surgery has now set up a Facebook page – Purton Surgery – where you will find any updates on the Practice. Many of you will have seen the following now in place:

- For the safety of staff and patients we have locked the surgery doors to ensure patients are not coming in to the surgery with coronavirus type symptoms – we have an intercom system;
- Moved all GP appointments to telephone triage, GPs will invite you in if appropriate;
- Moved many nurse appointments to telephone calls, such as asthma and diabetic reviews;
- We are still seeing patients for procedures that can't wait like blood tests, immunisations and leg ulcer dressings;
- We have set up a surgery staff WhatsApp group so all staff can communicate at evenings and weekends to ensure we can run the surgery as efficiently as possible;
- Daily reception and clinical meetings to ensure effective communication.

Thank you for your understanding and support in these challenging times.

Please remember the above and show consideration for all staff at the Surgery.

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

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

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

Events

I'm afraid that at the moment there are no events planned for May or June due to the Coronavirus pandemic; we hope to introduce them again as soon as we have the 'all clear' from the Government.

Purton Age Concern can only ask people to be vigilant and listen to the daily information on what we should do. All people on the 'at risk' scale should be very careful and aware of the risks.

Our organisation relies on everybody looking out for their neighbours and friends and assisting where they can. Our street wardens are there to help and should be your first port of call. They will be able to help where they can or direct you to other organisations within the village that have sprung up during this pandemic. We have to consider that a lot of our street wardens are in the 'at risk' age range themselves.

We have been working very closely with both the Parish Council and Purton Outreach and so far, have managed to deal with all the problems residents are facing. Debbie Lawrence, who is the Clerk of the Council, has been very involved in taking calls and either dealing with them or passing them on to the relevant group, and Heather Ponting-Bather has been putting together a group of volunteers called Purton Outreach to deal with whatever might arise.

Between us all we are managing at the moment, but I guess it will get worse before it gets better; let's hope not.

The contact numbers you should use, after you have talked to your street warden, are Peter Berry on 778119, Heather Ponting-Bather on 772954 or Debbie Lawrence on 771066.

These are unprecedented times and if we are all vigilant then we will get through this. Please take care and keep well.

Margaret Bailey

Margaret died on the 12th March in hospital after a mild heart attack suffered in January which was then followed up by further complications and various spells in hospital thereafter. She was a real fighter and coped with having a hip operation a few years ago and then last year breaking her arm, which is so difficult to repair, but refusing to give up and still had a zest for life.

I got to know Margaret when I used to pick her up in the minibus to go to lunch club, which must be coming up for ten years. She always had a smile on her face and a determination to enjoy herself, quite a wicked sense of humour as well! She was quick witted with a razor-sharp mind and a knowledge of what was happening in the world.

She was in the WRAF during the Second World War and last year she was asked to

be president of the veterans society of the RAF Elsham Wold Association based in Lincolnshire, which was one of the Lancaster bomber airfields and home of 103 and 576 Squadrons of RAF Bomber Command. She was very proud of her association with this unit and attended all of the reunion events.

She was 96 when she died so had a good long life. She lived in Pear Tree Close with her husband initially before moving to Vasterne Hill with her son and daughter-in-law.

Our thoughts and condolences go to David and Janet at this sad time, and we will hopefully gather later in the year for a memorial service as her funeral could only be attended by three people because of the restrictions in place at the time of her death.

Latest News

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

Update from The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust:

During the current lockdown we would like to notify you of the services still available through The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust to those over 60 or 18+ with a registered disability.

Our team of Home Security Operators are still securing the homes of victims of house crime and domestic abuse. Our office team is on hand to give telephone support and advice on a range of home security issues. Please call 01380 861155 and leave a message, your call will be returned within a few hours during working hours. Our operators are also delivering personal protective equipment for Wiltshire Police across the county.

Our team of Stay Safe Online volunteers are available to offer telephone advice on a range of issues from improving cyber security awareness, to cyber and scam prevention advice and signposting to future advice and resources. Please call and leave a message on 01380 861191 and someone will get back to you as quickly as possible.

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

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

Peter Berry

Purton Neighbourhood plan

Many readers will remember quite a lengthy period of development and consultation in and around the village to create and confirm the Purton Neighbourhood Plan with our own local referendum. Well, there is now a good example of all that work being put to good use.

An appeal about a previously refused proposal for 81 houses not far from Ridgeway Farm was recently determined by The Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. In dismissing the appeal, the Inspector noted that the proposed housing would not meet the housing needs of Purton. In his Decision, the Planning Inspector recognised that the community had gone to significant effort to plan for its neighbourhood area. He noted the conflict with Wiltshire Council's development plan saying that it "included a carefully considered and positively prepared neighbourhood plan."

Readers may remember that the plan took several years from start to finish involving a considerable amount of effort by a small team of Parish Councillors and local specialists. It is really good to see that our Purton Neighbourhood Plan is receiving the recognition it deserves and will stand the community in good stead for several more years to come.

After 8

On February 10th we met at The Bolingbroke Arms in Hook for our "Late Christmas Meal".

On 16th March, a stalwart group of us went to the Arts Centre to see the play "Wanted". It was the last night before Lockdown came into force. The audience totalled 15 of which seven were members of After8, so we were allowed to sit wherever we liked.

We were hugely welcomed by the front of house and everyone was given a free programme. At the end of the play the cast stood and spoke movingly to the audience, saying that from tonight their show had been cancelled, and that how grateful they were that we had attended. They then gave us in the audience a standing ovation. Old Town was eerily empty. The play was very good and very well acted.

"Gazebo Theatre are thrilled to bring this production about 5 fierce females to life and to shine a light on some of the issues that still inflict on us in today's society"

An interesting list; Dr James Barry 1795-1865, Irena Sendler 1910-2008, Olive Morris 1952-1979, Phoolan Devi 1963-2001, Leoni Lawrence 2020. Look them up!

We were all pleased that we went.

After8 have suspended their programme for the foreseeable future. We wish you all the very best for what we are sure will prove to be very difficult times. Stay safe

Avril Ainscough

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



We've only had one conventional meeting since last month's article and that was 2nd Purton Brownies, who sewed felt heart keyrings for their mums for Mothering Sunday and also made cards. Sewing with Brownies is always an activity that leaders approach with some trepidation, but the girls did very well.

Since then, guiding activity has been less conventional. The two Brownie units were due to be on a Harry Potter Brownie holiday at the end of March. Rather than miss out, one Brownie used her imagination for an indoor Brownie holiday. Beatrix and her dad set the tent up in the playroom and did "fake away" fish and chips on Friday evening. They followed this with Harry Potter colouring and word searches before having hot chocolate by the campfire. Saturday was spent junk modelling and baking a delicious tea loaf. Well done Beatrix and dad Richard.

1st Purton Brownies were due to say goodbye to Agnes at the end of the Spring term and Agnes had planned a fun junk modelling contest for her last Brownie meeting. Although this couldn't be run with everyone together as planned, 13 Brownies (plus a Rainbow and Guide sister) joined in at home instead. Their challenge was to create a famous monument from second-hand items they'd been collecting. They had 45 minutes to do this and then send a photo of their creation to the leaders. The leaders created an online album of the pictures so that the Brownies could vote on their favourite three models using an online voting app. They were really creative and imaginative. At the end of the meeting, leader Daisy presented Agnes with her leaving certificate and badge over the garden fence, using a fishing rod so that they kept to the 2-metre distance rule – it was very handy that their gardens back onto each other!

You'll find pictures of Beatrix's indoor Brownie holiday and of the junk modelling creations on the newly created Purton Brownies website: <https://1stpurtonbrownies.wixsite.com/website>

We Record ...

In Memoriam

25 May 1920 Charles Edmonds, 5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment (Reserve) died, aged 22, of tuberculosis. Charles was buried in Lydiard Millicent Church Cemetery under a CWGC headstone.

This entry marks the last of the men with Purton connections whose death was directly attributed to the First World War.

