

Purton. Magazine

June 2018



London Marathon hero, fundraiser for Alzheimer's Research and Dementia Friend trainer, Sue Giles shares her experiences with her Mum, and us on page 36.

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
Purton Age Concern		
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, <i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Health & Wellbeing Champion	Ellen Blacker	07557 922020
Schools & Playgroups		
Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Pear Drops at Playclose	Sarah Grigg	07759 583566
Pear Drops Pre-School (formerly Under 5s')	Sarah Grigg	978536
St Mary's Primary School	Secretary	770239
Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary www.stmaryspurton.org.uk		
<i>For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.</i>		
Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk	Tel: 770077, 773031 (emergencies only)
Curate: Revd Judith Wells	email: judithwells36@googlemail.com	Tel: 770627
Wardens	Sandra Horsnall: 770157	Jane Smith: 772422
Administrator: Rosie Harris	administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk Tel: 773035	
Methodist Churches <i>For information about services in Purton, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine. Braydon: Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship</i>		
Minister: Revd David Perkins	Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT	
Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett		
www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk		
Parish Priest:	Tel: 852366	
Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues		
Parish Deacon: Revd Terry Aspell	Tel: 325681	
<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 7.0pm, Sundays 9.30am Mass.</i>		

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InTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

Our front cover photograph shows what can be achieved “*after six hard months of training in the rain, wind, ice and snow*” because that’s what it takes to prepare for – and succeed at – the London Marathon. On page 36 we are very pleased to include Sue Giles’ wonderful account of her very special day. A record 386,050 people had applied for this year’s race – almost a third more than last year – and Sue had secured a ballot place at the first attempt.

For those readers who may not remember Sunday 22 April, it was the hottest ever London Marathon. Well over 40,000 runners took part amid temperatures in excess of 24°C and organisers had warned that the high temperatures could be especially difficult for runners wearing fancy dress. Sue highlights the incredible support runners receive from the public with crowds of people cheering everyone along, creating a fabulous atmosphere that she had never experienced before.

Her main motivation was to run for her Mum and for everyone else living with one of the cruellest illnesses that is Dementia. Throughout her training around the village, many people simply thrust some money into her hands and made her “*feel truly blessed to be a part of this fabulous community.*” Well done Sue – an amazing achievement – and we know that she is not the only person in Purton to have completed the London Marathon this year.

Purton Hulks could be the name of a group of local runners in next year’s London Marathon but the hulks referred to on page 24 are definitely motionless. Purton Historical Society went to Purton in Gloucestershire to look at the remains of Gloucestershire’s long gone maritime past.

The topic for the Gardeners’ Guild meeting in April was “Fungi – The Forgotten Kingdom” and there is a fascinating report on page 30. It seems that 95% of all plants and trees rely on fungi to survive and thrive, often by growing alongside the roots and providing nutrients that can’t be obtained from the soil, while the plants and trees provide the fungi with sugars which they make during photosynthesis.

In certain lights, a mis-shapen mushroom can look like an old man’s crumpled face, especially if left in the fridge too long. There is an interesting looking Class 16 coming up in this year’s Purton Annual Flower, Arts, Crafts & Produce Show – an opportunity to display your oddly shaped vegetables.

8” x 40”

Knitted strips needed to replace squares for Operation Sunshine
– see page 42

500 words

Writing competition includes a year 8 student from Bradon Forest
– see page 48

30 million

People died from Spanish ‘flu in six months during the Great War
– see page 44

Purton Parish Council News



Councillor Vacancies

We currently have 2 vacancies for Councillor Co-option. If interested please contact the Clerk.

