

Purton. Magazine

May 2019



Hedgerow blossom lines the footpath beside Bradon Forest football pitches, April 2019. Photo: Heather Ponting-Bather

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
<i>Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, (10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Health & Wellbeing Champion	Ellen Blacker	07557 922020
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	Sarah Grigg	978536
<i>(formerly Under 5s')</i>		
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:	Jane Smith:
	770157	772422
Administrator: Rosie Harris	administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk Tel: 773035	
Methodist Churches <i>For information about services in Purton, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine. Braydon: Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship</i>		
Minister: Revd David Perkins	Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw,	
	Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT	
Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett		
www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk		
Priest: Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues	Tel: 852366	
<i>Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm</i>		
Catholic Church - St Mary's Church, High St, Cricklade		
Priest: Father Michael Robertson	Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church	
<i>Services: Holy Days 7.00pm, Sundays 9.30am Mass.</i>		

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www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton. Magazine

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InTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

The front cover of last month's magazine, with all 12 colour reproductions of Andy le Poidevin's original watercolour paintings has attracted a lot of interest. We have received some requests for an enlarged reproduction perhaps as A3 and A4 sized posters. Although production may be a few months away, please contact Heather at In Touch Design & Print (contact details on page 4) to express an interest without obligation so that more accurate costings can be made against realistic quantities and included in next month's magazine: any profits will be donated to charity.

We also understand that this year's Purton Artists' exhibition in November may well include a retrospective of Andy's work and we look forward to publishing more details in future issues of your magazine.

Before then, this issue contains the usual eclectic mix of reports of recent happenings plus details of events to come in our vibrant village. It can be difficult to know how and when to contact a friend or acquaintance who has recently had a hard time of things perhaps with health or relationship issues. From our postbag on page 31 we learn that even just the smallest message with good wishes is very heart-warming and gives the recipient a real lift.

Perhaps that is a lesson for those of us who can be rather reticent about making contact with someone in trouble, often for fear of saying the wrong thing and at the wrong time. In a caring community such as ours, many are already successfully experienced in these matters and others can rest assured that all messages really are gratefully received and provide welcome support. Sometimes the message or good deed is unattributed (see another letter on page 31) but still has the same heart-warming effect, confirming yet again "that Purton is a wonderful place to live."

Contributing to that sentiment are the feast of forthcoming activities and events that we are again pleased to publicise. Highlights include many activities for Christian Aid week (listed on page 45) a Bank Holiday Monday tea party (page 23) several Age Concern events (on page 16) new cooked breakfasts, more summery menu options, a new crochet group and perhaps a new knitting groups, plus the after-school chess and board games club all at Pips Community Café (page 24) and the cricket club fixtures for the month on page 36. Those should put a spring in your step.

4

Stepbrothers listed in the
Obituary for Common
Sense listed
– see page 20

£4

For a cooked breakfast
at Pips Community Café
from May – see menu on
page 24

4

Hireable facilities now
available through the
Parish Council
– see page 6



Community Event – Come Along, all Welcome!

As part of the National Dementia Action week we are holding an event in the Village Hall for all. There will be information stands, cakes, refreshments, raffle, activities for the young and more mature and a chance to show Purton cares. Saturday 25 May from 10am to 2pm, Purton Village Hall.

Next date for Dementia Friends Information Sessions: Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 11am at Pips Community Café.

Community Engagement

This month's question answered by Ray Thomas

“Why are Purton Parish Council paying for a professional review of the Village Hall”?

The Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity (no 203202) is supported financially by the Parish Council through Section 137 donations and has been for numerous years. This financial support is for the administration of the facility and towards ongoing maintenance. Last year 2018/19 the Parish Council supported the charity to the sum of £20,000.

The Institute Building requires extensive work on the listed building side (approximately £50,000) and the village hall requires new windows, heaters and redecoration (approximately £40,000).

As the Parish Council are being asked and expected to consider more financial responsibilities on projects that the village feels important ie: roads/pathways/crossings to cope with additional traffic flow, litter, parking etc they are of the opinion that a review to ascertain the viability of the building moving forward should be carried out and would the funds currently being spent on the hall be better used to benefit the whole village rather than the minimal percentage that utilise this facility currently.

The review has been paid for by the Parish Council not the Charity and is being conducted by a professional person to remove personal opinions from the Trustees. The Village Hall is currently under-utilised at 23% of its capacity and mostly by outside people/groups.

The consultation will form part of a bigger project to ascertain what can be done to increase use, what additional reviews are required, and to determine the need of the facility given that Purton now has three free of charge facilities and four hireable facilities.

Since generation of the response above, the consultation document is now available through the Council office and/or our website under the following link and forms part of the Annual Parish Meeting Report. There are some inaccuracies which the Charities and Council are aware of, however they feel it was important given the timescales of this to ensure it is available to the public. The reported inaccuracies do

not detract from the main points of detailed action that the Charities are required to consider. <https://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Meeting-Diary-2019.aspx>

Brockhust Meadow Orchids

The landowner has generously offered to allow walkers to view the beautiful orchids again this year. Access via Footpath 43 please. The only dates available for viewing are from Monday 17 June until Sunday 23 June 2019. Please respect the landowners' wishes and only view during this period. Thank you.

The Paddock

The public open space known as The Paddock (to the side of the Village Hall), is under review as to its use as a small community outdoor learning space for the young children in the community. The anticipated use is for very small groups, during the spring/summer months, week days only to access the area for outdoor learning; flora and fauna. This project is in the draft stages, however we have taken the steps to fence the banking with a small two bar post and rail fence. If any member of the community would like to assist with small items suitable for the younger generation, such as seeds, pots, small tools usable for small hands (ages 3-4 years) please contact Sarah Grigg at peardropschildcare@hotmail.co.uk or the Clerk at deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

This area will remain locked at all times, with a controlled bookable (FOC) option through the Council for the further education and enhancement of children's lives within Purton, through a structured, group managed activity.

Donations - Working with the community

Purton Parish Council are permitted under Section 137 (1) Local Government Act 1972 to provide donations to groups/causes for new projects within Purton and the surrounding areas, that will be of benefit to all or part of the community (not individuals). This coming financial year 2019/20 the Council have increased its budget to incorporate a larger fund for such groups. A form is available from our website, our offices or via email. For more information please do not hesitate to speak to the Clerk. Donations are considered twice yearly in February and July. www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Financial-Details.aspx

Donations made during 2018/19

- Swindon Dial a Ride £500
- Purton Toddler Group £350
- Wiltshire Fun in the Sun £275
- Purton Cricket Club £200
- Purton Football Club £128
- Swindon and Cricklade Railway £500

Any application to be considered must be submitted to the Council by Tuesday 28 May, at the latest for discussion at the Council meeting to be held on Monday 3rd June 2019. Applications are available on our website or from the Council offices.

Meet your Councillors

A number of Parish Councillors will be available for a chat over a coffee at Pips Community Café on Friday 12th July at 2pm. If you have any concerns that are within the remit of the Parish Council then please come and meet the Councillors and use the amazing community facilities on offer at Pips Community Café.

Purton Youth Club For School Years 4-7

Don't forget to bring your young children along to the Youth Club held on a Wednesday in the Village Hall from 6.15pm to 7.45pm for Purton resident children only.

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

COUNCILLORS 2018-19

Chairman of Council/Charities	Ray Thomas	01793 951520
Finance & General Purposes		
Vice Chair of Council/Chair of Burials	Neil Hooper	01793 771066
Councillor	Helen Hicks	01793 778207
Councillor	Geoff Greenaway	01793 771140
Councillor	Kevin Law	07768 456989
Councillor	Sue Matthews	01793 771091
Chair of Play Areas	Vicky McKerrow	01793 778190
Councillor	Julie Ann Hurwood	01793 771066
Chair of Staff Sub	Paul Grigg	01793 771066
Councillor	Sue Relfe	01793 771066
Councillor	Elizabeth Wilson	01793 771854
Councillor	Emily Seabrook	01793 771066
Councillor	Grant Seabrook	01793 771066
Councillor	Jim Reid	01793 771066

May Meetings

Annual Council Meeting	Monday 13th May 2019
Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity	Monday 20th May 2019

Memory Stones

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

Planning Permission Granted With Conditions

19/00144/FUL 76 Witts Lane. Single storey rear extension to extend kitchen and sun room area into one space.

-
- 19/00572/FUL 49A The Hyde. Rear extension.
- 19/00564/FUL 5 Thompson Court. The installation of a first-floor bathroom window on the side gable for light and ventilation
- 18/09261/LBC The Milk House, Church End. Application for the retention of details and materials that were to be agreed by condition under application N/06/01623/LBC, as well as replacement of three external doors and three windows (retention of).
- 19/00822/FUL 7 Criollo Place. Loft conversion including the erection of a dormer window to rear and four rooflights (retrospective).

Charities

Now that the independent review has taken place on the Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity, the trustees will be looking in detail at the options suggested and working on key areas highlighted. The proposal is to look for a new board of trustees suggested as essential and work on the marketing and promotion and as already agreed, review of the pricing structure by June 2019.

There will be more information to follow, however if any member of the community who wishes to see this resource continue, is willing to step up and become a trustee we would be delighted to speak to, or hear from you. www.facebook.com/PurtonVillageHall/

Do you shop with Amazon? Please sign in to Amazon Smile to create much-needed income for the Village Hall. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, Amazon will donate to Purton Institute and Village Hall, support us every time you shop!

Business Opportunity

Fancy being your own boss ? Running your own small local business? The Kiosk at the Village Centre, is available for lease. If you are interested please contact the charities secretary for more information on 01793 771824 or email teresa.hartshorn@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Community Speed Watch

The trained volunteers have been regularly carrying out speed watch sessions at the determined sites and have recently been questioned regarding the speed limit throughout the main road in Purton (Station Road/High Street). Please be advised that although there are stickers on lamp posts, wheelie bins etc stating 20mph the statutory speed limit is in fact 30 mph.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) is a locally driven initiative where active members of the community join together with the support of the Police to monitor speeds

of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds.

Speeding continues to be a concern for many communities. Volunteers receive appropriate training and are supported by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) staff.

If you are interested in knowing more and how you can be a part of this community initiative please either contact Paul Grigg on paul.grigg@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or Deborah Lawrence on deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or call the office on 01793 771066.

How to contact the Parish Council

Telephone number: 01793 771066

Email address: deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Facebook, Twitter and Website

Just one click will see you interact with the Parish Council. Events, road closures, meet the staff, "did you know", photographs and much more. If you have an event in the Parish that you would like us to promote on any of our media platforms please contact the Clerk on deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 771066. Find us on: Facebook – Purton Parish Council Twitter - @PurtonPC

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

Cricklade Country Market

**Next market: Friday 31 May, 2-4pm at
The Jenner Hall, Cricklade**



Everything we sell is locally handmade, home cooked or home grown.

This is a local market supplying local things.... with a tea room too. Come and see what we have to offer. There is no charge to look!

Future market date: June 28th

Please call Nikki on 01793 751845 to place an order or for further information about the market.