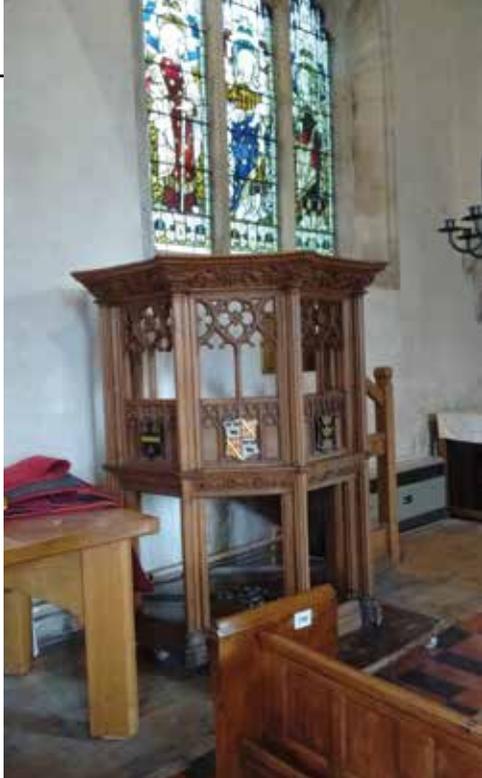


St Mary's Church Renewal

Great news! We have now started negotiations with one of the Church Renewal tenderers and hope to agree a contract by early May. Of course, in the current situation, we don't know for sure when the contractor will be allowed to start work in Church, but we hope it will be soon. In the meantime, we've been doing some preparatory work – including moving the old pulpit to a temporary location!

The funding situation continues to be difficult, as it is for many charitable organisations at this time, and when an important grant application was unsuccessful last month it was touch and go whether we would be able to proceed. But Church members have stepped forward with further encouragement and financial support which has allowed us to move forward, at least with Phase I which leaves out some £80,000 of the contractor's work for now.

Many readers will know that as part of the renewal the pews are being replaced by good quality upholstered wooden chairs. This both provides a comfortable environment for a range of local organisations who may wish to use the church for meetings and concerts - as well as enabling flexibility of space – something especially valuable for activities involving children and young people. Some people have already offered to donate a chair or two and we have arranged for permission to include a small metal dedication plaque on the chairs showing a person's name and a date, if donors wish. This might be the name of the donor – or it might be in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for a child or grandchild. There will be more information on this opportunity in a month or two. Meanwhile, the sale of the old pews has enjoyed significant success enabling many in the village to have something from the recent period of our church's eight century heritage. There are still some pews available – if you are interested, please email renewal@stmaryspurton.org.uk



Purton Profferings

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

- Jigsaw puzzles available for those in isolation, please call Frank Strange 771664 to arrange collection.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



By the time you read this, hopefully the future may be looking a little brighter for us all, but at the time of writing, lock down is in progress and our speakers for March and April have been cancelled because of the escalating Coronavirus situation. For that reason 'Tales from the Potting Shed' has been rescheduled for next year and we may never find out what 'Shipwrecks, bombs and buggles' has to do with gardening!!!

However the weather has been kind and allowed those of us with a garden to stray outside. The April edition of the RHS 'The Garden' magazine states that "caring for a green space has been proven to foster a sense of ownership, control, connection and responsibility – and research shows that these reactions increase self-confidence, making us feel more positive about ourselves. Watching nature in action, sowing seeds and giving plants life can be a positive, satisfying experience.

Then there are the physical benefits of keeping fit through active gardening which helps to boost mental health and improve mood. These rewards transcend age, social background and gender".

So as keen gardeners and with all that in mind, Steve and I set forth on our own 'green spaces'.

However, time at present seems limitless and so we have been speeding through our 'To Do' list which is currently looking like this!

- Cut grass ✓
- Edge lawns ✓
- Tidy borders ✓
- Dead heading ✓
- Dig allotment ✓
- Plant vegetables ✓

Needless to say, we are spending more and more time relaxing; enjoying the sunshine, reading, completing crosswords, sudoku etc.

So why not have a garden quiz I thought and what follows is 'one I prepared earlier'!

Gardening quiz

1. Name the evergreen hedge that has created many a neighbourly dispute
2. What herb is regularly mentioned along with Rosemary?
3. The RHS hold a flower show at Tatton Park, which county is this in?
4. Soil can be acidic, alkaline or?
5. Is a blue tulip fact or fiction?
6. What colour rose is associated with Lancashire?
7. What yellow-flowering tree is poisonous?
8. What is the art of sculpting hedges called?

-
9. What bulb plant could be described as having facial hair?
 10. What special attribute makes lavender ideal for dry conditions?
 11. A hybrid tea is what type of plant?
 12. Where do pelargoniums originate from?
 13. What herb beginning with 'A' has soothing properties?
 14. Cacti are often referred to as what?
 15. What is probably the most powerful garden design factor?
 16. What time of day and weather conditions are best for planting?
 17. What is biennial?
 18. What is the common name for the perennial *Myosotis Sylvestris*?
 19. What are the leaves of Ferns called?
 20. Bears Breeches is a common name for which plant?
 21. Are there 3, 30 or 300 different types of slugs in our gardens?
 22. Brandling, common and cockspur are all types of which garden creature?
 23. True or false: the *Robinia frisia* has deep red leaves?
 24. What is the genus of the common climbing ivy?
 25. What part of a mother in law is used in the name of a popular plant?
 26. Cambridge Favourite is a popular variety of what?
 27. If a single is a hybrid tea, what are cluster flower roses called?
 28. *Cotinus* is also known as Smoke Bush. Why?
 29. Root rot can affect which root crop?
 30. When should spring flowering shrubs be pruned?

Why not give it a go?! The answers will appear in the June magazine and although there are no prizes, at least I hope you'll have enjoyed whiling away a little of your own spare time. Stay safe and enjoy your gardening.

Margaret Goodall, Secretary Tel 770906

Church Floodlighting

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



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

Please contact Libbie 771018 if you need further explanation.

VE-Day and After

I told you about the experiences of my father at D-Day (August 2019 issue). Following the successful Normandy invasion, the Royal Naval forces followed the army up the Channel and North Sea coasts. By late 1944 or early 1945, Dad's motor launch flotilla (MLs) was stationed in the Netherlands, at a place called Terneuzen on the south bank of the Scheldt Estuary. He met a lifetime friend there, Jan Jaager, and they kept in touch. After the war, both joined their respective national railway companies, British Railways and Nederlandse Spoorwegen. It was how I became interested in Dutch and why I followed with a work placement in Utrecht in 1970.

The MLs, a sort of elongated motor gunboat with depth charge launchers, were built of marine plywood to a Canadian design and had been officered by men of the Royal Canadian Navy. Dad served on ML 571 from before D-Day until the end of the war in Europe.



By spring 1945, German forces had retreated from Denmark and the Royal Navy secured the coastlines. By May 1945, it was obvious to all that the war was almost over, despite a fight to the death in Berlin between the Soviet Red Army and the remnants of the German Wehrmacht. The ML flotilla was sent to Copenhagen to take the surrender of the German E-boat fleet in the Baltic.

However, on the way to Copenhagen the flotilla, was ordered to make for Kristiansand on the southern coast of Norway, to take the surrender of various troops in Norway. This in fact turned out to be a full German Division, under the command of a General. By comparison, his ML had a total crew of 21. The General came down to the quay and said he was prepared to surrender, but the main question

was how were they going to do it. They decided in conjunction with the General that the Germans would march through Kristiansand and pile up all their guns in the middle of town. That was accomplished with all allowable pomp and ceremony. But that left a large stockpile of arms and ammunition in the town, which was a tempting target for the Norwegian Resistance and which the British didn't want them to have.

The ML Flotilla's Lieutenant Commander and the German General got together over dinner in the German mess and they decided to mount a guard consisting of two ratings and one Petty Officer from the RN plus a full, but unarmed, German guard to secure the arms.

Next day the ML Flotilla sailed off to Copenhagen. The Canadian officers were recalled from the flotilla in Copenhagen to a meeting in London and the rest of the crews stepped up a grade or two. Sub Lieutenant Ken Dixon became Acting First Lieutenant.

On 9 May 1945, Germany fell and, soon afterwards, Dad accepted the surrender of the entire German Baltic E-boat fleet at Copenhagen. He acquired the swastika naval ensign from one of the E-boats as a souvenir. He was three months short of his 21st birthday. I still have the Naval Ensign prize in a box at home today.