Councillors 2018-19

Chairman of Council/Staff Sub/ Finance & General Purposes/Charities	Ray Thomas	01793 951520
Vice Chair of Council	Elizabeth Wilson	01793 771854
Chair of Planning	Geoff Greenaway	01793 771140
Councillor	Scott Harflett	07920 260222
Councillor	Helen Hicks	01793 778207
Chair of Burials	Neil Hooper	01793 771066
Councillor	Kevin Law	07768 456989
Councillor	Sue Matthews	01793 771091
Chair of Play Areas	Vicky McKerrow	01793 778190
Councillor	Jamie Hurwood	01793 771066
Councillor	Julie Ann Hurwood	01793 771066
Councillor	Paul Grigg	01793 771066
Councillor	Sue Relfe	01793 771066

Become A Dementia Friend

A great response to the first two months of the year with regards to Purton becoming a Dementia Friendly Community. Next date: 20th June at 10am and 2pm at the Village Hall, Purton. Everyone is welcome. 45 minutes of your time to change a community. Do you belong to a Community Group or business in Purton? Can we come to one of your meetings or premises and run a Dementia Friends Session? Say YES, make a difference and allow us to show that as a community we care. Make Purton Proud say yes to 45 minutes of your time to make a difference to those suffering and caring.

Councillor Surgery

Do you have concerns or questions regarding Purton that the Parish Council can advise or help with? Come along and have an informal chat on Saturday 8th September and Saturday 3rd December 2018 from 10am to 12 noon.

June Meetings

Staff Sub (not open to the public)	Monday 4th June 2018
Finance and General Purposes	Monday 4th June 2018 at 8pm
Council meeting	Monday 11th June 2018
Planning and Highways	Monday 18th June 2018
Purton War Memorial and Village Centre	Monday 25th June 2018
Play Close Charity	Monday 25th June 2018 if any business

Purton Cemetery

Purton Parish Council has carried out memorial testing in the Cemetery during January 2018. We have contacted the owners of the graves where details are on file, but sadly several are missing. A notice has been attached to any headstone that requires attention. No headstone is in danger of collapse or falling. If you are aware of the ownership or could help us locate the families please contact our offices on (01793) 771066 or email clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Memory Stones

The Parish Council sadly have no room left for memorial trees in the Cemetery however we are offering a memorial option at the entrance of the cemetery in the form of a slate stone engraving. If you are interested please contact the Clerk for more information.

Metal Planters

Purton Parish Council has a supply of old metal planters for sale which were previously used on the outside of the Institute and Village Hall buildings. If you are interested in purchasing please email or telephone the Clerk for more details (£25 each - 6 oval, 3 oblong).

Planning approved with conditions

- 18/02075/Tca St. Mary's Church, church street. Work to trees in a conservation area. No objection.
- 18/02094/Tca 5 church end. T1 yew 20% crown reduction, t2 sycamore fell, t3 beech 20% crown reduction, t4 elm fell, t5 elm fell, t6 sycamore fell, t7 sycamore 20% crown reduction, t8 holly 10% crown reduction, t9 yew 20% crown reduction, t10 elm fell, t11 sycamore fell. No objection.
- 18/01735/Ful Gospel Oak Farm, Braydon. Erection of a detached domestic garage, workshop, log store and office/annex ancillary to Gospel Oak Farm.
- 18/01941/Ful 93 Pavenhill. Two storey extension to side and single storey extension to rear.

Footpaths

It saddens me to report that we have had incidents of antisocial behavior carried out on several areas of public footpaths in Purton. Obscene and offensive graffiti and criminal damage to fencing. The volunteer footpath teams and landowners work hard to provide a safe accessible walk for all and this type of action is not acceptable. The police have been informed and monitoring is in place. Please ensure that any antisocial behaviour is reported to the Police first on 101 and then the Council as soon as possible.

We are always looking for options to enhance footpath accessibility with in Purton,

so if you would be interested in sponsoring a kissing gate, or adopting a footpath in memory please contact the offices for more information.

Charities

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre charity are currently looking into a revised sign for the centre to show case the facility and all that are available.

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 lets 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 chezneymb@hotmail.com or Debbie Lawrence on clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk or call the office on 01793 771066.