Information Evening – Sepsis, Thursday 14 March

Thanks are due to our speaker Nicola Deveaux, Team Lead in Acute Sepsis and Kidney Injury at Great Western Hospital, for a very interesting and informative talk which was appreciated by those who attended.

Quiz Evening with a Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 29 March

This was a very popular evening. We served 86 portions of Fish & Chips and raised £461 towards a Doppler Machine for the Practice. Thanks are due to Trish Baker for setting the quiz and to Peter Berry for organising the fish & chips. Kai Howard, Practice Manager, has managed to get a Doppler for less than the £3000 originally quoted and we are pleased to say that we now have sufficient funds to purchase it.

Table top sales

Thank you to all who support our Table top sales in Purton surgery waiting room – over £500 has been raised since starting this earlier this year.

Future Fundraising

Our next fundraising is for an automated-opening door for Purton surgery. This will help those with pushchairs and children and also those with disabilities and wheelchairs. The cost is anticipated to be around £6000.

Purton Open Gardens weekend of 6/7 July

We plan to take part in Purton Open Gardens weekend and have a table with plants for sale at the entrance to Purton Surgery car park.

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

Church Floodlighting

- May 2 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Ron Dibling** on his Birthday. Always in our Hearts and thoughts. Loved and missed by Jenny and all the family
- May 22 St Mary's will be floodlit for **Bruce D'Arcy Masters** on the fourth anniversary of his passing. Forever in our hearts. Val and family.
- May 25 St Mary's will be floodlit to celebrate a **'Happy Birthday to Mum'**. I Love You. Thinking of you always' Lots of love Ginny, Kevin and Jacob. X



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

Purton & District Age Concern



We have already had our first outing of this year with a Mystery Tour on 3rd April which took 57 of us into Wales (taking advantage of the free crossing) and then onto the Forest of Dean, some of the views in that area are stunning and the weather allowed us to enjoy them, we arrived at the Kings Head, Birdwood for lunch at 12.30pm. Everybody enjoyed the lunch, it was a beef roast dinner. The portions were large, but nicely cooked and were followed by apple crumble and custard. We then continued on another route around Cheltenham and through Stroud and back to Purton by 4.30pm. I have had so many people saying how much they enjoyed the day.

Remember to go to the cream tea fundraising event organised at the Maharajah Restaurant on Monday 6 May (Bank Holiday Monday) where they will share the donations received with Purton Age Concern and their charity in India they support. This is a lovely event, and if you are a cake-maker then please help by contacting Wendy or Khalique and offer to support it.

We have various articles in the form of a wheelchair, some walkers and zimmer frames that are stored in Tony's garage so if you think you might need these at any time then ring Tony Price on 770696.

Last month we mentioned Bradies, now known as Phoenix, considering changes to their areas, but we are pleased to report that, at the moment, they will continue to cover the Purton area. You need to ring 01249 890794 to book with them, if we don't use it we lose it!

Future Events

Minibus Shopping Trips - Hazel is organising a shopping trip on the 10th May with the location to be confirmed, and to Cirencester on Friday 31st May and all trips will leave the village at 9am. For more details and to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

3Bs Evening - This is on the 4th October so if you would like to attend please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339. Please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place on the minibus if you need transport.

Mystery Tour - The second trip of the season will be on Wednesday 1st May starting at 10am. The cost will be £15 for Purton pensioners and £17 for non-pensioners or visitors and includes lunch. Please contact your Street Warden to book your tickets. The seats should have been booked by 22nd April, but it is always worth a call to see if there are any tickets available.

Boat Trip - We have arranged a narrow boat trip at Devizes, a two hour cruise with a fish and chip lunch en route, for Wednesday 12th June with a 10am start from Purton. The cost will be £18 for Purton pensioners and £20 for non-pensioners and people from outside the area. Seat numbers are limited so please contact your

Street Warden as soon as you can.

Brass bands - It's that time of the year again, the weather is warming up and so are the bands. The first Brass Band afternoon will be on Sunday May 19th at the Red House starting at 3pm until 5pm. These will hopefully continue through the summer outside as long as the sun shines! It's a lovely way to spend an afternoon with free entry and cream teas to purchase. There will be a donation box for Age Concern so please give what you can if you have enjoyed yourselves.

Past Events

3Bs evening – This event was held on Friday 5th April and was, as usual, a busy evening with nearly 80 people attending. It was a fun evening with John Lilley running the bingo and our great team in the kitchen supplying the food, with extra puds this year! Thanks to everyone involved for making it such a worthwhile event including the people who donated the raffle prizes.

Information

Fire Service & Bobby Van - If you need a smoke alarm fitting or checking please contact the Fire Service on 0800 038 2323. If you need the Bobby Van please call them on 01380 861155.

Luncheon Club - This is held at the Silver Threads Hall. Please give Pat Suddaby a call on 771331 for information. At the moment there is a waiting list for places, which is a testament to how good this service is.

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

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

Friendship Club - The Friendship Club is run by the Silver Threads committee and meets monthly in the Silver Threads Hall from 2pm-4pm. Please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 for more information. The next meeting will be on Friday 3rd May at 2pm at the Silver Threads Hall. Transport is available, to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

Peter Berry

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.

Ten Years Ago...

In May 2009, Purton Magazine opened with the cheery news that people were more anxious and fearful than ten years previously. Although the survey quoted did not state how this was measured, it suggested that the causes included the media's fixation with bad news, the credit crunch...and the weather! Are we any different today? Probably not, and I think the concept can be put down to dear old nostalgia (which, in turn, is the basis of this column).

However, the authors of the survey then went on to tell us how to alleviate our alleged worries. Anything from gardening to cooking, taking up hobbies through to making friends. (Also getting out of breath, not my idea of fun.) The final gem of philosophy was "good things take time" but – hold on – by their own logic that time must be more than ten years.

On another page is an Obituary for Common Sense. Common Sense's guiding principles were sound financial policies and reliable strategies. "He is survived by his four stepbrothers: I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame and I'm A Victim." Perhaps the authors of the earlier survey missed the fundamental cause of their observation.

On the other hand, the Magazine has a long extract from the Memoirs of the late Basil Marchant. Growing up in the period before the War, by five he had broken his arm falling out of a tree and almost lost his leg running into a nail. In the depth of the great depression his father had but two days work a week and then, when Basil was twelve, he died. His fifteen-year-old brother became the breadwinner and the family were constantly moving around the area following what little work was available. At fourteen Basil left school and started work himself, at ten shillings a week. Yet through all of these travails shines an evident togetherness, both in the family and the wider community, and an enjoyment of outside activities.

Ps & Qs submitted an article on "Going Wild in Purton". I expected another criticism of speeding in the High Street but instead were notes on the fauna seen recently around the village. Squirrels, badgers, foxes and deer accompanied by siskins, woodpeckers, pheasants and sparrowhawks. But no goldfinches; maybe they'll be back this year.

We Record ...

Baptism at St Mary's Church:

Saturday 30 March 2019 Darcie Rose Smith

Funeral at North Wiltshire Crematorium

Monday 8 April 2019 Edna Madge Rye (106)



Volunteering with Care Home Volunteers

Being a resident in a care home can bring huge challenges for older people, not just because of the move from their own familiar surroundings but because they may also be struggling with their changing health needs. That's where Care Home Volunteers, through volunteer befrienders, have made a real difference to the lives of older people in long term care.

After becoming established in Salisbury and Chippenham the charity launched in Swindon a year ago. Working together with local care homes our volunteers enhance the compassionate care that residents receive.

Tina was the first volunteer to start visiting residents in a local care home and says of her experience,

'I chose to volunteer with Care Home Volunteers after seeing an advert asking for volunteers. I met Jeni, their Swindon Volunteer Co-ordinator, who explained to me in detail the support I would be given to enable me to go into a care home environment. I work in care, but even if you are new to the care home environment the training Care Home Volunteers provides is comprehensive and not at all daunting.

I volunteer in one care home and I have had the opportunity to get to know the residents and staff and they have got used to seeing me. I have found that some residents are keen to talk, whilst others find comfort from you just sitting next to them, and maybe holding their hand, so they have contact with another person. This can be very relaxing, particularly for someone whose condition means that they spend much of their time in bed.

Feeling that you have made a difference to another persons' day is very rewarding. Some people only need five minutes of your time to make a huge difference to them. When you see their joy at having someone spend time with them it is very fulfilling. If you enjoy meeting people, from all walks of life and can spend some time, listening, talking and reminiscing with older people then Care Home Volunteers is for you'.

Just one year after the charity was launched in Swindon Care Home Volunteers work has been recognised by Caring UK with a National Award as 'Volunteer Team of the Year'.

Care Home Volunteers continues to look for more caring, friendly and compassionate volunteers, like Tina, to support individual residents, by providing social contact and friendship. We would love to hear from people who are interested in a new and fulfilling volunteering opportunity that enhances the well-being, health and enjoyment of life, for older people in care homes. No previous experience is necessary and even if volunteers only have a small amount of time to spare, it makes all the difference.

For further information please contact Jeni Burchell, Swindon Volunteer Co-ordinator on 07922 507848 or email swindon@carehomevolunteers.org.uk

Bank Holiday Monday Tea Party

Do you like the idea of eating lots of cake and scones with as many pots of tea or cups of coffee as you would like? Sampling some delicious Indian delicacies that you may have never tried before? Sitting in comfortable surroundings amongst like-minded, friendly people and perhaps even making some new friends in the process? Then come along to The Maharajah on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6th between 12.30pm and 4pm. where Khalique, Ashish, Wendy and the team will be serving up the previously mentioned delights. All the food and refreshments are generously donated and hopefully you will enjoy the experience so much that your donations of money will help us to raise funds for The Special Needs Hostel Udaipur, India and Purton Age Concern.

If you have been to previous Bank Holiday Tea Parties you know you will not be disappointed and if you haven't been before come and see what you have been missing out on!!

This year we will provide gluten free and dairy free cakes too.

As previous attendees will know the funds raised are put towards much needed improvements and equipment at the hostel. Wheelchairs, tables and chairs, a freezer and a new roof to date! Purton Age concern are always very grateful and make good use of the portion of the funds donated to them.

So, put the date in your diary and come along at some point and help us to make this the best Tea Party so far!

Wendy, Khalique, Ashish and the team. For further information contact Wendy on 07732 115105 or Khalique on 01793 770998

North Wiltshire Trefoil Guild

Have you ever been a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide or Ranger?
Or maybe a leader with Girlguiding?

The Trefoil Guild is Guiding for adults in a fun and friendly environment and is open to anyone over the age of 18. We enjoy talks from interesting speakers, outings, fun craft afternoons, lunches and we play croquet.

The North Wiltshire Trefoil Guild is the local group and meets at Lydiard Millicent Village Hall, with members from Cricklade, Purton, Purton Stoke, Royal Wootton Bassett, Minety, Lydiard Millicent and surrounding areas.

We meet on the first Monday of each month from 1.45-3.45pm and location can vary, especially in the spring and summer months when we're out and about.

Why not come along and give us a try? Perhaps you have a skill or craft to share? You'd be very welcome to join us.

*For more information contact Pam: pamela.cowler39@outlook.com
Jean: whitbread31@btinternet.com or Marlene: hmchurchill@talktalk.net*



Latest news from Pips Community Café

Purton's community café Pips continues to evolve and grow to meet the needs of the village.