Dad took the photo of the ship's crew with the ensign, so he's not in the picture. He is in the second picture taken the same day, 3rd left, front row. He was in Denmark from May 1945 for approximately four months after which he was posted back to England on indefinite leave. He was then told to purchase full tropical kit, expecting to be posted out to the continuing war in the Far East. By the time he had bought it, the Atom Bomb had been dropped and the Japanese surrendered. Instead he was

despatched to Malta on a troop ship which had been an old P&O cruise liner. He was in Malta for about a month. Just before Christmas 1945, he was told to join another troop ship, a captured Italian battleship named the Garibaldi. The passengers were a mixture of service personnel, nurses and civilians. The Garibaldi sailed to Alexandria where an ML waited to pick him up and take him to Athens. There he joined the 42nd ML flotilla, which again consisted mainly of Canadians.

They initially operated in the Aegean, especially around Skiathos and Lesbos, policing the Greek Civil War. However, because there were only seven boats covering the whole of Greece, his boat was ordered to Patras, to be responsible for the west of Greece including the Gulf of Patras and islands as far north as Corfu and as far south as the Bay of Navarino. His was the only naval ship on the entire west coast of Greece. The British Government had sent out a Superintendent from the Yorkshire police, who was a really down to earth character. His job was to retrain the Greek gendarmerie. Also, if there was an uprising on one of the islands, he was to lead a detachment of gendarmes to retake the island. To give him protection once ashore, the motor launch would train all its guns on the most important-looking building, other than a church, threatening to fire if the Superintendent's party was not back by five o'clock.

While serving in Patras, they found a population that had depended for its livelihood on fishing from the sea. Half of their boats had been requisitioned by the Nazis and the rest had been taken by the Communists in the civil war, so the people were starving. He was now a full Lieutenant but acting Lieutenant Commander of a 'flotilla of one' and drawing a Lieutenant Commander's pay. He consulted his book of regulations and confirmed that a depth charge test was due. They motored out into the bay and dropped a charge. There were plenty of fish for all...

They were in Greece for six months. The entire flotilla, including those in the Aegean, were recalled to Malta, stopping on the way at Messina in Sicily, right under Mount Etna. Once at Malta, he was made Flotilla Leader, as so many Canadians had been demobbed and called back home.

Meanwhile he had entered the Civil Service exams for the Foreign Office. He passed the first written exam in Cairo. Back in Malta he was ordered to London to sit more exams, including a language examination, a weekend group session and interviews at a college in southern England for a week.

While waiting for the results, he was appointed as 1st Lieutenant of a fleet destroyer, HMS Carron, at Sheerness. The ship never left harbour during that time, but the posting was very prestigious. Most of the time the Commander was on leave so Dad was actually in charge. This lasted for two months.

His demob papers came through and he was sent to collect a suit, shirts and tie and then went back home to Glossop, Derbyshire. Once home he joined the Ministry of Labour in the Industrial Relations Department. He received a letter from the Civil Service. This advised that there were only six jobs available and twelve candidates

had tied. He was invited for another, long interview. While awaiting results, he left the Ministry of Labour and joined British Railways, aiming for a Management Trainee position. The Foreign Office wrote, saying he had failed by half a mark. However, he was by then more interested in the railway job.

The job with the Foreign Office would have been a Vice Consulship in China, during their civil war. The candidate who got the posting had to be evacuated by HMS Amethyst, which was fired on by Chinese shore batteries and the poor chap was very badly injured. By not getting the job Dad had a lucky escape!

Rick Dixon

I made most of the above notes in conversation with my Dad in 1997. He died in January 1999. If you spot any errors, they may be due to his memory or my transcription. Either way, I'd be happy to hear from you.

Of the four ships in the Amethyst Incident (also known as the Yangtze Incident, 20 April 1949) Lieutenant Commander Skinner on HMS Amethyst was killed plus another 21 killed and 31 wounded. In the other ships of the flotilla, HMS Consort, London and Black Swan, a further 25 were killed and 43 wounded.

Purton Historical Society



Dear Friends,

Due to the serious nature of the Coronavirus, the committee has decided to cancel all activities until the autumn. However, the Museum's Purton Cricket Club Bicentenary Exhibition might open sooner depending on Government guidelines.

The subject of our September meeting on Thursday, 24th September 2020 is "The rise and fall of Wiltshire Spas" including our very own Spa on Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke.

The visit to Swindon & Cricklade Railway has been rearranged for Sunday 4th October 2020. The morning will include a steam train trip and guided tours of the museum, signal box, vintage carriage project and steam locos under restoration. The interesting railway carriage café will be open to serve lunches and also the shop stocks a wide range of gifts and books of interest to the railway enthusiast.

In the afternoon you will be free to travel on the steam train again and explore at your own leisure and have a look out for WW2 artefacts, with time to take photographs.

Booking forms will be available from the Purton Museum or at the September meeting and tickets cost £10 each. All money will go to the preservation of our local heritage railway.

We are exploring the possibility of organising a visit to Winchester Cathedral and the Christmas Market mid-week in the second half of November. We will need at least 30 people to make this viable. If you are interested in going, please contact us as soon as possible, so we can make the necessary plans.

We are truly sorry for the present situation. Please be vigilant and follow the advice for your own safety. Thank you for supporting the Society.

Kindest regards

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

Peardrops and Playclose Pre-schools



We are very fortunate to be in such a lovely, friendly and welcoming village. The pre-schools have been getting together regularly for trips to the park and visits to the Library for story time. We enjoy exciting 'welly walks' around the local area and are delighted that so many people in the community are keen to stop and talk to us all. The older children have enjoyed visiting Ashgrove to sing to the residents and stopping for a snack at Pips community café. Pram Service on a Thursday afternoon at the Methodist Church is a favourite for many pre-school children. We are grateful for all of Marion's hard work with this and thoroughly enjoy the way the stories are brought to life in such exciting ways. We love meeting up with the children at St Mary's school and were full of smiles after they 'spread the happiness' to us with songs, handmade bunting and flowers. A huge thank you for all the toys and art/craft donations, volunteer helpers for our regular sessions and outings, and to the wonderful story-tellers at the Library.

We have new registration packs available for children who wish to start pre-school sessions in September 2020 or within the 2020/2021 academic year. We are open during term time only and offer the following sessions:

- Stay and Play - for children from 18 months (supervised by parent/carer up to 2 years old)
- Playgroup - for children from 2 years old
- Pre-school - for children from 3 years old, and ideal for those starting school in September 2021

Please contact us for further details or to arrange a visit; we would love to see you!

Contact details:

Peardrops Pre-school
St Mary's School Site
College Road, Purton
SN5 4AR
01793 978536
07751 183565

Playclose Pre-school
The Methodist Church
Playclose, Purton
SN5 4DP
01793 950159
07759 583566

Email: peardropschildcare@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.peardropspreschool.com

Follow us on Facebook:

[@peardropspreschool](https://www.facebook.com/peardropspreschool) and/or [@playclosepreschool](https://www.facebook.com/playclosepreschool)

Purton Village Diary - May 2020

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

How to join in the 10.30am Services

Please use this link from 10.20am:

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

Meeting ID: 549 593 510

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

Dial

EITHER 0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

OR 0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

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

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

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

| | | |
|-------|---------|---------------------------|
| 3 Su | 10.30am | St Mary's Zoom service |
| 8 F | | Early Spring bank holiday |
| 10 Su | 10.30am | St Mary's Zoom service |
| 17 Su | 10.30am | St Mary's Zoom service |
| 24 Su | 10.30am | St Mary's Zoom service |
| 25 M | | Spring bank holiday |
| 31 Su | 10.30am | St Mary's Zoom service |

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

- Close all halls - 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, 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

www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton Village Diary - when life returns to normal

Every week

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

Every month

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1st Wednesday | 10.00am | Story Time at Purton Library for pre-school children |
| 2nd Wednesday | (except Aug) 2.30pm | Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church |
| 2nd & 4th Tuesday | 10.00am | Purton Probus meet in the Red House lounge |
| 2nd & 4th Tuesday | | Purton Silver Threads meet at the Silver Threads Hall |
| 3rd Monday | | St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church |
| 3rd Tuesday | | Royal British Legion meet at the Red House |
| 3rd Wednesday | 2.15pm | Rhyme Time at Purton Library for babies, toddlers and their carers |
| | 7.30pm | Purton Evening WI meet at the Silver Threads Hall |

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



Our village magazine is distributed to households and local retailers within Purton and surrounding communities. To promote your business in a display advertisement please email: advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk or call 01793 772954. Community and not-for-profit organisations can publicise their events free of charge. If you would like to become a Purton Magazine subscriber, please contact Sandra Horsnall, distribution co-ordinator, tel: 01793 770157 or email: distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk



Have you read a book that you will always remember, either recently or many years ago, serious or funny, fact or fiction? Each month we are publishing a review of a book that has meant a lot to a particular reader, especially the reason why it was so memorable. Purton Magazine readers are encouraged to send in a personal review of their favourite book; it need not be very long. As usual, the copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on Page 4.