How to contact the Parish Council

Telephone number 01793 771066, email address: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.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 away 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 the above media sites please contact the Clerk on clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk or call 771066. Find us at: Facebook – Purton Parish Council, Twitter - @PurtonPC

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

Purton & District Age Concern



Just to let you all know, we have re-booked our annual auction for Saturday 13th October at the Village Hall. The auction should have taken place in March but was cancelled due to the heavy snow. More details will follow nearer the time.

Last month I said the new minibus should have arrived but sadly there was a delay receiving the vehicle. We have now been advised it will be with us from 23rd May and have decided to have the presentation of the new minibus at our Village Party at the Red House on Sunday 10th June. Please come along and see the new vehicle we have purchased with your support and meet some of the minibus officers and crew. After viewing the new vehicle you may be tempted to join our team of drivers and shotguns, new volunteers are always welcome.

Just to remind you we are still taking part in the Asda West Swindon green token scheme until the end of June. Please ask for green tokens when paying for your shopping and add them to the Purton Age Concern charity box on your way out of the store. Money raised through this scheme will go towards replacing the grey minibus.

During recent weeks we have received several minibus donations, our restricted fund for the purchase of a second new minibus is starting to build up but we still need to raise quite a lot more to reach the amount needed to replace our grey minibus. Thank you to everyone who has donated to our minibus fund raising appeal, your support is very much appreciated.

Calling all amateur photographers!

Due to the success of our 2018 calendar we will be producing a 2019 calendar. We would like you to submit photographs taken in and around Purton, especially ones you think best represent the village during all four seasons of the year, or particular views, buildings and Purton people.

Due to feedback from Artworking Ltd, who produced our 2018 calendar there are certain points we need you to follow this year to produce high quality images for printing. Please set your camera on the highest available setting, which will mean the camera will then produce the smallest number of images but with higher resolutions. Each image needs to be landscape not portrait and they need to be emailed to Peter Berry as a JPEG size 2-3MB before the closing date of Friday 20th July. Peter's email address is peterberry@uwclub.net

Please state in your email where the photo was taken. I'm sorry this year we can't accept photos that have already been printed off, they must be digital images.

Purton & District Age Concern committee will judge the photos after the closing date. Entrants will be informed if their photo is picked, the judge's decision will be final. The calendars will be on sale at the beginning of September for those who wish to post them abroad. Good luck everyone!

It has been brought to our attention that a pensioner was recently attacked and knocked to the ground by three large dogs while walking on the footpath via the allotments between Upper Pavenhill and Pavenhill. The three dogs were with their owners but were not on leads. Fortunately the person wasn't too badly injured but did suffer some bruising and was very shaken up. The incident was reported to the Parish Council who highlighted the issue on their social media accounts. The injured person wants others to be aware of what happened to hopefully prevent the same thing happening again.

Tony recently received a letter from John MacDonald who is stepping down from his role as street warden in Glevum Close. For many years John's wife, Aron was our street warden but when she passed away John spoke to Tony and said he was happy to take on role, which was a wonderful thing for him to do. Over the years John has been a great asset to Age Concern and those on his patch. Each Christmas John produced his own cards for 'his' pensioners which contained our Christmas vouchers and newsletters...a lovely touch John and much appreciated, thank you. We are very grateful to John for his dedicated service to Age Concern and we wish him well in his 'retirement'. We are hoping to have a replacement street warden for Glevum Close

The following tribute to Mrs. Kay Smith has been written by our president Tony Price. We were all very sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. Kay Lewis of Glevum Close who has, over the years, been a great supporter of Purton Age Concern in many ways. I know it was when our meetings were held in the common room at Hooks Hill (that was when Age Concern started to take off) there were always two or three good raffle prizes for our Christmas raffle apart from other times of the year when we had an event. Kay was always interested in what we were doing.