Our menu is changing! A cooked breakfast will be on offer from May, available from opening up until 11.30am. This will be egg, bacon, tomatoes, beans and toast for £4.00 along with the usual wide range of hot and cold drinks and our regular menu. So if you're working in the village or just want to treat yourself, why not try it out?

With the onset of spring we are planning our summer menu. We will have salads, including ploughman's lunches as well as our established favourites. If there is anything you would particularly like to see, please let us know. You can get in touch and keep up-to-date through our Facebook page - facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe.

A new crochet group has started on Friday mornings from 10 am and by the time you read this we hope there will be a knitting group Tuesday mornings 10 am to midday. Both are opportunities to hone or learn new skills and to chat with friends old and new over a cup of coffee (and maybe a slice of homemade cake!).

An after-schools chess and board games club has started on Tuesdays which is already a great success. To accommodate this group we will now stay open until 5.30 pm on a Tuesday with last orders at 5 pm. In order not to ask more of our volunteers, we will open the café an hour later on a Tuesday, from 10 am.

Our winter heating bill hit the roof at £500 a month! In an attempt to mitigate this we have fitted a new external door and have added extra insulation above the ceiling. Hopefully our heating costs will be much reduced, particularly as we move into the summer months.

Dates for your diary

- On Tuesday 14 May there will be a Christian Aid fundraising sale of Baby items, more details elsewhere in the Magazine. See page 45.
- Saturday 6 July is Purton Open Gardens and Pips will be open from 10 am to 4.30 pm (last orders 4 pm) and serving our usual menu. If you would like a glass of wine or a pint of beer with your lunch then Purton Club would like to welcome you from midday onwards – non-members welcome. Fingers crossed for a sunny day!

Remember that Pips is one of the few places in Purton that is completely wheelchair accessible, including our toilet and baby changing facilities and our volunteers are Dementia Friend trained.

The big challenge for Pips, particularly during the summer months, will be to keep the café open when our regular volunteers go on holiday. Please get in touch if you can spare a few hours to help your community café, whether on a regular or occasional basis. Many thanks.

Our opening hours for May will be: 10am - 5.30pm Tuesday, 9am - 4.30pm Wednesday to Friday and 10am to 2pm on Saturday. Please note the café will be closed on 11 May as we don't have enough volunteers available.

Contact us: marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk, 01793 772298, The Pips Team

Health & Wellbeing Champion

Are you vulnerable? I am!

Really? I hear the cry! From time to time we are all vulnerable for a variety of reasons. Driving alone at night is one which makes me aware that I am vulnerable – the workings of engines and cars remains a mystery to me – and long may that continue! No matter what age, living alone creates a number of risks and potential problems should things go wrong. We all develop strategies to reduce the risk, it may be wearing a personal alarm, carrying a mobile phone everywhere, whatever it is, we cope.

How about using the warmer weather to see what can be done in the local area? Do you “know your neighbour”? Would you notice if the bins weren't put out? When did you last see them? What is their name? Its about knowing someone to say hello to and being approachable if help is needed in an emergency. It only takes a minute to say hello, who knows how much that could decrease their feelings of vulnerability?

I am around for general help and support on a wide variety of issues including transport, mobility and safety around the home and reducing the feeling of loneliness. Give me a call on 07557 922020 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Ellen Blacker, Health & Wellbeing Champion
Tel: 07557 922020 or Email: ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk

Memorial at the Red House

At the last meeting on 3 April we had confirmation from the Trustees of the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity that they agree in principle to the stone being placed in the raised bed known as ‘The Dogs’ Graveyard’, provided that the stone does not cause issue to the stone walling surrounding the raised bed.

We now have the possibility of the choice of two stones, which we need to look at and see which would be the most suitable and provide details of the dimensions and weight for the Trustees to agree and then to arrange for its transport to the site.

Our next step is to start raising funds to pay for the transport of the stone, the plaque and clearing of the site. Please look out for our events we will be holding and if you feel you would like to make a donation or can offer any help with clearing the site and transporting the stone please contact Tony Price on 770696 or Helen Griffin on 771645 or email griffinhs@yahoo.co.uk

Helen Griffin

Purton Annual Flower Show-Arts-Craft-Produce

Show date is Saturday 31st August in Purton Village Hall. The 2019 Schedule has been set, with some more new classes in the Industrial, Floral, Arts and Craft, and of course the Children's and Photography classes are all completely different.

After much discussion our Group Challenge for 2019 is "The Create a Scarecrow Challenge". We want you to make a Scarecrow from recycled/upcycled, materials/products. Points will be deducted if there is anything obviously new on your Scarecrow, apart from glue or paint. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize awarded for best use of materials. And a Single prize for the "Scariest Scarecrow to Predators". This Challenge is not only open to children's and young person's groups, we want to encourage other groups within the community to have ago. Group invitations will be sent out shortly, with a cut off date for entry of 14th June 2019.

Please contact me directly if your group would like to enter.

The Photography section will have their own Trophy's awarded this year for Most Points in the Section and Best in Show. To give you time to capture your entries over the coming months, the categories this year are as follows:

Circles, Blue, Landscape, A Trio in a Photo, and Animals. We think there is plenty of scope for everyone there. For further information about any aspect of our Show please get in touch.

Lorna Robinson-Wardle, Secretary. Tel: 01793 778013 or 3rwardles@gmail.com

Grittleton Plant & Spring fair - A fantastic day out!

11.00am – 3.00pm, Monday 27 May, Grittleton House, Grittleton, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6AP. Admission - £4 per adult. Children under 12 free.

All proceeds and donations will be going to support Action Medical Research.

Set in the stunning house and grounds of the Grittleton House Estate, The Grittleton Plant and Spring Fair is back again in May 2019. It is perfect for plant lovers, "foodies" and those just looking for a perfect gift. With over 50 stalls ranging from specialist nurseries selling plants and stunning accessories for your room outside to top quality stalls selling delicatessen items, bath products, distinctive presents, handmade jewellery and much more. There is certainly something for everyone.

This is the perfect opportunity to wander through the stunning interior of this spectacular venue and enjoy the beautiful Italianate gardens of Grittleton House.

AND we are thrilled to announce there will be a special guest appearance from Action's special mascot PADDINGTON™.

The Grittleton Plant and Spring Fair is a fantastic day out for friends and family.

Refreshments and cream teas, free Parking

No dogs please except assistance dogs. www.action.org.uk/grittleton



Get into the Swing with the Wessex Summer Concert

Fresh from a trip to perform and compete in Poland, Swindon's award-winning Wessex Male Choir will again host their Annual Summer Concert at the Great Hall of the STEAM museum this year on July 13th.

The choir have been working hard on new material with a real upbeat feel this year and the concert promises a host of new songs along with favourite Male Choir classics. As usual the Choir have been learning some new 'moves' and you won't want to miss their rendition of 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight' complete with rain and jungle animal noises all performed by the men of Wessex.

The Choir's Musical Director Rhiannon Williams said:

"The Choir has put in a lot of work over the last year to learn and polish these new songs both for our Polish tour and the summer concert. We really wanted to showcase the Choir's more upbeat side and the new repertoire is brimming with foot tapping numbers and beautiful melodies, all performed with that famous Wessex sound. Although we are taking a break from UK competitions this year, we still hope for a podium finish at the competition in Krakow in June – fingers crossed we will bring back some silverware!"

This year, the Wessex will be joined by Cowbridge Male Voice Choir from the Vale of Glamorgan. The Choir was founded in 1971 and has travelled widely over the years performing at the Albert Hall alongside Dame Vera Lynn, in the sub-zero temperatures of Saskatchewan, Canada as well as in Europe and North America.

Their wonderful Welsh male choir sound will delight the audience with many classic songs in the male choir tradition as well as Musical theatre numbers through to Pop as well.

It will be a busy night for Rhiannon Williams as she is the Musical Director of both choirs!

Don't miss the chance to catch these two top notch choirs at STEAM Swindon on July 13th – Doors open at 6.30pm and the concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets will shortly go on sale at £12.50 from Swindon Central Library, STEAM Swindon and online, where you can reserve seats, at www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk/tickets.

Beneath the Wool

Well it's a job to know where to start as it's been so busy since last month, as I write this another late evening lambing check is complete ready for the last five ewes to lamb. On the 24 March it was time to get the ewes into the shed in readiness for lambing to start on the 31st March. This gives the ewes time to settle down into their new environment. I knew this was going to go one of two ways but I wasn't expecting it to go both! 50% of the ewes followed me into the shed with the sheep nuts and the other 50% decided to go the wrong way and found a bit of grass to eat. But no worries, after five minutes of rounding them all back up they were all in the shed with the gate shut.



The 31st March soon came round and I spent most of the day getting six lambs and two cull ewes ready to go to slaughter the following day, with a keen eye on the ewes checking to see if they had started lambing. I spent all day waiting and was getting friends of mine having a joke, saying "I hope you have some lambs by next Sunday (the open afternoon) otherwise you'll have to borrow some". Right on cue number 00038 decided she was going to start and had a lovely ewe lamb to start us off. After a busy few days there was quite a collection in the shed ready for the lambing afternoon, so much so that I was slightly worried that I'd run out of lambing pens.

On the 5 April I had a wedding reception to attend near Evesham, perfect time of year for a wedding for a sheep farmer. Luckily I had thought of someone who could come and look after the ewes while I was away for the evening. Thanks to Elissa for coming and looking after everything but unfortunately she didn't have to deal with any births while I was away, they decided to hold on till I got home at 12:45 when I had a look in the shed and found a ewe with a lamb.

7th April came and the lambing afternoon was fast approaching. Having a little discussion with Jon Cook about everything, we both said that a live birth while everyone was there would be ideal. This indeed looked promising at 11:30 but unfortunately Polly decided to have her lamb 20 minutes before people arrived. Luckily 00003 decided she would be the star of the show and at around 3pm in the middle of the lambing afternoon she had her lamb with a bit of assistance as the front leg of the lamb was backwards.

It was amazing to see so many people attend the lambing afternoon, in total we had 85 people attend which is a fantastic amount with some coming from Cirencester to come and see what was happening. I would just like to say thank you to everyone that attended and helped make it such a successful day and I hope to do something very similar again next year.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton

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.



Pearl on the mend

I would like to say a big thank you to my lovely family and friends for all their help and support though my recent illness. Also thank you for all the flowers, cards and good wishes that I received. They were all so heart-warming and gave me a real lift, which I so desperately needed. I am progressing every day and back behind the counter at One Stop, where I belong. It was lovely to be greeted with such a kind response.

Pearl Lait



Annual Parish Meeting

I attended the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 8 April and would like to pass on my thanks to the Parish Council for all their hard work in managing the issues affecting our village and keeping us well informed.

The Council know, as do the residents, that they are not perfect, but I was shocked to read the report about the abuse and animosity the council has

faced in relation to the village hall charity, among other issues. It saddens me to see so many people complaining about something, but not be willing to actually volunteer to help do something about it. Perhaps they're the same people that don't bother going to vote, but like to criticise at length, the way our community and country is run! The response from the Council was diplomatically handled by Deborah Lawrence and Neil Hooper.