A Book I will Always Remember

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



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.

A Climate of Fear by Fred Vargas

Fred Vargas is a Historian and Archaeologist by profession, and is now a best-selling novelist and a four times winner of the CAN (CWA?) International Dagger. The original French text has been brilliantly translated by Sian Reynolds, a former professor at the University of Sterling.

This book is part a detective story, in part an historic thesis, and in part natural history. It has a driving momentum but is much more than a summer page turner. Its descriptions capture much of the French lifestyle. Its characters are real people, who interact with each other, and who reveal more of themselves as the story...with all its surprising twists...develops. Read it once to enjoy, twice to savour and then to keep and revisit as a friend.

Initially there are three seemingly unrelated deaths which senior police take at face value as suicide, and therefore as closed cases. However, the discovery of a letter from the first victim to the family of the second victim, together with a mystery symbol left at the location of each death, prompts Commissaire Adamsberg to investigate whether those are in fact murders and if they might even be linked.

Two of the victims were members of an ill-fated expedition ten years earlier to the small "Fox" islet, close to the island of Grimsey, on the Arctic Circle, off the north coast of Iceland. Of the very mixed group of eleven on the expedition, two were

reported to have been murdered during the two week period they were trapped on Fox islet by thick fog. One of these, Marie Adelaide Masfauvre, was there with her husband Henri.

Henri Masfauvre is now a successful and very wealthy chemist working on the removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere. He lives on an estate close to Paris, along with his son Amedee, secretary Victor, stud manager Palletier and house keeper Celeste. Each of these are significant characters, each with their own backstory, and are critical in the jigsaw puzzle which Adamsberg's case is becoming.

Henri also proves to be a very generous philanthropist funding 'An Association for the study of the writings of Maximilian Robespierre'. Its 680 members are anonymous, some ninety percent are professional and amateur historians, some are descendants of the 'guillotined'. At their regular meetings they dress in 18th century costumes and re-enact sessions of the 1784 Revolutionary National Assembly, frequently igniting uncontrollable passions. Its president Francois Chateau contacts Adamsberg concerning the recent deaths of four of his members, all of whom had also been members of the Iceland expedition.

Adamsberg now has two main leads to follow, the Icelandic expedition, and the Robespierre Association. And this against 'A Climate of Fear' amongst the surviving members of the Expedition and amongst the leading members of the Association.

Adamsberg lives with his son, grew up in the Pyrenees, values his country routes, but is also comfortable in Paris. He is very much his own man. He retains and considers all the facts, does not discard possibilities, rejects conventional wisdoms, and does not respond to criticisms of his meandering thoughts. He 'sees' clearly and makes good portraits in pen and watercolours of possible suspects. His department has 23 members and there are thumbnail sketches of nine, and particular roles for the intelligent academic Adrien Danglard, the sensitive 110kg Violette Retancourt and Reyrene/Teyrene/Veyrene. Adamsberg is both a team leader and a team player. He considers this case to be a Gordian Knot, like tangled seaweed, to be teased apart one thread at a time. Yet he has patience, if there's no 'movement' in the case, he can wait, knowing that some will occur.

The three founding members of the Robespierre Association, the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer become central. To what extent is President Chateau acting as Robespierre or is he a direct descendant of 'The Incorruptible'? Le Blond the Treasurer plays the role of the aggressive Fouche, and the burly Lebrun, the secretary, complete with his stick, is probably, Adamsberg believes, a psychiatrist in real life. Their initial response to the murders is "too co-ordinated for good". Yet he leaves Danglard to lead the team and watch for developments.

Adamsberg has an 'itch', believing there may be something to learn in Iceland. He persuades Violette Retancourt and Keyrene to accompany him to Grimsey Island. There the locals believe the 'Demon of the Living Dead' – Afturganga? – lives on the Islet of Fox and refuse to go there. The trio of police make their own way to the islet

and discover several missing pieces of the jigsaw.

To say much more would spoil your enjoyment of the book. However eventually two of Adamsberg's portraits allow the murderer to be positively identified. In the best tradition there is a confrontation between the murderer and Adamsberg on the Maufavre estate, and finally a Poirot-like debrief of his departmental team.

None of the above does any justice to the complexity of the tightly woven plot, nor to the beautifully atmospheric writing. Discover it for yourself.

Tony Williams

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.

Margaret Bailey

Jan and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and best wishes after the loss of my mum Mrs Margaret Bailey. She loved living in Purton and attending the various clubs and functions. Even at

the age of 96 she had so many friends and always looked forward to the coach trips and outings. A big thank you from us for caring for the seniors so well here in Purton.

David J Bailey

Purton Annual Flower Arts Craft & Produce Show

Since submitting last month's entry, informing you of all our plans, it is with regret that the Committee has decided to cancel our forthcoming show in August. Due to the restrictions imposed, we are unable to undertake the necessary preparations required to stage the show.

We have a provisional date for next year of 21st August 2021

I'm sure lots of you are being very creative with your time, whether it be cooking, growing, crafting or photography whilst staying at home. We all look forward to seeing you next year. Keep well, be positive and carry on.

With our best wishes to you all.

Lorna Robinson-Wardle

Show Secretary 01793 778013 or 3rwardles@gmail.com



This photo was taken at 3.15pm on what would have been the last day of term before the Easter holidays. The playground would normally be filled with parents and excited children looking forward to their two week break. Instead it was eerily empty and quiet.

St Mary's Primary School

As I write, the school is currently closed to most children. However, each day we have a dedicated team of staff working on a rota system to ensure that we can provide care for the children of Key Workers. At St Mary's we are so proud to be able to play our small part in helping the fight against Covid-19. We extend our sincere thanks to all those in our community who are working hard on the frontline to ensure that we are safe and well cared for.

Whilst our school building may be closed to most pupils, St Mary's carries on ☆shining brightly☆ with our Home Learning Hub virtual school! We have moved quickly to put learning online and to stay in touch with our families.

What are we providing to support learning at home?

Teachers are busy making sure there is a manageable variety of activities to keep learning alive, bodies active and brains engaged whilst their classes are learning at home. Pages 'go live' each Sunday at 4pm with updates made regularly. Children can check back each day, as extra guidance, answers to questions and other help may have been added. Mr Payne and myself also have a page where we share assemblies and other special messages. This is also a page where children can find a link to email us if they need to.

To access the learning children simply click on their Year Group in the 'Home Learning Hub' and they'll be able to view their page which contains:

- Messages from the class teachers, in text, audio and video;
- A special contact email address so they can respond to questions from children about the learning activities, get updates on how children are doing and what they're up to;

-
- A manageable variety of work to keep the children's key skills sharp whilst they're not in school;
 - Suggested activities to keep physically active;
 - Some additional links to good-quality educational websites if parents or children are seeking more learning opportunities.

We are so impressed with how our children and families have adapted to this new way of learning. We have loved receiving emails and photos of the work they have been doing. The children at St Mary's shine brightly with their home learning too.

We don't know yet whether we will be back in school by the time the magazine is published. However, I would like to extend my thanks to all those who have been involved with St Mary's during this time: children, parents, staff, governors and all our friends in the community. I have been reminded time and again of the values that are so important to our school and how these have been shown in our local community, through the actions of those who are selflessly helping others – Thank you

I wish you all the very best in these uncertain times.

Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher

Christian Aid

In the last Purton Magazine I wrote that Christian Aid Week this year has been postponed, because of the virus.