I suppose it must run in the family – doing things to help others - as Kay's gran Maudie Rushen was a great worker when the Red House was started along with Nan Mills and Mrs. Braddon. Kay's mum and dad – Betty and Les Rushen - were very much involved in village life and Kay's brother Clive and his wife Liz are involved with our minibuses.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Michael and Matthew and their families and, of course, Clive and Liz and family and we thank them all for donations in lieu of flowers coming to Purton Age Concern.

Tony Price.

Future Events

Boat Trip - Friday 8 June, with a 9am start and lunch included. FULLY BOOKED! The coach will be coming up through the Village starting at New Road at 9am. All attendees please be at the usual bus stops to get on the coach. Louise can be contacted on 772558 for more details.

Village party - On Sunday 10 June we will be holding an afternoon tea party at the

Red House from 2-6pm. All are welcome to attend including children. The bunting will be up, hot dogs and cream teas will be on sale, there will also be a cake stall and raffle. Music will be provided by The Chedworth Silver Band and there will be games for the children. **HOT OFF THE PRESS** – we will also have the presentation of our new minibus. Please come along and see the new vehicle we have purchased with your support and meet some of the minibus officers and crew. After viewing the new vehicle you may be tempted to join our team of drivers and shotguns, new volunteers are always welcome. The Red House bar will be open all afternoon serving drinks. If you need transport to attend please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862. Donations of cakes and raffle prizes will be much appreciated. Thank you.

Friday Minibus Shopping Trip in June - There will be one Friday minibus shopping trip in June. It will be on Friday 29 June, the destination will be Cirencester. Please contact Hazel on 770862 to book your place.

Outing on Severn Valley Railway - This is on Wednesday 4 July and is **FULLY BOOKED**. We will be leaving the Village at 11.30am. We have to be at Kidderminster station at least 45 minutes prior to departure. We are travelling on the 2.15pm steam train from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth. Please have a mid-morning snack at home to sustain yourselves until lunchtime. Please bring a packed lunch, which you will be able to eat on the train as we will be in a private carriage with 4 seats to every table. Drinks are available on the train. The coach will pick us up in Bridgnorth and there will be a comfort/refreshment stop on the journey home. Can everyone who has booked their place please contact Louise on 772558 to make their payment. Thank you.

Annual Coffee Morning - This will be on Saturday 14 July from 10am-12pm at the home of Dick & Jackie Scott, Bentham House Farm, Bentham Lane. Admission will be £1 and includes tea/coffee/biscuit. There will be plants for sale, bric-a-brac, tombola, cake stall, tombola and a raffle. We are very grateful to Dick and Jackie for hosting our coffee morning again this year. Donations of cakes, books, bric-a-brac and raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Thank you. To book the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

Past Events

April Mystery Tour - This was a huge success, feedback at our recent committee meeting was that the meal was lovely, a wonderful carvery that everyone enjoyed.

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.

Tai chi - We hold Tai chi sessions each Thursday at 2pm in the Millennium Hall. There are places available. Please contact Steve Rouse the Tai chi instructor on 07956359924 or email him at wroughtonbodybalance@gmail.com for more information.

Minibuses - Please contact Hazel Woodbridge our minibus co-ordinator 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.

Purton Luncheon Club - The Luncheon Club is held on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s in the Silver Threads Hall at 12pm. A delicious two course home cooked meal followed by a dessert and cup of tea/coffee costs just £4.50. What a bargain! Transport is provided by the Age Concern minibuses. Places are available, for more information please contact Pat Suddaby on 771331.

The Friendship Club - The next Friendship Club meeting will be lunch at The Bell on Friday 1st June. The Friendship Club is run by the Silver Threads committee, for further details please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339. The minibus is available to attend the Friendship Club, please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place.

Easyfundraising.org.uk - If you shop online would you please consider registering with easyfundraising.org.uk and nominate Purton and District Age Concern as your Good Cause. Once registered, each time you make a purchase by accessing the online shop of your choice through Easyfundraising.org.uk we will receive a donation. All major supermarkets and High Street shops have signed up to this service. Thank you.