A Purtonian



Gold star for finder of Blue Badge

After having my car broken into about three weeks ago, my blue badge went missing so I ordered another one, but I would like to thank the person who found it and handed it in to One Stop, then it was given to my husband Chris. I have always known that Purton is a wonderful place to live, and things like that only confirm it. Once again thank you very much.

Barb Compton

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



Guides continued working on the Express Myself theme, learning about binary codes and making beaded bracelets of their initials. A number of celebrations also occurred at the end of term so the Guides made macramé butterfly bookmarks for those that care for them and invited them along to an evening of pampering for Mothers' Day. This included hand massages, making face masks and playing bingo. They also enjoyed a spring celebration, making wreaths from willow and decorating them before Bella and Rebecca made their Guide promise.

Both Brownie units completed Skills builders for the spring term with final activities including fire lighting, a "rope race challenge" working together as a team and leading a team, learning the British Sign Language alphabet and looking at what we need to keep our bodies healthy, both physically and mentally.

2nd Purton Brownies completed a Unit Meeting Activity where instructions were given either visually or verbally, and then deciding whether they found it easier to listen to or to see instructions. All were successful in following the instructions to make a paper plane and fly it.

Young leaders (age 14-18) are very important members of our unit leadership teams and great role models for the younger girls. 1st Purton Brownies said thank you and goodbye to Lea who had been with the unit for two years. Lea can unfortunately no longer attend due to school commitments. The young leader spot did not stay vacant for long though as the unit was delighted to welcome Maria in that role. The young leaders with 2nd Purton Brownies have been busy running activities as part of the young leader qualification. Maddy taught the girls to make an origami tulip as a Mothers' Day gift and Finley showed the girls how to make bunny Easter baskets using paper plates.

1st Purton Brownies have completed their final challenges from the Guiding Girls into Engineering pack sponsored by Amey. They built bridges from straws which had to be strong enough to support a bag of pennies and they also designed railways to a specific brief including costing them out.

The last meeting of term for 1st Purton Brownies was organised by their three eldest Brownies, Daisy, Aoife and Violet who are moving on to Guides. Silly hats were the dress code in keeping with the silly games they organised. Ever tried eating jelly with chopsticks? It's a challenge!

Also in the silly vein was the Brownie sleepover which took place at our county guiding centre in March. A total of 42 Brownies from the two Purton units spent 24 hours completing activities from an 'Upside-Down Back to Front' challenge pack. They spent the day in their nightwear and went to bed in their Brownie uniforms, they made cakes in mugs, had pudding before main at mealtimes, did a Christmas treasure hunt, learnt how to do a trick involving an upside-down mug of water

(without spilling it) and painted by holding paintbrushes with their feet. For many it was their first experience of a night away with guiding and a real boost for their self-confidence and independent living skills.

For more information about guiding locally, please contact district commissioner Janet Abbott by phone on 07454 384763 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. More volunteers to join our team are always welcome. Register interest in joining at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/.

Find us on Facebook too: www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision

Longleaze Win Junior Schools Quiz

Longleaze Primary School, Royal Wootton Bassett, beat six other schools to win the annual Junior Schools Quiz on Monday evening.

Organised by the Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett & District for primary schools in the area, teams from Broad Hinton, Broad Town, Longleaze, Lyneham, Noremarsch, St Bartholomew's and St Mary's, Purton, faced questions on subjects ranging from History and Science through to Sport and Entertainment. Teams had to decide a round in which to play their Joker, which doubled their score, and those that chose to play it on the Music round, comprising first lines of songs by current artists, "enjoyed" hearing the answers sung by the audience led by quizmeister and Rotarian Allison Bucknell.



Pictured: Phil Tanner presents the Rotary Trophy to the Longleaze team

The students impressed with their knowledge and several teams were still in with a chance of winning going into the final stages. But at the end of the 10 rounds Longleaze emerged victorious on 90.5 points, helped by a maximum score of 20 on their Joker, with St Mary's 10pts behind in second.

Rotary President Phil Tanner thanked his organising team and the audience for supporting the event and also St Bartholomew's Academy for hosting this year's event. He congratulated all the teams on the high standard of their answers before presenting the Longleaze team of Mollie Bissett, Arlen Frapwell and Robert Beaumont with the Rotary Trophy and £20

book tokens. The team from St Mary's: David Booth, Max Robinson and Amelie Morley each received £10 book tokens as runners up.

Purton Village Diary - May 2019

1	W	10.00am	Age Concern mystery coach trip with lunch
2	Th	10.30am	Communion at The Vicarage
3	Fr	2.00pm	Friendship group at Silver Threads Hall
		6.00pm	Purton Bowls Club coaching sessions start for the new season
4	Sa	12.30pm	Purton CC 1st XI v Marshfield at home
5	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Primary School
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
6	M	12.30pm	Fundraising tea party at the Maharajah
7	Tu	2.00pm	Clothes with Mandy at Silver Threads Hall
9	Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
10	F	6.00pm	Purton CC U13 v Goatacre
11	Sa	1.00pm	Purton CC 2nd XI v Sherston Magna
			Christian Aid plant and cake sale at Pavenhill Shops
12	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Ecumenical Confirmation Service at St Mary's Church with Bishop Vivienne Faull
		TBC	Purton CC U15 v South Wilts
14	Tu	10.00am	Christian Aid sale of baby items at Pips Community Café
		10.00am	Purton & District Probus Club meet at the Red House Lounge for a talk on English the global language
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		6.30pm	& 8.00pm Christian Aid curry night at the Maharajah
15	W	12noon	Christian Aid Lunch at Play Close Methodist Church
		2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
			Purton & District Gardeners' Guild spring outing to RHS Wisley
18	Sa	12.30pm	Purton CC 1st XI v Potterne 2nd
19	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		9.00am	Christian Aid breakfast at Play Close Methodist Church
		10.30am	United Christian Aid Service at Purton Methodist Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm Primary School
20	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a meeting entitled 'The Evacuee – London's East End to Wales 1940-45' from Alan Nix
21	Tu	2.00pm	Paul entertains with his ukulele at Silver Threads Hall
		8.00pm	'I haven't been everywhere but it's on my list' led by Cathy at her house.
23	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society host Campbell Ritchie for a talk on Malmesbury's Saxon Past at St Mary's Church due to European elections

25 Sa	9.00am	Purton & District Gardeners' Guild plant and cake sale at Pavenhill Shops
	10.00am	Jubilee Gardens Project Open Day
	10.00am	Community event to mark National Dementia Action Week at Purton Village Hall
	1.00pm	Purton CC 2nd XI v Earlstoke and Coulsden
26 Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	1.00pm	Purton CC U15 v Burbage
28 Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Pronus Club meet at the Red House Lounge for a talk on The search for the Northwest Passage
	7.30pm	Purton & District Gardeners' Guild meet at the Silver Threads Hall for a talk from John Negus entitled 'A Right Royal Palace – Wisley through the seasons'.

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

June

9 Su		Age Concern Village Party at the Red House
12 W	10.00am	Age Concern Canal boat trip at Devizes with fish and chip lunch

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

Purton Cricket Club

On 'Cricket Force' morning, 6th April, the membership was busy ensuring the ground was ready for the first match. Tasks completed included painting the inside and outside of the pavilion, putting the plastic sheeting back on the pitch covers and generally tidying the ground. Early preparation of pitches included cutting and rolling and the changing rooms and tea room were readied for the start of the season.

Fixtures for May at Purton are:

Saturday 4 May - 1st XI v Marshfield 12.30pm

Friday 10 May - U13 v Goatacre 6.00pm

Saturday 11 May - 2nd XI v Sherston Magna 1.00pm

Sunday 12 May - U15 v South Wilts T.B.C.

Saturday 18 May - 1st XI v Potterne 2nd 12.30pm

Saturday 25 May - 2nd XI v Earlstoke and Coulsden 1.00pm

Sunday 26 May - U15 v Burbage 1.00pm

From the Archives – 50 Years Ago 1969

Saturday 1st XI Captain - Norman Mills

Saturday 2nd XI Captain - Eric Dodson

Sunday 1st XI Captain - Mike Canter

Sunday 2nd XI Captain - John Sorsby

Chairman - Reg Crouch

Secretary - Dave Bisset

Fixture Secretary - Bob Jones

Treasurer - Malcolm Morrison

Subscriptions:

21 years and above £1

18 -21 12/6

Under 18 5/-

Match Fees 2/-

Club Umpires: Dave Evans, Charlie Jones and A.G.H. Tranter

1st XI Scorer: Tony Large

Joe Gardner 770681

Purton Cricket Club's Bicentenary next year

Purton cricket club is the oldest in Wiltshire and among the oldest in the country. In readiness for our 200th anniversary in 2020, the story of the club is currently being written. Thanks to Joe Gardner who writes the monthly piece for this magazine, we have many facts and figures from our past which was particularly illustrious in our early years, not least with a few very famous members in the early 19th Century.

In an attempt to make more of the story beyond a string of statistics, I am also hoping to include some anecdotes and more unusual reminiscences from past and present players, perhaps about an outstanding performance, a memorable amusing incident or a remarkable match. Please contact Francis Sheppard on 771018 or by e-mail on francis@sheppard.org to discuss any ideas that you may have – many thanks in advance.

Francis Sheppard

'Airs from the Isles' Concert

St Mary's Church in Lydiard Park hosts the fifth of its popular summer concerts on Saturday, 8 June and this time with a twist! Concert-goers will have the unique opportunity to experience firsthand the working environment of conservation experts restoring the nationally important, historic interior of the church. Local ladies' choir, Wentworth Voices, and the Strictly Recorders group, will combine with vocal and instrumental soloists young and old to raise funds for the restoration project. The varied programme of light music will also feature poetry readings from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland - all held against the backdrop of scaffolding!

Paul Gardner, Conservation Project Chair, says: "We are delighted to host this celebration of musical talent again, especially now that everyone who attends can see evidence of the actual work in progress - the result of their generous giving towards the restoration of the church to its full glory."

All proceeds from the concert will go towards the National Heritage Lottery Fund Project for the church, focussed on restoring the medieval wall paintings, seventeenth century monuments, ancient carved woodwork and starry chancel ceiling, all listed in the Church of England's list of top 100 Church Treasures Appeal. Also included in the project will be access improvements, new heating and lighting, imaginative interpretation and lively education programmes.

The concert starts at 7.30pm with tickets £5 available on the door and refreshments will be served in the interval.

For further information about the concert please contact Susan White at whitefamily@talktalk.net tel 01793 878334. For further information about St Mary's Church, images, interviews and private visits please contact Paul Gardner at gp.gardner@btinternet.com or 07831868429.

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St Mary's Primary School

At the time of writing we are just about to break up for the Easter holidays and we have had a very exciting few weeks.



The KS2 dance group went to RWBA on Friday 22 March to perform in the annual cluster dance festival. This year's theme was 'Dungeons and Dragons' and the children did a fantastic job of representing the school. They danced two pieces and stole the show with their 'Fireball Party' dance! A big well done to all the performers.