As you know, it usually takes place in May. But we feel that the need to support people in the most deprived areas of the world is as great as ever. They too are experiencing the horror of the Coronavirus, just as we are, but with no NHS, limited clean water and few opportunities for nutritious foods to help them through the crisis, as well as the threats of being in war zones.

Maybe, in spite of our fears and concerns, we need to be encouraged to look beyond our own immediate troubled situation here in Purton, to consider others in our wider family who are struggling even more.

So the Christian Aid theme is Love Never Fails

We have decided to go ahead with some activities during May and June to keep children and grown ups occupied. This year in Purton we are calling it THE BIG ASK. We have set an ambitious but achievable target of £3000, about half of what we raised last year. By joining in the various activities, buying a quiz, growing a sunflower or just putting by the money you might have spent at our curry night, breakfast etc. or popped in the red envelope we hope to hit our target. We understand for many people things are really difficult, so if you want to join in but can't spare any cash we understand.

- The tallest sunflower. Grow from seeds you may already have at home, or you could pick up a seed from Libbie (20 Hoggs Lane) for a suggested donation of 25p. If lockdown is still with us in August send a photo of your sunflower, with a

donation if possible. Tell us how tall it is and maybe include a photo with some sort of measuring device just in case we have a tie break! If lockdown is over then we will be out and about with our tape measure! A small prize for the winner. More details in the June magazine.

- Make a money container. This could be a box, purse or a bag made of anything! Knitted, plastic milk bottle or even sticky back plastic, the list is endless. A lovely family project, a prize for the most ingenious or creative container. The idea is to make the container which can be used for saving money for Christian Aid wherever possible.
- There will be the usual brainteaser from Libbie (!!) which is £2 with a cash prize. The theme this year is ANIMALS. To comply with social distancing and help raise money for Christian Aid, you can enter our online quiz on UK CATHEDRALS. If you email rickdixonmail@gmail.com we will send you a link to the quiz in Google Forms which you can fill in online and then submit electronically. Children can explore the answers on google. A paper version is available if you do not have computer facilities. To obtain this ring Libbie: 01793 771018. We ask for a minimum £1 donation www.justgiving.com/fundraising/purtoncagroup or a £1 coin in an envelope (with name etc) through the door at 20 Hoggs Lane. Any other quiz ideas would be gratefully received.
- Plants for sale. These will be at Mary's house near the Church: Vegetables and flowers have all been planted in readiness! Mary is raising money for three different charities including Christian Aid, St Mary's Church and Smash, a mentoring organisation in Swindon! Mary will let it be known when her plants are ready, probably mid-May. And if anyone wants to donate more plants... as you sort out your own gardens!.. please offer them to Mary as well. We shall be grateful for any and all contributions for the funds.

These are strange and challenging times for us all, so we have had to think 'out of the box'! If anyone has any other fundraising ideas that fit in with our current lifestyle please get in touch. We have a Just Giving page (www.justgiving.com/fundraising/purtoncagroup) so any money you have saved could be donated that way or just hold onto any cash until we are able to move around freely and we can collect it or you can deliver. We have also set up a Facebook page: facebook.com/Purton-Christian-Aid-Group

Please contact Libbie Sheppard 771018 email: libbie@sheppard.org or Mary Hodges 770505. More updates and information will be in the June magazine. Thank you so much. Take care and stay safe.

Purton Christian Aid Team

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: Kibblewhite Close, Proud Close, Reids Piece, The Peak, Willis Way, Long Acre, High Street, College Road, Hooks Hill, (and from Ridgeway Farm) The Brook, Webb's Place and New Reed

Outreach Purton

The Outreach Purton Group was set up in January 2020 by Theresa Whittington who had the forethought to fill the gap left by the Purton Helping Hand, and it has really come into its own during the challenging times we are now experiencing. The group operates through Facebook and local volunteers join to offer their help to others in the village. Over 300 people have come forward to help those in need and the group is registered with Wiltshire Council as an official Covid-19 volunteer organisation.

Outreach Purton is working closely with other village organisations including Purton Parish Council, St Mary's Primary School, Age Concern and Purton Surgery, plus local Food Banks, Wiltshire Council Wootton Bassett and Cricklade area team, and volunteer groups in neighbouring communities.

The Outreach Purton helpline number (772954) is available 7 days a week, calls and messages will be answered by me, Heather; I will then pass on details to either the relevant organisation or an Outreach volunteer depending on the enquiry.

To date over 30 calls for help from local residents (Purton and Purton Stoke to Mouldon View and Ridgeway Farm) have been answered with the majority of requests being for help with shopping or collecting prescriptions.

As community volunteers cannot be subjected to the usual DBS checks before undertaking any work, Wiltshire Council has published volunteer guidelines and all those receiving our help must complete a consent form, allowing a volunteer to shop/collect prescriptions etc on their behalf. All volunteers must adhere to the Government's advice and maintain social distancing at all times.

At the end of March, Purton Parish Council published an information flyer with details of what to do and who to call if you need assistance, these were distributed to the village shops still open at this time. Five hundred flyers were also delivered to our most vulnerable residents with the April issue of this magazine and I'd like to personally thank, on behalf of the Purton Magazine committee, all of our dedicated delivery volunteers who helped get this information out to those in isolation. Special thanks go to Jenny Kinnett and Kate South who volunteered to do Jean Townsend's magazine deliveries in New Road and Widham, while Jean was isolating.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our community who has come forward and offered their time, skills and help to those in need, especially those who've found themselves out of work as businesses have seen a financial downturn, or doing their best to work from home whilst home-schooling their children. Putting the needs of others before their own, is a trait all too familiar amongst the residents of this village and it's appreciated more than ever during these worrying and uncertain times.

We also need to show our appreciation for all those working on the front line during this pandemic; at Purton Farm Shop, One Stop and the Co-op, and all the wonderful

doctors, nurses and staff at Purton Surgery. The teachers and staff at St Mary's and Bradon Forest Schools who have been providing schooling for the children of key workers, and homeschooling resources for parents. All putting themselves at increased risk, to help the community.

And Revds Ian Tweedie-Smith, Judith Wells and David Perkins for finding new ways to continue church services and offering prayers and spiritual support, which many are finding a real comfort.

So however you have managed to adapt to a new 'normal', whether through Joe Wicks' daily PE lessons, Zoom church services, virtual pub quizzes, online theatre performances, virtual choirs or talking to family and friends through video calls, please follow Government advice and don't put yourselves or others at risk.

In the words of Queen Elizabeth II (abridged):

...“I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge. And those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any.

That the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet good-humoured resolve and of fellow-feeling still characterise this country. The pride in who we are is not a part of our past, it defines our present and our future.

The moments when the United Kingdom has come together to applaud its care and essential workers will be remembered as an expression of our national spirit; and its symbol will be the rainbows drawn by children.

Across the Commonwealth and around the world, we have seen heart-warming stories of people coming together to help others, be it through delivering food parcels and medicines, checking on neighbours, or converting businesses to help the relief effort.

And though self-isolating may at times be hard, many people of all faiths and of none, are discovering that it presents an opportunity to slow down, pause and reflect, in prayer or meditation.”...

...“While we have faced challenges before, this one is different.

This time we join with all nations across the globe in a common endeavour, using the great advances of science and our instinctive compassion to heal. We will succeed - and that success will belong to every one of us.

We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again.”...

Stay at home, Protect the NHS, Save lives.

Heather Ponting-Bather, Outreach Purton helpline 772954

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

Our March meeting was due just as the Coronavirus pandemic was taking hold in the UK and we decided to hold it on Zoom instead of meeting in the pub. One thing's for sure in this crisis – we're all learning new skills! It was actually very easy to follow the link on a laptop or phone and, apparently you can even use a landline to listen in.

This meeting was headlined by guest speakers from Crapper and Sons Landfill Ltd who are based on the Brinkworth Road. The landfill site has just two more years to run and they began by explaining measures being taken to reduce recent smells that have been a problem for landfill sites nationally this year due to heavy rain (by the way, if you are lucky enough to have a garden, the best way to prevent smells at landfill sites to compost your vegetable wastes – we can help if you need some know how!)

They then went on to outline a very exciting project that they have been developing for several years to make use of the site once the landfill has been completed. We were the first audience to hear their announcement to start a Community Interest Company to grow multi-crop vegetables under flexible greenhouses built on top of the capped landfill. The greenhouses will be heated with warm water extracted from their waste energy plant and the vegetables will be grown in their green waste compost.