Louise Tidman

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Cricklade Bloomers are Landscaping the area around Green Gable Surgery Car Park



We would like to thank Cricklade Bloomers for working with Kai Howard, the Practice Manager, and agreeing to landscape the area around the Green Gable Surgery Car Park. The initial work, purchase of plants, etc will be paid for by the PPG and the photo shows Marietta Crockford, Chair of the PPG, presenting a cheque for £419.86 to Cricklade Bloomers who have also agreed to maintain the area.

Receive PPG information by email

This Newsletter and other PPG information is sent to five local magazines for inclusion and also to Purton Parish Council and to Cricklade Town Council (see their websites and the Noticeboard in Cricklade Town Council Office window). In addition you can receive PPG information by email; simply email your request to: groupforpatients@gmail.com and you will be added to the group list. In accordance with our email protocol all emails are sent blind copy.

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

Obituary: Doris Gough

When the inevitable happens, we are often galvanised into remembering moments spent, so these are my memories and reflections relating to Doris Gough.

Doris has always been in my life, from my earliest childhood at Purton Stoke, being great friends with my Grandparents at the Spa, also my own Mum and Dad and of course Aunts, Uncles and Cousins.

Doris Gough, was born Doris Frances Webb on the 2nd June 1923, into a farming family, based at Elcombe, near Wroughton, her father had a small mixed farm, which was common then, cows, pigs, chickens, ducks and geese. They moved just down the road to Manor Farm, Elcombe, with more acres to provide an income for an increasing family when Doris was six. A sister Violet and two brothers Tony and David, all involved with the farm in some way.

Attending the local parish school, Doris had a good basic education and having a bright enquiring mind meant she was quick to learn.

The needs of the Webb family continued to grow, so in 1932 Mr Webb purchased Hardings Farm at Spa Lane, Purton Stoke and the move was undertaken one very wet spring day. It was my Grandparents first glimpse of Doris, coming over the little bridge that marks the entrance to Spa Lane, carrying a stick twice her height, along with Violet her sister, they had 'walked' the twenty cows with calves from Wroughton to Purton Stoke and were totally wet through. As my grandmother quietly commented "to her undergarments", so the girls were ushered into the Spa house and dried, given warm dry clothes and a big bowl of hot soup, my Grandfather and Dad taking the cows onto the farm.

The relationship started that wet day between the Webb, Neville and Carter families and I'm honoured to say, endures to this day.

Being strong Methodists, they soon joined with our families and many others in worshipping together in the Chapel at Purton Stoke, at that time a congregation on Sunday morning often exceeding 100, was common. How things have sadly changed, as the Chapel is now a comfortable private residence, but I'm sure the great joy of friendship and worship with joyous singing, must still linger in those red brick walls.

Doris met George Gough in 1939, but unfortunately the Second World War delaying any thoughts of marriage until the spring of 1945. They were married at Brinkworth Methodist Church and after the wedding George took his bride back to their new home, Bourne Farm, on the Cricklade road, by motorcycle. Doris carried a milking pail in each hand, given as wedding presents, as the evening milking still had to be done.

It was during 1945 Doris decided she wanted to 'somehow' share her faith, share the love of Jesus that she felt within, but being a quiet person this was a major step and so she approached my Grandfather for help. He was himself a greatly

respected local preacher and he helped her in the early days of understanding and the preparation of services. She led by the instincts God had given her and became an influential part of my immersion in the love of God and many others were also wonderfully infected by her style of preaching, listening to Doris speak from the pulpit, her tone of voice, although not loud, demanded your attention. Her services were always interesting and very punctual, starting on time and finishing promptly on the hour.

The influence Doris played in our faith, on occasion teaching us at Sunday school in a no frills manner, made us realise the unquestionable love of Jesus and to appreciate the messages from the Bible. She was always included in the speakers at the Revival Camp Meetings, which Purton Stoke Chapel was famous for organising.