Three of our Year 6 children took part in the Rotary Club annual junior quiz at St Bartholomew's School on Monday 25 March. The team did extremely well, coming second overall. They came away with a book voucher each and very big smiles on their faces! Well done to David, Max and Amelie.

Mr Payne, our Deputy Head, will be running the London Marathon on 28th April raising money for CLIC Sargent, a charity supporting children with cancer. On Wednesday 3 April, the whole school took part in their own mini marathons around the site, with the younger children running 1.3 miles and the older ones running 2.6 miles. All 370 of our pupils, from the 5-year-olds to the 11-year-olds, were brilliant and the atmosphere really was like race day - right down to the balloon-arch finish line! The children's sponsorship for this event helped raise an amazing £2375 which we are delighted to be able to give to CLIC Sargent.

We've used the London Marathon over the spring for regular assemblies, exploring humility, courage and challenge: from learning about Mo Farah's extraordinary life-story to watching the incredible camaraderie of American Richard Beardsley and Norwegian Inge Simonsen (who, rather than continuing to race each other for first place at the inaugural London Marathon in 1981, took each other's hands in the final straight in a symbol of unity and mutual respect).

Caroline from CLIC has visited us to talk to the children about the work that they do to support children with cancer - and to explain why the children's mini-marathon fundraising was so wonderful and important.

Mr Payne writes "It's very exciting to finally be in the marathon month of April -

although, I have to say, I'm a bit nervous now we're getting close to The London Marathon on the 28th! However, the brilliant effort by the children this week, and the wonderful fund-raising that our generous parents and carers have undertaken, will definitely spur me on when I'm standing on the start line!"

The whole community at St Mary's wish Mr Payne the best of luck for the marathon and I look forward to being able to report on his efforts next month!

The North Wiltshire Music Festival held its annual Big Sing at The Oasis Leisure Centre on Thursday 4 April.

Members of our school choir took part in this event entitled "Let's Go Everywhere", along with choirs from other schools in the area. The children thoroughly enjoyed performing in this show and I am sure that our parents will agree they were a credit to us and them, as they sang their hearts out on stage. Thank you to Mrs Fudge for organising this event.

Staff News: Mrs Tew, our SENCo, has welcomed a little girl called Rose, weighing 8lbs 2ozs. We wish her and her family many congratulations!

St Mary's has spaces in most year groups so if you are considering coming here, I would be delighted to show you around our school. Visits can be arranged through the school office admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk or by phoning us on (01793) 770239. For more information about our wonderful school and all the exciting learning opportunities that take place, visit our school website www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk



Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher

Help spread the news!

Regular readers already know that Purton is a caring and friendly place to live. However, it is a surprise to your magazine committee that there are still a few households in the village who do not know about this monthly publication. But here's how you can help; new arrivals in our village are entitled to a free copy of Purton Magazine.

If you see some new neighbours who have just moved in, please tell your magazine distributor or contact any magazine committee member (contact details on page 4) and we will arrange for a free copy of the latest issue to be delivered, together with details about how to subscribe or where to buy a copy.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Following a last minute cancellation from the invited speaker for our March meeting, Davina Wynne-Jones kindly stepped in to save the day at very short notice, to entertain us with a talk on the subject of 'Herbs for Healing'.

Davina is the daughter of Rosemary Verey, who was the owner of Barnsley House near Cirencester and the designer and creator of its legendary gardens. When Davina married in 1978, her father gifted her a grass field of two acres situated behind the family home. In 2001 following her mother's death and the sale of Barnsley House, it was here that Davina decided to start her business.

Her original plan was to have a herb nursery but she quickly decided this would not produce much of an income. However it had sparked an interest in her for medicinal herbs and before long 'Herbs for Healing' was born, selling plants, ointments, face creams and oils made using herbs and flowers, many of them grown by Davina herself. She explained that as herbs are indigenous plants, not hybrids or cultivars, they have wonderful soft colours that look good together and so a garden began to develop although that hadn't been her intention in the first place.

Having learned about texture from her mother, Davina grows plants with lots of different leaves and textures, although she was quick to add that it was not because she ever listened to her mother particularly.

In the borders are medicinal herbs that will aid every ailment, including St John's Wort, used for treating wounds, aching joints and mild anxiety, Leonurus cardiaca, or motherwort, which has calming properties, Verbena officinalis (vervain) that Davina uses to help against glaucoma, and Galega officinalis (goat's rue), which is good for balancing sugar levels. Chicory aids digestion, yarrow is an anti-inflammatory and Californian poppies have, according to Davina, the same effect as opium without being addictive!

The list is endless.

Camomile, Lemon Verbena, Mint, Thyme and Lavender are all well known for their calming properties produced in tea making, whilst Echinacea and Thyme are strong antivirals and as such have proved to be beneficial in the management of flu symptoms.

Burdock root has been used for centuries in holistic medicine, in the form of tinctures, salves and teas, to treat a variety of different conditions. Traditionally, as a relative of wild thistle with known anti-inflammatory properties, it was most commonly used as a diuretic and a digestive aid and in some cases even an aphrodisiac!

Most interestingly we learned that the Burdock plant is also the inspiration behind Velcro!

In 1941 a Swiss engineer named George de Mestral was hunting in the Jura mountains

in Switzerland when he noticed small burrs from what was later identified as the Burdock plant stuck to his trouser legs and covering his dog's fur. He wondered how the tiny hooks of the cockle-burs (the seed packets produced by Burdock, which are covered with stiff spines) were sticking to him. After closer study at home he was inspired to model the configuration for use in clothing and 'Velcro' was born.

Tea made from the *Artemisia annua* plant has been used by Malaria patients in some areas where the disease occurs and where the proposed preventive measures such as taking malaria pills are not commonly followed. Davina explained that whilst it is safe to drink *Artemisia* tea, it should not be considered as a preventative medicine as its advantages and disadvantages for preventing malaria are to date insufficiently investigated.

Leon Slee thanked Davina for stepping in at short notice, and for a most informative talk on herbs and all their valuable properties.

The competition, '5 Daffodils' drew a good number of entries. Congratulations to the winners: 1st Moira White, 2nd Mary Jones and 3rd Sue Berry.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on 28th May in Silver Threads Hall when our invited speaker will be John Negus who will present a talk entitled 'A Right Royal Palace – Wisley through the seasons'.

Coincidentally our Spring club outing this year on 15th May is to RHS Wisley. As we are an RHS Affiliated society, this entitles us to free entry. The cost of the coach is £12 per person. As there may still be seats available on the coach, we would like to welcome any non club members to join us on the day. If anyone is interested please give me a call to check availability. Last but not least our annual Plant and Cake sale will be held on Saturday, 25 May from 9am-12 noon at the Top Shops so why not pop along and pick up a plant or two. If anyone has any plants to spare and would like to donate them we will happily collect them or they can be left with us on the day.

Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)

Purton Methodist Church

Lent Lunches 2019

Again this year our lunches were well supported. £1,100 was raised in the four weeks and has been sent to the Mercy Ships charity which provides much needed medical care to some of the poorest people in the world. We were very fortunate this year in that all the food was donated by various individuals, which meant that no expenses needed to be taken.

Many thanks to those who came to the lunches, to the ladies and one gentleman who helped on a rota basis, and of course to those who donated the food. The ladies who provide the cakes are amazing, and a special thanks goes to them. We hope we can do the same next year.

Sylvia Freemantle, Co-ordinator



Flekvieh calf by Alex Thomas

The other side of the gate

April started well at Quarry Farm as we won the Selkleyvale Lowest Overall Somatic Cell Counts trophy for the fifth time - our name is on the plaque for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2018 and 2019.

Awards like these make the effort of producing clean milk worthwhile. There is nothing quite like having your peers reward your hard work. I did write a reasonably detailed piece on somatic cell count (SCC), but as a recap and for those that didn't read it, I'll briefly explain. Somatic, meaning of the body, cell count is a measure used to indicate udder health in cows. If the udder is under some bacterial challenge or has been physically damaged (trodden or kicked), then the immune system will send white blood cells to fight infection or heal damage. These cells are then counted in the '000's per millilitre. Basic guide is anything over 200,000 SCC is classed as infected. We won the award as our average for the year was 64,000. The national average is 164,000.



Dotty has been making a remarkable recovery since her encounter with a Brown Swiss hoof. Last time I wrote we were not sure if she was going to make it. In true Jack Russell style, it would appear that the lesson has not been learnt and cows' feet are still fun to be around! I'm hoping she's not going to be a regular visitor to the vet - I could have bought a fancy heifer for the same price as this episode!

Grazing is going well; they're just coming to the end of their second time around the

field we call Jackson's. This is the field at the end of Hyde Lane. It's named after the late Norman Jackson who lived in the old hospital - many will remember him being the school caretaker. His son and grandson have built houses on the old allotments opposite, so the name lives on!

The returning cold snap has reduced grass growth significantly so we're getting through the grass quicker than planned. The ground temperature is still too low. The cold rain has kept it down and the lack of strong sun hasn't helped. The quality of the grass shows in the cows' yield which has dropped back slightly. I'm hoping that, going forward, the longer days will pull the grass from the ground so we can ramp up the cows' intake. We aim to get about 15 kilograms of grass topped up with a small amount of concentrated feed (grain based) and some other minerals. The long term aim is to stop all grain and replace with grass nuts. Cows have evolved to eat grass and ligneous plants - grain is not a natural feed for them.

Later this week I hope to plant some new grass seed and herb mix into a field that suffered very badly last year with the drought. The grass will fill in the gaps and the herbs will help bring moisture and nutrients to the top. It's our first attempt at herbs so I'm going to be fascinated to see what the cows think of it and how it affects the quality and taste of the milk.

Jonathan Cook

New! Cricklade Revealed Extra

Look out for my stall at Cricklade Museum on Festival Sunday (open from 10-30am - 4pm) on June 16th, where I will be selling my new book, Cricklade Revealed Extra Index Book 4. This is the last of my books to contain wartime memories from this area, and includes a comprehensive index of all the people and place names mentioned in Parts 4-7 of the main series. Price £3.60 with profits from the sale of my books are donated to Cricklade Open Door.

Marion Parsons

The Perfect Murder

by Jeffrey Archer and Hugh Janes (based on a story by Jeffrey Archer)

Carla Moorland has been murdered and accountant John Hoskins, who has been having an extra-marital affair with her is certain he knows who did it - himself! But John's wife Elizabeth is determined not to call the police and to do what she can to keep John out of prison, even if it means an innocent man is punished for the crime.

This is a whodunit thriller and a tense courtroom drama with a cracking good story which slowly unfolds in twists and turns with startling revelations and a terrific full-blown murder trial. Don't miss this great evening's entertainment - come along and see who really managed to commit "The Perfect Murder".

The performances are from 22nd -25th May at the Arts Centre. Tickets from bookings@phoenix-players.com or Tel.07517 698083

Hello from The Cedars Care Home

High days and holidays



Hope you all enjoyed the lovely spell of hot sunshine in Early April. We managed to persuade some of our residents to sit outside and enjoy the first signs of spring in our garden as it has had some TLC lately, from Residents, helped by Activities and Volunteers, so it is beginning to look really nice.