The project will provide jobs and grow food for local people and it will eliminate the need for long distance transport and warehousing. If you grow food locally there is no need for storage during distribution and crops can be harvested as they ripen, rather than picking them early to ripen during transport. That way you get a much better taste and the vegetables have more nutrition.

The current pandemic has highlighted the fragility of our modern food system. Panic buying stripped supermarket shelves and caused huge stress to low income families who couldn't afford to bulk buy. This project is a welcome addition to our local food supply making us more self-sufficient in good times and bad. One positive out of this dire situation is the resurgence of interest in locally produced food and we hope it will continue. It will take time but in the long term, food needs to become more localised across the world and small producers need support to be able to do this.

Other Environmental positives include the reduction in pollution and noise caused by the lack of traffic and it has been noted around the world how quickly nature returns once we stop our damaging activities. I don't think it's done much for our efforts to reduce plastic though, sadly, because of the need for protective clothing for front line workers. And apparently, we use a lot more energy when at home than at work.

The biggest positive that I see, however, is the way communities are coming together to support the NHS and front line workers, and people are putting themselves

forward to volunteer their help. It reminds me of a very humbling experience I had when I used to give school assemblies on recycling. I was addressing a school in Swindon that had attained Eco School status and my first question to them was “What did you do to get your Green Flag?” I was expecting them to say they’d reduced their use of paper and fitted energy saving light bulbs, etc., but instead a very small boy in the front row answered, “We are learning to care about each other”.

Wow! That totally sums it up. This invisible virus that has us gripped in a state of fear and economic worry has many similarities to the invisible nature of our environmental crisis. The sun is shining and the birds are singing, and yet we know that people are dying. It’s only by each of us giving what we can that we are going to come through this and, hopefully, prevent other catastrophes in the future.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st April at 7.30 p.m. We’ll be discussing how we can restore nature and increase biodiversity in our area.

Due to the coronavirus, we will be continuing to hold our meeting online using Zoom, a video and audio conferencing platform. You can use a computer, smartphone or even a landline. Zoom is easy to install and use. If you haven’t used it before, the link will be live at 7.15 p.m. with one of our members there to offer online support. Our meeting will start at 7.30 p.m. We’ll start by discussing project updates before moving on to our main topic of rewilding in Royal Wootton Bassett.

Everyone is welcome. So please join us from the comfort of your own home.

For more information go to <http://ecorwb.org> or ring me to find out more. We also have an active Facebook Page – search Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group and join the many Purtonians taking part in discussions.

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



Pictured: Volunteer Lorna helping distribute food boxes to people who cannot leave their homes

The other side of the gate

How things can change in such a short time is incredible. I don't think we knew much about the impending pandemic that was about to change all our lives when I wrote last.

A month ago, farming and farmers were on the backlash of a global drive to blame us for just about everything (yes, that's how it feels sometimes). CO2 emissions, wildlife destruction, antibiotic resistance, animal welfare, and I'm sure a few more! I don't think I need to say that the anti-farming narrative has changed somewhat in the last few weeks. The silence is deafening and tells a great story! The rivers in Venice are clear with fish repopulating, for the first time children in Chinese cities can now see the stars, the CO2 in the atmosphere is declining rapidly, and the hole in the ozone layer appears to be healing, all with the same number of cows burping and farting! I do hope the dots get joined up and the general public realise that agriculture, especially in the UK and Europe, has been given a hard wrap when, in reality, the impact of transport is the real driver of global emissions. People out of their cars, globally, is having a dramatic effect.

Whilst it seems like I'm on a rant this month, it feels like perfect timing to point out how woefully inadequate the national food chains coped with the irrational panic buying of food and toiletries. Toiletries do not interest me, but food does. The 'just in time' model employed by the supermarkets works magnificently when all the cogs are working and nothing disrupts the buying psyche of their customers. As soon as there is a blip, it fails, and it fails quite badly. We've seen it before with the Beast from the East causing people to panic buy and the stores were not restocked quickly.

The increase in customers we've seen these last few weeks has been a welcome boost to our finances, but even we can't keep up! We're selling out of milk most days and we've had to ration the eggs. I can't squeeze the cows and chickens hard enough!

It's been interesting talking to the new customers. It appears that news is getting out that raw milk and free range eggs can boost immunity. I know it's something I bang on about a lot when I'm talking to people, but it seems more people are realising that processed food and refined sugar does not make for a good immune system.

Before the current Covid crisis developed we sent a survey out to our regular customers asking why they buy from us. Some of these customers travel sixty miles to collect our milk, and indeed, the irony surrounding food miles and emissions is not lost on us. The overriding reason for purchase was 'gut health'. We thought the 'gut health' choice would accompany some underlying digestive issues, but that is not the case: over 70% of our customers buy for 'gut health' reasons and only 30% actually have any issues. So, prevention is better than cure, but the cure works too! These are really interesting results for us. The second most popular reason was 'to support a local farming business', and then 'animal welfare'. We also enquired if local

delivery would be of interest and again, surprisingly, only 10% said they would be interested. I'm sure if we resent the survey now, the delivery question would have a different answer!



We're currently halfway through this spring calving. Twelve cows have calved with thirteen to go. We now have a good crop of blue calves running around causing mayhem! Now the cows are out to grass, the smaller calves can run under the electric fencing – we're finding them everywhere!

We have been harrowing the fields in preparation for silaging. Harrowing breaks up the muck that has been spread and removes the thatch in the bottom of the sward. This helps the soil to breathe, which in turn will help the grass to grow and, with help from the weather, we should get a good crop.

The field we reseeded at Restrop has failed, unless of course dead nettle and chickweed was the target crop! We will be addressing the weed problem and rectifying it with new seed. It's a shame it didn't take and the extra cost isn't welcome.

Jonathan Cook

Beneath the Wool

Well I can officially say that lambing is now in full swing and as I write this I'm getting ready to go and do my last check of the night before bed. From the 17th March, I started doing a last check on the sheep at night, as there was one sheep due earlier than the rest, or so I thought at least; I'm still waiting now. This meant visiting the field they were in every night just to check there hadn't been one born. Then on the 29th March I got all the sheep back to the shed ready for lambing as it's easier to sort out a problem there if you need to. They all loaded very well and found their new accommodation comfortable, which is good as that's what it is going to be until they've had their lambs.

On the first day of April we officially started lambing with a set of twins in the morning followed by another set of twins in the afternoon. This was slightly early as they weren't due until the 4th and I was still waiting for the early one. The following day I had two singles and on the Friday, a day of rest before the storm. From the Saturday, it was officially the busiest week lambing I've ever had! There were lambs and ewes everywhere and it soon got to the point where there weren't any pens available. This meant it was a scrabble most nights that week to get ewes and lambs out into the field ready for the next lot and this routine went on for several days.



The 8th of April was my birthday! However, there was no time for birthday celebrations as this was the busiest day of them all! Six lambs were born throughout the day and it was another late finish getting some of them out into the field to make space. One poor pedigree had to stay out of a pen and wait till I'd freed some up for her to go in.

By the end of this week there are only seven ewes left to lamb out of 28 and they seem to be the 'hangers on', as there are quiet days or only one lamb a day, which does take some of the pressure off.

It was such a shame to have to cancel the lambing afternoon this year but was

certainly the right thing to do and will try our best to make next year even better and hopefully the sun will be shining as it would have been this year had we been able to go ahead. I also apologise that last month there wasn't much content, especially due to the open day having to be cancelled. Through the winter months there usually isn't much going on as they are just left to eat grass in a field, but I hope this month was a bit more exciting reading for you! I look forward to letting you know the progress on the lambs next month, and if you're on your daily exercise, then have a look over the fence from the footpath to see the growing flock.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton

Red House Club and Village Centre

At the time of writing this update we are still in the middle of the lockdown, with no immediate sign of that coming to an end. Maybe at the time of reading this the situation has hopefully improved, and village life has returned to some form of normality.

Along with many other clubs and pubs everything has come to a grinding halt. Live music being cancelled, groups have cancelled their regular get togethers and teams have postponed their various sporting events. Looking ahead, who knows what else we at the Red House will have to cancel. Certainly at the time of writing this, the Hog Roast is looking extremely doubtful and almost certainly will be cancelled. If this is the case we still want to put on a great day to potentially replace this event, which I know was such a great success when it was held at the Red House Village Centre for the first time last year. So what we propose is a celebration of getting life back to normal by putting on an event similar to the Hog Roast and encouraging participation from all the various clubs and groups that use the Red House Village Centre, so watch this space.

On a final note, the Red House committee wish to pass on their thanks to all the NHS staff, care workers and every other person providing essential services for their hard work, skill and dedication which should be an inspiration to us all.

Richard Griffin, Chairman of Red House

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.

Keeping Purton Magazine sustainable

In the March editorial we mentioned that the magazine finances are projected to decline quite seriously towards the end of this year. The main change is that many advertisers are not renewing their advertisements. The most often reason given is that these days they are concentrating their advertising spend on the internet and the current economic climate is not helping that either.

The magazine committee has been working hard on three ways to rebalance the finances. Firstly – and as previously mentioned – we have already reduced the production costs and have moved to a different paper stock for the pages. Secondly we plan to improve our offer to advertisers by building a new website that will include all the advertisements from the printed magazine each month. Additionally a searchable database has been included in the costings for the project to help anyone looking for a local service or supplier, rather than having to ask around. A grant application has been submitted to Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board for their consideration, along with several recommendations from local residents.

The third way is that we are going to have to increase the cover price. The current 50p only contributes 30% to the cost of each copy. We will also have to increase the annual subscription with effect from 1st January 2021. Before then we are considering increasing the cover price perhaps once in the coming couple of months and maybe again at the end of the year to fall in line with an increased subscription.

None of these measures are what we would have wanted to do, but such are the high levels of support for the magazine, we do hope that you can appreciate our predicament. Please be assured that we will only do what we believe is really necessary to be able to continue producing and publishing your magazine and we would be pleased to include any comments from readers in future issues.

Francis Sheppard, Treasurer.

World War II veteran proves age is no barrier

At the time of going to print the nation is applauding not only our frontline workers, but also the heroic efforts of 99-year-old World War II veteran Capt. Tom Moore. Capt Tom, originally from Yorkshire, completed 100 laps of his 25m (82ft) garden with the aid of a walking frame, at the home he shares with his daughter and grandchildren in Bedfordshire. He was aiming to complete 100 laps before his 100th birthday on 30th April and raise money for the NHS.

To date he has raised a staggering £27 million, with over a million donations made by people around the world, including celebrities and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The Duke described him as a “One-man fundraising machine”.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment formed a guard of honour as Tom completed his final laps on 16th April, and a call from over half a million people has been made for the Queen to knight him in her birthday honours.

Purton Cricket Club



This season, the two hundredth of the club, was going to be one of celebration with the highlight a match against the MCC but the Coronavirus outbreak means all grassroots cricket has been cancelled for the foreseeable future. It is hoped that some matches will be able to take place later in the summer.

Once we do start the season perhaps we should try and emulate the Purton team of the 15th June 1985 who managed to beat their opposition, Hinton Charterhouse, in a match that lasted just 15.4 overs! Batting first Hinton managed the meagre score of 10, yes 10, all out! Starring in the bowling stakes were Robert Preddy who bowled 7 overs and took 4 wickets for 2 runs and Nick Munton who bowled 4.4 overs and took 5 wickets for 6 runs.

The Purton openers Mark Collier and Mike Booth took just 7 balls to reach the target being helped by one of the opening bowlers who sent down 4 wides!

If we could guarantee so short games we could schedule a couple of games in an afternoon!

I will finish with a couple of comments and descriptions about cricket:

Cricket (as explained to a foreign visitor)

You have two sides - one out in the field and one in.

Each man that's in the side that's in goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out.

When they are all out the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those out coming in out.

Sometimes you get men still in and not out.

When both sides have been in and out including the not outs - THAT'S THE END OF THE GAME

The Faddist

There was an old man of Bengal
Who purchased a bat and ball
Some gloves and some pads
It was one of his fads
For he never played cricket at all.

From 'Cricket: a very peculiar History' by Jim Pipe

He played cricket on the Heath
The pitch was full of bumps
A fast ball hit him in the teeth
The dentist drew the stumps

Anon

Joe Gardner, 770681

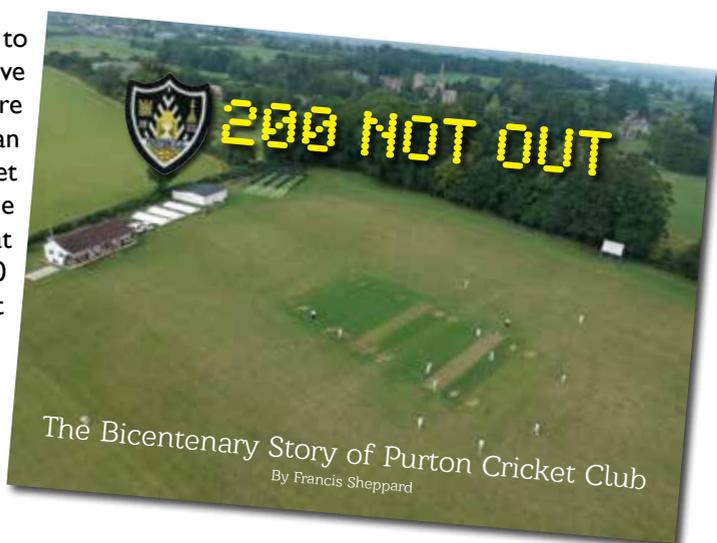
Purton CC Bicentenary

It is most unfortunate that the coronavirus has put paid to so many plans, especially to celebrate Purton Cricket Club's Bicentenary. Regular readers may recall that a book entitled '200 Not Out' was published at the end of last year. While waiting

for any cricket to start, the book has been reviewed by the Reviews Editor of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians (ACS) and this review will start appearing in printed cricket magazines shortly.

“In 200 Not Out (paperback, pp105, £10 + £2 postage from the author at francis.sheppard@live.com, tel 01793 771018, 20 Hoggs Lane, Purton, Wiltshire SN5 4BU) Francis Sheppard looks at the distinguished history of Purton Cricket Club, one that may not be familiar to many readers, but one that in its day was famous for being the home club of E.H.Budd, one of the foremost cricketers of the early nineteenth century and the subject of an early sporting book, Sportascrapiana, while the writer of another early book on cricket, Rev James Pycroft, also played at Purton. The inventor of pads, according to Wisden’s ‘Dates in Cricket History’, one H.Daubeny of Oxford, was a Purton man (and it is surprising to read an extract from an account of a match from about 1850 in which the long-stop was apparently armed with pads and gloves, making that fielder sound very similar to a modern wicketkeeper). While the early nineteenth century may perhaps be seen as Purton’s glory years, the club has remained in good health throughout most of its history, occasionally supplying players to the first-class game (most recently Craig Miles, now of Warwickshire). A period of decline in the late nineteenth century was addressed by generous donations from the local ‘squire’, James Sadler, who among other donations purchased the club’s ground and then presented it to the club as a ‘gift for all time’. The book traces the club history from its earliest days to its current position, with a mixture of narrative and anecdote, aided by liberal illustrations and reproductions of documents including a scorecard from a match in 1975 when a Purton bowler had figures of 10-14. All proceeds from this worthy venture will go towards the club’s pavilion fund.”

It is very heartening to receive such a positive independent review. There is also the likelihood of an article about Purton cricket club in the June issue of The Cricketer magazine that reaches over 6,000,000 enthusiasts through print and digital channels each month and is read by both professional and amateur players. More details in the June issue of Purton Magazine.



Hello from The Cedars Care Home



Technology has its good side

We have helped many residents to have phone calls and face time with friends and family. Sadly, some residents can't comprehend what's happening regarding the lock down, so at least with an iPad we keep them in touch with their families. We are continuing to make everyone's time with us as happy and varied as possible as the coronavirus continues to unsettle us all. I'm doing our weekly 'keep fit' and my googled research on chair-based Tia Chi sessions is being well received. So right now, technology really is a good thing.