We chatted to residents about their Mothering Sunday memories and had some lovely comments shared. These were written up on little butterfly cards and hung around the home, which was decorated beautifully with bunting and donated flowers. A huge thank you to our volunteer Hannah who helped me with the writing of the cards, to the donor of the flowers and to everyone who did such a great job decorating the tables!

Move it or lose it!

We've introduced a new keep fit session this month which went down very well with residents. Now we will be building on that and be organising more fun physical activities going forward. Our once a month Line dancing group (M4 Stompers) are proving popular and during our last session, residents who couldn't or wouldn't get up to join the dancers, were handed a percussion instrument and it encouraged some to shake, rattle and jiggle along to the music. Any movement is good movement if it's accompanied by music!

Successful events past, present and future

We took some residents to the Arts Centre at the beginning of April. They run Dementia friendly film sessions (well worth checking out <https://swindontheatres.co.uk/Online/tickets-memory-cinema-may-2018>) Feedback from residents was, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. So, we are planning to go again at the end of May. Also some residents have enjoyed a cuppa and chat at Pips Community café. I highly recommend the cake! And during April we will have been to Studley Grange Q Ceramics with some residents to try their hand at moulding, painting and decorating ceramics. Pictures for next issue if successful; we'll celebrate St Georges day and as I write we're currently looking for *Morris/country dancers for this; Mums & Toddlers will hopefully have helped us prepare for Easter with a messy play session and treasure hunt. With the next session planned for May 8th with another activity to share with our residents. We at Cedars wish you a wonderful Easter and if you can help in any way, we'd love to hear from you.

Our Full time Activities Coordinator is Christina Deriu EMAIL: C.Deriu@OSJCT.CO.UK or Jane Pitcher j.pitcher@osjct.co.uk, or pop in for further details. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

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

Christian Aid

There are lots of things going on in Purton during Christian Aid Week (May 12-19) this year.



The little red envelopes will be delivered to as many houses as we can manage. Please be supportive to all our wonderful volunteers who spend hours delivering them and collecting them up.

The Quiz is already out in various shops! Be prepared to spend hours being baffled and excited by it!

Sat May 11 - there is a Plants and Cakes Sale at the Top Shops. Do come and buy... and all contributions of seedlings, plants, cakes and jams etc will be very gratefully received.

Tues May 14 - Sale of baby items at PIPs Community café from 10am - 3pm. If you would like to sell any items...toys, books, clothes, small equipment that is no longer needed by your family, please come to Pips at 9.30 (Please note time change!) Phone Libbie and see posters and April Magazine for more details.

Tues May 14 - there is a Curry Night at the Maharajah...two sittings at 6.30pm and 8.00pm and always a fun evening. More details below. And thank you so much to Khalique for generously letting us come to his restaurant yet again!

Wed May 15 - Christian Aid Lunch at 12 noon at the Methodist Church. Tickets available from Libbie, Sylvia and Mary

Sun May 19 - Christian Aid Breakfast at the Methodist Church from 9am followed by the Special Service at 10.30. Please come to the Breakfast or the Service or preferably both!

There may also be other Breakfasts going on around the village so please do join inwould you like to be a 'Host with the Toast' and invite a few friends and neighbours to breakfast?!

This year all the fundraising is focussing on the women in Sierra Leone who are dying in childbirth through lack of hygiene and health care. We need to help these women, who have so little support.

Please contact Libbie 771018; Mary 770505; for more details. Thank you.

Christian Aid Curry Night

If you enjoy delicious curry and good company come along to The Maharajah on Tuesday May 14th and help us raise funds during Christian Aid Week.

Khalique has kindly offered to host this event for us again offering the usual mix of Onion Bhaji and salad as a starter followed by Chicken and/or Vegetable Bhoona accompanied by Rice and Naan. All served up buffet style. You will not be disappointed by the quality of the food!!

Khalique has been very generous over the last few years and we had managed to keep the cost of the meal the same but due to rising overheads we have had to raise the cost of a reserve place to £16.50 this year, which is still an absolute bargain for the amount and quality of the food you will receive.

The event will be held over two sittings, 6.30pm and 8.00pm and if you would like to come you must book onto one of the sittings by contacting either Wendy on 07732 115105 or Kate on 01793 772930. When you come along to your chosen sitting on the night you pay then. Cash only please! We look forward to seeing you there!

Wendy, Kate and the Christian Aid team

Purton Historical Society

PHS Purton by Pevsner - 20 March



Dr Phillip Coward (a lecturer from the WEA) gave us a fascinating, illustrated talk on some of the Buildings of England-written by the travelling historian Dr. Nikolaus Pevsner in Wiltshire particularly in Purton. We heard a detailed review of the 13th Century St. Mary's church, the Manor House & our wonderful Tythe barn.

Then on to the main street & College Farm House originally owned by Worcester College Oxford, then to Willis Way and the Victorian workhouse (now apartments). Back to Station Road and the polygonal Toll House, still showing the charges for passing through the village by road. (Opposite Collins Lane) The other end of the village boasts Restrop- a fine Elizabethan House & further on- an Iron Age Fort at Ringsbury Camp.

And much more Dr Pevsner reviewed all the churches & most villages in England, County by County which can be bought in individual volumes They give a new view of our own villages. Questions were asked, local information exchanged and refreshments served. Another good evening with the Purton Historical Society

Jill Watts

"The Buildings of England"-Wiltshire- Dr Nikolaus Pevener-Yale University Press

PHS meeting 28 March - AGM

On Thursday 28th March 2019 the Society's Annual General Meeting took place. Marion Hobbs, Chairman reported another very successful year and extended thanks to all Committee Members and Society members who have contributed to this success. The World War I exhibition in the Museum attracted many visitors and the society received much positive feedback. Following The Treasurer's report the election of officers for the coming year was completed. The Meeting was followed by a presentation on Lincoln Cathedral given by Kate Maddison who was previously a guide at the cathedral.

After a satisfactory AGM-(our membership fee again remains the same!) We were treated to an illustrated talk given by Kate Maddison-a guide in Lincoln Cathedral. The

building was started in 1072 and continued in phases throughout the Middle Ages-at one time it held a copy of Magna Carta (Now more safely held in Lincoln Castle). The Cathedral is built in traditional Gothic style and we were shown detailed views of the Nave, Choir, the two truly beautiful stained glass Rose Windows, cloisters and all the wonderful carvings inside & out of the Cathedral.

The heavily carved wooden screens & the very amusing misericordi-the tipping wooden seats that the clergy leaned on through out hours of worship while appearing to remain standing upright! And of course carvings of the Lincoln Imp appearing throughout. It is one of the largest cathedrals in England and as John Ruskin said-"It is out and out the most beautiful pieces of architecture in the British Isles-worth two

of any other cathedrals we have". We asked questions and enjoyed refreshments and a well deserved vote of thanks was passed. A note in my diary for a summer outing, I think.

Jill Watts

Purton Museum (above the library) re-opened its doors to the Spring and Summer on Saturday 6 April. The theme this year is street names of Purton and their history. The other fascinating exhibits of Purton's Past are still there of course for you to enjoy. Free of Charge. It was a well-attended event and we hope to see many more of you. We are open Wednesdays and 10.00-12.30 Saturdays and we look forward to seeing you!

Thursday 23 May 2019 at 7.30 p.m. Saxon Past In Malmesbury

Campbell Ritchie. Please Note: This meeting is due to take place in Purton Village Hall but in the event of the hall being used for European Elections the meeting will transfer to St Mary's Church, Purton.

The presentation will look at the sweep of Malmesbury's Saxon history; from the arrival of the West Saxons to the establishment of Malmesbury as the pre-eminent town in Wiltshire by the time of Domesday. We'll look at the emergence of Malmesbury as a leading centre of European Christianity, a strategic bastion in the struggle against Viking domination, the favourite place of the first king of all England and a home of learning and experiment.

In summary, Campbell will cover Malmesbury in the post Roman landscape to the lasting Saxon imprint on the town.

Saturday 20 July 2019 - Morning Guided Walk around Malmesbury

Campbell Ritchie will lead a guided walk around Malmesbury which will complement the presentation given on 23rd May 2019. Further details to follow.

Purton Historical Society Outing - Saturday 22 June 2019

There are still a few spaces available for the Annual Outing detailed below.

Our summer outing this year takes us to Gloucester Cathedral and then a boat trip

on the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, leaving Purton at approximately 9 a.m. and returning from Gloucester at 4.00 p.m. The guided tour of the Cathedral takes place in the morning, then we move to Gloucester Quays for lunch (free time) followed by a captivating 45 minute boat trip along the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal with a running commentary. At the end of the boat trip there will be time for you to wander around The Quays and/ or Gloucester Docks.

All welcome - Inclusive cost £28.50. Booking slips available at Society meetings or from Clive/Liz Rushen Email: cliverushen@btinternet.com New Members and visitors always welcome.

Purton Museum

Purton Museum was transformed for the Grand opening on 6 April. The display of St. Mary's Primary School children's work on the stair landing is very welcoming. The museum has a "new look", bright and cheery. New displays include the following - 'Signs of the Past' Do you love living in Purton? Come and learn about our street name origins.

'Jo Ricketts' Senior, World War I Memorabilia' This display is a reminder of the part Purton and Lydiard men took in WWI. This display includes Jo's distinctive guard's uniform and many artefacts including a World War I trench telescope and his medals.

The Museum is open Wednesday 2.00-5.00pm and Saturday 10.00am to 12.30pm.

Marion Hobbs Tel: 01793 770185, Email: roy.marion@btinternet.com

Purton Bowls Club

Our season is now underway and we are hoping for good weather again this season.



We play in various men's and ladies leagues throughout the week and mixed friendly games at the weekend. Our games are played at various times of the day so there should be a time to suit all.

Bowls is a sport for all, from juniors through to the more mature. Age is not a handicap in our game it's just a number. If you fancy having a go then you would be more than welcome. We hold weekly coaching sessions on a Friday evening from 6pm, all you will need is a pair of flat shoes or trainers. Alternatively if you can see there is someone playing when you are walking past please feel free to pop in for a chat.

We are holding a race night in the Red House Club on Saturday 27th April, the first race is at 7:30pm so if you fancy a 'flutter' then please come along, everyone is welcome. If you require any further information then please contact Alison on tel. 770 015.

Alison Fail, Secretary

The Great War Project

Part 70: Weimar and the rise of fascism

German Post-War Government

Germany was governed by the Council of the People's Deputies (CPD), from November 1918 to January 1919, under the leadership of President Friedrich Ebert. Elections were held in December 1918 for a National Assembly to write a new constitution for the German Republic.

Germany's many and opposing political factions ranged from radical left-wing groups, including the Spartacist League and the Communists, to those wanting to restore the monarchy. The far-right blamed civilian defeatism for the loss of the war and promoted this "stab in the back" theory. Ebert made an agreement with the Supreme Army Command, now led by General Wilhelm Groener to ensure that the CPD and its successor Assembly could maintain control. The Ebert-Groener pact was that the government would not reform the army if the army agreed to protect the state. The army thereby stayed under the command of the officer class, even though the army structure was supposed to have been re-organised under the Versailles treaty terms.