Keeping things normal is a struggle

Even though families were definitely missed, Mother's Day was a lovely time, and clearly the buffet, provided by the kitchen team, was delicious as there were hardly any leftovers! With some staff self isolating, all staff at Cedars are pulling together to keep things as normal as possible. We have managed a few outings into the garden now that the weather has improved, and we are making plans for a gardening club and skittle sessions to happen during good weather. We are chatting with residents and encouraging them into card games, scrabble, dominos etc. in the hope of getting them together on a regular basis. This is a challenge, especially when we're short staffed. Bingo continues to be enjoyed, though we do miss our family helpers, as keeping track of several bingo cards and making sure residents have spotted their numbers is quite a feat! Our nail bar pamper sessions are proving very popular and present us with a lovely time to have a personal chat. Both our ladies and gents enjoy a nice manicure although none of the chaps have elected to have their nails painted so far!

Trips and travel on hold

Needless to say, the monthly trips to the memory singing sessions at the Wyvern and the cinema at the Arts Centre have been stopped. However, we do try to hold a singing session two to three times a week. Sadly, though we activities girls are tone deaf; I do feel for the residents and carers who put up with us! Good news though, we have plans to hold our own Memory Cinema and no we won't be acting or improvising this... thankfully! Our first showing is to be the original Dad's Army movie. We plan to dress up as '50s Usherettes with pill box hats and trays of popcorn to hand out during the performance. We'll let you know how it goes next month and of course we'll take pictures!

Now with brighter days and Easter celebrations happening hopefully our next newsletter will be all things bright and beautiful. Right now, with the virus in full swing, once again I propose we adopt Lance Corporal Jones' mantra – "Don't Panic!" Stay healthy.

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



At the meeting on the 11th March, Richard Rickitt, a qualified Beekeeper and the seventh editor of the magazine “Bee Craft” – now in its 101st year – gave a fascinating talk; “All about Bees”.

Bee keeping, for the purpose of harvesting honey, has gone on for at least 4,500 years. The hieroglyphics of ancient Egypt show many examples of this. The method of using clay pipes to create the hives is still in use today and barges, stacked with such pipes, move along the Nile to synchronize with the successive blooming of the spring flowers. The Mediaeval method of farming honey used the Skep, a dome-shaped inverted basket of straw or wicker. Immigrants to the ‘new world’ are known to have carried dormant bee colonies in skeps to new countries in order to make honey.

The honeybee is an extraordinary and incredible creature. Each of its compound eyes, to the right and left of its head, have several thousand separate lenses, which can be programmed to select a particular colour and are especially receptive to the ultraviolet light reflected from flowers. The bee can remember colour images, especially those in relation to the position of its hive, and can record them 15 times faster than a human. The bee also has three single lens eyes, on the top of its head, which are used for orientation and navigation. These detect and register the direction and altitude of the Sun and even on a cloudy day, can pick up on u.v. light from the sun. With the passing of time when foraging, the honeybee can make allowance for the sun’s movement and accurately judge its flight distance from the hive. The two antennae of a honeybee have 10,000 preceptors which detect pheromones, allowing it to communicate with other members of the bee colony. Bees use varying pheromone messages to interact with the queen and each other, and to manage the organization of the hive. The mandibles of the honeybee are an all-purpose tool used for a whole range of activities; chewing its way out of its birth cell, cleaning and polishing the cell, manipulating wax to build and repair cells, supporting its proboscis when transferring nectar and honey from one bee to another, and feeding the larvae in the cells of the honeycomb prior to pupation. Other features of the honeybee’s anatomy are equally ingenious. The thorax has a honey-stomach, forward of its digestive system, which holds the collected nectar and by adding enzymes begins to convert it to honey. Pollen, deposited on the hairs of the bee’s body, is swept and compressed by leg movements into pollen sacks formed by stiff hairs on its lower hind legs. Pollen is used as a nutrient, the vitamins and protein needed by young bees and maturing worker bees. Beeswax is produced by honeybees as a secretion from eight glands on the underside of its abdomen. The wax accumulates in flakes and is chewed, with pollen and honey into a malleable material which becomes the honeycomb of the hive. To establish a bee colony in a man-made hive to produce honey, it is necessary to capture a wild or escaped swarm. A swarm or colony is made up of three types of bee; a single female queen

bee, a seasonally variable number of male drones (200 to 2000) to fertilize new queens and 20,000 to 40,000 female worker bees.

Leaving the hive, a foraging bee collects sugar-rich flower-nectar, sucking it through its proboscis and placing it in its honey stomach, where it starts its journey to become honey. The forager bees then return to the hive, where they regurgitate and transfer nectar to the hive bees. Hive bees then use their honey stomachs to ingest and regurgitate the nectar several times to reduce the water content and process the nectar into pure honey. The bees work together as a group and one delivery can take as long as 20 minutes, before the honey is sealed into a cell. On average a hive will produce about 65lb of honey per year.

Richard's talk also included the mysteries of the favoured Langstroth hive, the subduing and capture of a swarm of bees, the life-cycle of the queen together with her unique ability to determine the numbers and make-up of the whole colony and its regeneration, and the swarm's method of fanning to reduce the water content of the nectar/honey and maintain a constant temperature in the hive of between 32° and 35° Celcius.

At the start of his talk Richard told us that he began his career in 'special effects', 007 Bond style, but he now writes on the subject of honeybees and manages 30 hives of his own. His understanding of the 'special effects' of Bees and Honey is inspiring. Perhaps some of us Probus members are not too old to have a go!

I regret to inform readers that Purton Probus Club members have gone into lockdown and the above is the last report for the time being.

Bob Stevens

Purton Tennis Club

I am writing this piece on Tuesday, 7th April 2020. Outside it is lovely. The birds are singing. The sun is shining. Our courts are looking great and ready for play. But we are not playing.

The Coronavirus has spread quickly across the world, affecting everyone, everywhere. We had great plans for the coming season, but in accordance with the government guidelines, all recreation, including tennis, is cancelled. The coaching, the matches and the tournaments – including Wimbledon – have all been postponed.

So sadly, I don't have anything to report today. All I can say is that we truly hope this episode will pass quickly and in the meantime, we are staying home and being patient and looking forward to the time when we will be able to use the courts again, and enjoy the wonderful game that is tennis!

www.purtontennisclub.com

Janet Saunders (secretary) janetcsaunders@gmail.com

Purton Football Club



Well what an eventful 2019/2020 season! Apart from coming to a premature end, it all started off with the sad loss of our leader Alan Eastwood and then the weather playing havoc with our fixtures; constant rain for what seems like months coupled with storms Cara, Dennis and Jorge.

Regardless of all that, we surprisingly completed all our home fixtures bar one as we had approximately six or seven to play away before the season's end.

When the Coronavirus allows us, we now need to get on and do some essential work on the pitch, especially the goalmouths. Purton Parish Council allowed us access to remove the goalposts to avoid social gathering on the Red House pitch and lessen the wear and tear in the goalmouths. We will have the goalmouths re-turfed and portable goals in place for next season, so fundraising or donations will be so important to the future of the club. If you can help in any way, as some people have done so already, including the Parish Council, please contact me by email: terry.crumbie@gmail.com. Your generosity will be most appreciated.

A quick update for our supporters: Liam and Paul have decided to step down from the management team as Liam is now based in Bristol and works in the travel industry, which as we all know, is going through a difficult time. We wish them well and Liam has also offered to assist in finding his replacement and already has given me a couple of names. Just something else for me to get my teeth into when the lockdown is over!

Please all keep safe and well and we will do our best at this end to continue to give Purton a football club to be proud of, on and off the pitch.

Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC

Cricklade Revealed

Stuck at home for a while?

Then why not catch up on reading all about Cricklade's past and its surrounding villages while you can?

Cricklade Revealed booklets are a unique record of social life from the 1920s to 1970 based on the memories of local people. Inside you'll find loads of amusing anecdotes and personal photographs as well as accurate information about the town and its people including from places like Latton, the Leigh and Purton Stoke.

There are 14 books to date (only one more to go!). Individual books are £3.60 each, but complete sets of 14 or any 5 or more bought in a single purchase are only £3.00 each. There are 5 pre-World War 2 books, 5 wartime books and 4 post-war books. If interested, please ring Marion Parsons on 01793 750542 or email mfp Parsons071@btinternet.com. All profits are donated to Cricklade Open Door.