Causes of discontent with the government, included:

- continuing food shortages of the 1920s;
- a depreciating currency;
- the national humiliation attached to acceptance of "war guilt" at Versailles;
- the loss of territory at Versailles and the military occupation of the Rhineland.

In January 1919, the Spartacist Uprising tried to establish a communist state, with bloody street fights between government and insurrectionist paramilitaries. Two leading Spartacist-Communists, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, were arrested then beaten and shot in custody.

The National Assembly met in Weimar, 140 miles south-west of Berlin, rather than Berlin itself so as not to fuel further riots. A new constitution was adopted on 11 August 1919 which defined Germany as a federal semi-presidential constitutional republic. The capital and seat of government remained at Berlin. (The term "Weimar Republic" was not used at the time, only post-1933 to define it as a former constitutional era.)

Hyperinflation

By 1931, when reparations payments were cancelled, Germany had paid 20 billion gold marks out of the 50 billion of the 1921 London Schedule of Payments. 12.5 billion was cash in dollars from loans from New York banks. The rest was goods such as coal and chemicals, or from assets like railway equipment.

In the early post-war years, inflation was already growing at an alarming rate, but the government simply printed more Paper Marks. By 1923, the Republic claimed it could no longer afford the reparations payments and defaulted on some payments. In response, French and Belgian troops occupied the Ruhr, Germany's key industrial region, taking control of mining and manufacturing. An eight-month-long strike further damaged the economy.

Strikers were paid benefits by the state, but Germany had no international trade to pay for it. Instead more money was printed. Payments within Germany were being made with paper money which became increasingly worthless. The nominal value of debts within the country stayed the same, so businesses were able to repay originally huge bank loans in the worthless currency. Inflation led to pay rises for workers sometimes raised and paid twice within a day and the circulation of money spiralled. To save paper, which was the only thing of value about them, banknotes and postage stamps were overprinted to a thousand times their original value.

On 15 November 1923, a new currency, the Rentenmark, was introduced, backed by the value of land used for agriculture and business. The Rentenmark was established at a rate of one trillion Papiermark for one Rentenmark, making one U.S. dollar equal to 4.2 Rentenmark. Reparation payments were resumed, and the Ruhr was returned to Germany.

The Beer Hall Putsch

Among many uprisings, on 8 November 1923 the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP), led by Adolf Hitler, staged the Beer Hall Putsch (Munich Putsch). 3000 NSDAP members, under the leadership of Adolf Hitler, marched into the centre of Munich and attempted to take over the Bavarian state government and capture the Bavarian prime minister Gustav von Kahr at a meeting at a beer hall in Munich. The Bavarian police put down the putsch and 16 Nazis and 4 police officers were killed. Hitler was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison for treason. He served less than eight months in a comfortable cell, with many visitors before his release on 20 December 1924. Hitler dictated *Mein Kampf* in prison laying out his ideas and future policies. Hitler now focussed on legal methods of gaining power.

The Rise of Hitler

In 1929, the start of the depression in the United States also hit Germany. American banks withdrew their loans to German companies, and unemployment grew rapidly. In the September 1930 general election, the Nazi Party (NSDAP) won 19% of the vote and entered the Reichstag for the first time. Government had only been possible up until then under a fragile coalition system, which became unworkable; the last years of the Weimar Republic saw even more political instability. In the July 1932 elections the National Socialists won 37% of the vote and became the largest party in the Reichstag. Three short coalition Chancellorships of Brüning, von Papen and Schleicher were followed by Hitler's election to Chancellor on 30 January 1933.

By early February, Hitler's government began to clamp down on opposition groups inside and outside the Reichstag.

Hitler blamed the Communists for the Reichstag Fire of 27 February 1933 and used the state of emergency to obtain President Hindenburg's assent for the Reichstag Fire Decree the following day. The decree invoked Article 48 of the Weimar Constitution and "indefinitely suspended" a number of constitutional protections of civil liberties, allowing the Nazi coalition government to take swift action against political dissidents.

The 5 March 1933 elections were preceded by Nazi exploitation of Germany's radio and aviation to sway the electorate. Even so this election yielded a smaller majority of 16 seats for the coalition. Returned to power, Hitler put forward to the Reichstag and Reichsrat (upper house) the Enabling Act as a Constitutional Amendment giving the German Cabinet, in effect Hitler himself, the power to enact laws without the involvement of the Reichstag. It was passed in both houses on 24 March 1933 and was signed by President Paul von Hindenburg later that day. The powers were to last four years unless renewed by the Reichstag. The combined effect of the Enabling Act and the Reichstag Fire Decree transformed Hitler's government into a legal dictatorship.

Italy and the Rise of Mussolini

Before the war, Benito Mussolini had been a committed member of the Socialist Party, but he was also a nationalist and a journalist. He had formed his own newspaper and wrote strongly in favour of Italy entering the Great War on the Allies' side. The Socialist Party had a policy of neutrality and his divergent views ultimately led to his being expelled from the party. As an Italian Nationalist he wanted to unify a country split by regional loyalties. Italy entered the war in 1915 and Mussolini volunteered with the Bersaglieri corps in which he served with distinction on the front. He was severely injured in 1917 and was forced to leave the army.

Although on the victorious side, Italy's war casualties were very high and the country had been impoverished by the war effort. Mussolini founded the Italian Fascist Party, which combined a mix of socialism and nationalism. The Party soon had mass appeal based on Mussolini's call for all Italians to unite and overcome their class differences. Many war veterans joined the Party and many who were unemployed were formed by Mussolini into squads who became known as "Blackshirts", a formidable paramilitary force.

The Italian government was weak with the democratic parties unable to work together, and the church and state were similarly split on many issues. Many in the civil service and the army were sympathetic with the aims and ideology represented by Mussolini. Also, with the rise of communism and lawlessness, the intimidation of the Blackshirts seemed to offer security to the middle class. All these effects helped the rise of the Fascist Party to popularity.

However, the Fascists only won 35 seats in the election of 1921, far fewer than

the Socialists. Amid continued unrest, strikes and government unpopularity, the Fascists made their “March on Rome”: 30,000 Blackshirts travelled from all over Italy to demand the resignation of the Prime Minister and a change of government. Throughout this the Blackshirts were well drilled and disciplined and seen to be a force that represented law and order against the Communists and Socialists.

Mussolini had feared that there would be bloodshed and that the army would fire on the marchers as they reached Rome. Instead the government did resign and Mussolini was offered the Prime Ministership which he accepted. The monarchy, army, landowners, industrialists and the Catholic Church appeared to have been so concerned about an imminent Communist revolution that they let the Fascists take power, believing they could manage Mussolini. Even when he set about creating a one-party state, Mussolini did not interfere with the interests of the conservative elite who had helped him to power.

In 1926, Mussolini survived 4 assassination attempts after which all other parties were outlawed. An electoral law abolished parliamentary elections and instead the Grand Council of Fascism would select a list of candidates to be approved by plebiscite. Officially, the Grand Council could remove Mussolini from office. In reality, only Mussolini could summon the Grand Council and determine its agenda. He was now the undisputed leader of Italy and known as “Il Duce”, (The Leader).

Rick Dixon

The book of this series, *Purton in the Great War*, is now available – price £15. If you would like to buy a copy, please contact Rick Dixon on 01793 759123 or email rickdixonmail@gmail.com. Profits will go to Combat Stress.

New Forest Show

The New Forest Show is a three-day celebration of Farming, Food and Fun which is rated among the top agricultural shows in the country. From food and flowers, music and main ring attractions to cooking, crafts and county pursuits. You're guaranteed to find something different in every corner of the showground. We are delighted to be adding a brand new Canine Arena and Live Music Stage to the mix of attractions this year. Join us on 30th, 31st July & 1st August in the heart of the New Forest National Park at New Park, Brockenhurst. Buy your tickets online before 23rd July to receive a 15% discount. Visit www.newforestshow.co.uk to find out more.

DISCLAIMER

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A Book I will Always Remember

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

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

The Man who planted trees by Jean Giono

My stepfather did not read books. That is to say, if you discount the Royal Horticultural Society manuals that he followed carefully and which contributed hugely to his delicious fruit and vegetables or the instructions of how to make the perfect fly with which to catch a trout. These he devoured. But novels – never. That is, until he was persuaded by my mother to dip into a relatively short book – *The Man who Planted Trees* by Jean Giono. The title grabbed him because he knew about planting but when he started to read the story he was, like so many others before and after him, gripped by the sheer magic of the tale. The story begins in 1913, when a young man is hiking alone through Provence in the South of France enjoying the relatively unspoilt (as it was then) wilderness. Running out of water in a treeless, desolate valley where abandoned, crumbling ruins are slowly getting covered by ivy and wild lavender; he meets a widowed shepherd who guides him to a spring and then explains that he has dedicated what remains of his life to re-foresting the bare landscape. He collects acorns, makes holes in the ground with a strong pole into which he drops the acorns which he then regularly waters. The young man is deeply impressed by the work that the shepherd, Elzeard Bouffier, is undertaking but goes on his way.

World War I breaks out and the young man goes to fight returning home alive, but shell-shocked and much depressed. In 1920 he returns to Provence to seek out the shepherd in his remote valley and is astonished to see the hillsides abundant with new growth, streams running where before there had been no water and a vibrancy to the area that he could not have expected. The shepherd continues to plant his trees and by the end of World War II the valley is regenerated. People have returned to the valley and surrounding areas, rebuilt houses and thriving communities now energise a vast expanse where previously there had been only a wilderness. In 1947 in a hospice not far away, after his life's dedication to his work, Elzeard Bouffier dies peacefully.

The book had a great success. It was generally thought that there was an autobiographical base to the story and, certainly, Giono, lived through the times he alludes to. By a strange coincidence, my daughter collected acorns when we lived near Manchester; hid them under her bed, and when they sprouted took them to Pembrokeshire where my stepfather and mother then lived. John planted them and they grew to make a splendid windbreak to cut down the salt air coming off the sea which damaged his vegetable beds. Giono would have been proud of her!

Caroline McLean

Purton Placard

CHRISTIAN AID

Curry Night at The Maharajah

on Tuesday 14 May, with two
sittings at 6.30pm & 8.00pm.

Cost: £16.50 per person

Book your place by calling

Wendy: 07732 115105

or Kate: 01793 772930

Cash payments on the night please.



PURTON AGE CONCERN

Mystery Coach Trip

Wednesday 1 May, 10am. Includes lunch

Village Party

Sunday 9 June at The Red House

Boat trip with fish & chip lunch

Wednesday 12 June

Coach trip to Webbs of Wychbold

Wednesday 3 July, 10am

PURTON AND DISTRICT
GARDENERS' GUILD
PLANT AND CAKE
SALE
SATURDAY 25th MAY
9AM - MIDDAY
AT
PAVENHILL SHOPS



Bank Holiday Monday Tea Party Charity Event

Monday 6 May, 12.30-4pm, at The Maharajah
Come and join us for homemade cakes and
scones (gluten free and dairy free options
available). Try some delicious indian sweets
and savouries made to order!

All accompanied by a pot of tea or coffee
Funds raised will be divided equally
between the Special Needs Hostel, Udaipur,
India and Purton Age Concern.

Phone: Khaliq Ali: 01793 770998 or
Wendy Johnson: 07732 115105



Sat May 11 Plants and Cakes
Sale at the Pavenhill shops.

Tues May 14 - Sale of baby items at Pips
Community café from 10am - 3pm.

Tues May 14 - Curry Night at the Maharajah...
two sittings at 6.30pm and 8.00pm and always a
fun evening.

Wed May 15 - Christian Aid Lunch at 12 noon
at the Methodist Church.

Sun May 19 - Christian Aid
Breakfast at the Methodist
Church from 9am then a
Special Service at 10.30.

Contact Libbie 771018
or Mary 770505 for details.

christian
aid

THE CAST OF STAGE STRUCK
PRESENT...
Just Monkeying Around
Saturday 18th May 2019
Performances at: 3pm and 7pm
Immanuel Church, Upham Road, Swindon, SN3 1DH
Tickets: Adult £10 Child £5
A great family show, full of comedy, dance and song
Telephone: 07596 151 051 Email: thecastofstagestruck@gmail.com
SWINDON 105.5
Our nominated charity for "Just Monkeying Around" is Swindon 105.5, our local community radio station

PRAM SERVICE

You are invited to bring
Pre-school children to
Playclose Methodist Church
Every Thursday during term time from
2.20-3pm.

We enjoy singing with shakers,
Bible stories and activities and
refreshments.

JUBILEE GARDENS PROJECT *Open Day*

Saturday 25 May, 10.00am-3pm,
Bedding plants, perennials, herbs,
fuchsias, geraniums, basket plants,
hanging baskets, planters, vegetable
plants, cakes, refreshments, tombola,
raffle and lots more!
Free admission

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

Purton and District Probus Club



At the Probus meeting of 12th March, Angela Panrucker from Cheltenham, a member of the "Inn Sign Society" gave a fascinating talk on "The History of Pub Signs".

Behind the idyllic image of the English country pub, which is now sadly disappearing, lies centuries of tradition going back to mediaeval times. Even the Romans constructed, at intervals along their roads, taverns which sold wine and offered food and lodging. These were identified by branches of evergreen hung on the outside of the building. Signs like 'The Bush' and the 'Bunch of Grapes', have come down from this tradition. There is evidence from Pompeii that 'The Chequers' also comes down from that time. Chequered boards found there, and used to assist counting, were later employed as a sign to indicate a banking and exchange service. Those travelling in mediaeval times, many of whom, would have been illiterate, would understand the meaning of the various signs. 'Three Horse Shoes' would be the sign of a farrier. 'The Barley Mow' or 'The Hop Pole' would show a brewery selling ale. In towns, the sign set the establishment apart, so that it could be recommended to others. The signs of pubs, taverns, alehouses and inns, can be grouped under several influences; Religion, Royalty, Heraldry, Nature, Trade, Battles etc. They can be seen as a little history of civilisation in pictures, and are evidence of local activities in a particular area.

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII, some Laymen converted buildings to taverns and continued to brew ale and distil liquor. Ale was the staple drink, and considered safer to drink than water. The earliest signs used motifs drawn from heraldry, but by Georgian times there was greater variety. Heraldry gave us 'The White Hart' of Richard II and, the most popular pub sign of all, 'The Red Lion' of King James I and John of Gaunt. Arm's pub signs were once seen on many of the estates of land owners. There is a Sherborne Arms at Northleach and at Aldsworth close to the Fosse Way. Signs associated with religion include 'The Catherine Wheel', 'The Lamb and Flag' and 'The Angel'. Trades gave us 'The Carters Rest', 'The Ship' etc. Some signs suggest black humour, for example 'The Last Drop' depicting a hangman's noose. The reason for 'The Smoking Dog' at Malmesbury seems to be unknown. Closure of railway stations resulted in 'The Silent Whistle', and 'The Ghost Train'.

Angela showed slides of 149 different Pub Signs, from a collection of about 2000, which she and her husband, Terry, have recorded from all over the country. Locations and interesting information was offered with each one. At question time, a member asked "Why does Purton have a Royal George?" Built in 1756, 'The Royal George' was the largest war ship in the world, but in 1782, whilst heeled over for repairs at Spithead, outside Portsmouth, it took in water and sank with the loss of about 800 lives. Poetry and Ghost stories ensued. Perhaps the pub sign was chosen for its fame or its misfortune.

On Thursday 21st, some of our members joined with the Highworth Probus

members for a coach trip to the British Motor Museum at Gaydon, near Warwick. The museum holds the world's largest collection of British cars, with over 300 Classic cars on display from the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust and the Jaguar Heritage Trust. We enjoyed the fascinating story of Britain's motor industry, from the first motorised tricar of 1904, through all Production Road Models, to the F1 motors of today. There was even a current video exhibition, which featured on Midlands television, of the SOS rebuilds of 7 different Classic Cars which had been rescued from rare, derelict and neglected examples. Once again, we thank Les, of Highworth Probus for an enjoyable day.

At the meeting on the 26th March, Nicholas Smith, a retired teacher from Beckford, near Bredon Hill, Gloucestershire, gave a talk on Costa Rica, the Spanish speaking republic of Central America. Nick and his wife have been enthusiastic travellers from a young age. After raising a family of four children, they resumed their travels, preferring to use local indigenous guides rather than joining large commercial groups.

Costa Rica is a country about 2/3rds the size of Scotland. It is about 70 miles across from its Caribbean coastline on the North East to its Pacific coast on the South West. It has frontiers with Nicaragua and Panama. It had a sparse population of Mayan/Inca natives when Columbus arrived in 1502 to later give it the name which translates as "Rich Coast". It remained a Spanish colony until independence as part of the Mexican Empire. In 1847 it was declared independent of the United Provinces of Central America. Late in December 1948 it disbanded its Army, but maintains a police guard force. Today it is among the most stable, prosperous and progressive states of Latin America.

The tour began at Limon on the marshy and wet Caribbean Coast with a lightweight boat trip to penetrate the rivers and mangrove swamps of the dense forest. Here we saw Caymans and native dwellings displaying their catches of fish. There were colourful images of some of the 800 species of tropical birds of the country and the bright flora found there. The Beach of the Tortoises was pointed out, but this is best done by moonlight. Moving inland, there were large plantations of Bananas and of Coffee plants. In the capital San Jose' which is almost 1200 metres above sea level with a population of about 2 million, we saw many examples of the typical dress which reminds the tourist of the indigenous peoples. An interesting sign in the city read 'Control con Grua' which literally means Control by Crane, but actually conveys the message 'No Parking'. Beware! There was, in the city, evidence of a now defunct railway system which used to connect the two coasts. Nick and his wife visited the rim of an occasionally active volcano, but unfortunately, thick mist obscured most of the view, a common hazard. Coming down to the Pacific shore, a shop that would normally sell beer displayed a notice saying, 'Closed for three days during the Elections. The penultimate leg of the journey was a one-hour boat crossing to an area called 'The Peninsula' and, by local standards, a luxury hotel in 350 acres of ground. A smart swimming pool made the beach redundant, but the

hotel offered many other attraction which included horse riding and hang-gliding. Nick's choice was to see more of the natural flora and fauna with opportunities to photograph black-backed squirrels, large lizards, termites, scarlet macaws, spider monkeys, ospreys, local cattle, mangoes, exotic flowers and more. Like many mountainous countries the Airport on the peninsular was at sea level and abruptly lifting out over the sea was a novel and slightly disconcerting experience said our speaker. The talk illustrated a pleasant experience in one of the safer Latin-American Countries.

Purton Probus Meets at 10am in the Red House lounge every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Visitors and new members welcome. May programme; 14th English as a global language. 28th The Search for the North West Passage.

Bob Stevens

Prospect Hospice

Let's rock!

This year, Avebury will welcome back its home-grown festival featuring a variety of live music across two stages. Tickets are now available for this family-friendly festival which will take place on Saturday 15th June at Manor Farm, Avebury Trusloe – there's the option of camping overnight too! For more information and tickets visit www.prospect-hospice.net/aveburyrocksfestival

Get painty!

On Saturday 14 September, you have the opportunity to join the most colourful fundraiser of the year! Prospect Hospice's Run the Rainbow, which takes place at Lydiard Park, is a great event for the whole family as well as friends and colleagues.

Whether you run, jog, walk or dance the 5km route, you are sure to have loads of fun! Start wearing your white event T-shirt and along the route pass through our five different paint stations where coloured powder paint will be thrown at you, so you finish rainbow coloured! For more information and tickets visit www.prospect-hospice.net/runtherainbow

Light up the night this summer!

Take part in a 10k or 15k route around Swindon on Saturday 22nd June in support of Prospect Hospice's nursing care – dress to impress in your brightest outfit and enjoy illuminations along the way. For more information and to register, visit www.prospect-hospice.net/starlightwalk

Could you become one of our box collectors?

We are currently looking for volunteers to become box collectors in the Brinkworth & Greenmedow areas. Our collectors are an important part of our volunteering team, collecting household boxes within their neighbourhoods. Household boxes are an easy way for people in our community to donate to the hospice, and box collectors enable us to continue to raise funds in this way. If you are able to help,

or would like some more information on this role, please contact Alex on 01793 816163, or email alexandracooper@prospect-hospice.net.

This will unfortunately be my last monthly update as I will be leaving my post at the hospice on the 23rd April. I would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone for your support. Details will be coming out next month and this will be sent by our new community fundraiser, Vicky. Thank you very much for your continued support of Prospect Hospice.

Hollie Ricketts, Community Fundraiser

Mad March Hare

Mad March Hare Raises over £9,000 in its 12th Year

Mad March Hare organisers have announced fundraising from this year's event currently exceeds £9,000 for Breast Cancer Now. More donations are still coming in as supporters continue to send in their sponsorship so look out for further announcements.



Over 580 runners, walkers and joggers, buggies and four legged friends turned out on a beautiful sunny morning to take part in the friendly run/walk/jog event over 5 and 10k routes in West Swindon. In addition there were 'Virtual' events taking place across England and around the world with participants in Italy, New York and Australia.

Eunice Salmon said 'The on-going success of the Mad March Hare event will help push us closer to Shirley Garman's £1m goal. Big thanks to the good hearted people of Swindon and beyond for rising to the challenge and helping us strive to achieve this goal this year. Eunice added, the aim of the event is twofold – to encourage people to invest in their health by getting active and to raise funds for Breast Cancer Now'.

It was lovely to see so many families take part in the event this year, the pupils and teachers from Abbey Meads primary school took part for the second year in a row and are setting a good example to the rest of us. It was great to see so many of them representing their school and even persuading their parents to participate. It was heart-warming to feel their sense of achievement as they proudly received their medals.

Mayor Junab Ali joined the crowd in a warm up before the event, many dressed up in bunny costumes, bunny ears and even super heroes!

The date of the 13th Mad March Hare will be announced shortly so keep a look out for details. We'll be launching the 2020 event and getting underway with fundraising at the immensely popular fun quiz night in November.

In the meantime, if you are interested in volunteering, do contact the team on info@madmarchhare.org.uk, telephone 0845 680 8064.

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