In 1954 the patter of tiny feet heralded the arrival of Linda to Bourne Farm and of course eventually she joined us in our Sunday school group.

Doris was a real farmer's wife, always busy around the farm, helping with milking, the calves, pigs and chickens. In the summer always on a tractor, both Doris and George were small in stature and they found the little grey Ferguson to be well suited to them and so they bought two from Bartrops, the agricultural dealers in Highworth. I'm unsure if they were recognised as His and Hers but to us it always seemed that way.

As a youngster and always into things mechanical and tractors in particular, my first major repair job on my own, given to me by dad at the garage in Station Road, was to repair a misfire on one of the Gough's Fergy tractors, I was twelve years old at the time. Removing parts, cleaning and renewing where necessary, under much supervision by dad and Ron Hiscock the foreman, things started to go back together. I was stood on a wooden box, busying myself with gasket cement and oil, quite a bit of which was stuck to me, I became aware of Doris standing next to me, to check on progress, as it was 'Her' tractor and in her usual clipped tone, she said "are you sure you know what you're doing?" For a moment I was flustered but the glint in her eye told me she was pulling my leg and so a light-hearted but well-informed discussion took place about the job in hand and what a marvellous machine the grey Ferguson was in particular. Doris had a quiet but endearing sense of humour, although not given to frivolities she was great to be with, as children we all loved her so much.

Doris surprisingly enjoyed the Speedway at Blunsdon Abbey stadium, often attending the noisy meetings with George, John Selby, the Woolford boys at Packhorse, with many others joining the throng.

Family times spent at Bourne Farm, playing tennis on the grass court, croquet, hide and seek, parties on the grass, with door step sandwiches, jellies and trifle, will never be forgotten.

In 1978 Linda married Chris and they soon gave Doris two granddaughters, Ann-Marie and Heather and she was extremely proud of them.

Sadly George passed away in 1991, leaving Doris with the farm and so it was sold in 1992 and she moved to Purton, as a non-driver this was a good move, as visits to the shops, chemist and Playclose Methodist Chapel all became accessible to her. Doris had been a very active member of Purton Stoke Chapel and she transferred her membership to Playclose on moving to the village and she was welcomed with warm open arms, which she felt was wonderful.

A rather serious fall in 2011 resulted in a badly broken hip, with much on-going pain and a move to Wemyss Lodge Care Home was inevitable but necessary. Doris really enjoyed her visitors, many taking time out to visit, Ken and Margaret Carter in particular enjoying good conversation over many years. Further problems following a serious stroke in January 2013 left Doris with little mobility and her reliance upon the excellent supportive staff at Wemyss Lodge became total.

Doris Gough was a lady of small stature but with a huge and endearing personality, who always raised her voice when leading the Lord's Prayer, who chose hymns that lifted our voices, who was an influence on my faith and also that of many others. She provided an example of devoted trust in the love of Jesus and passed on a joy in knowing the Lord was with us.

At some point in our lives we all need a Doris Gough, I'm so glad she was in mine. Thank you 'Aunty Doris'. Rest In Peace -

Phillip Neville.

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purtonvets.co.uk**



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Jon Usher 01793 770596
Email: jonschanges@btinternet.com
Over 25 years experience
10 College Road, Purton, Swindon SN5 4AR

Christian Aid week 2018

Thank you for your support for Christian Aid Week activities this year. We have had a brilliant week, with so many exciting activities.



We shall count up all the funds and let you know the result as soon as we can.

This year we managed to have a Breakfast event, a Lunch, a Supper (with a Murder Mystery thrown in!) and a Bring & Share party!.. all for Christian Aid .

We had our usual Quiz, which managed to irritate and entertain hundreds of people, not only in the village, but also as far afield as Scotland and Northern Ireland!

And we had a beautiful handmade quilt donated as a competition prize...guess how many pieces of fabric were included in the quilt...a mind boggler!

On top of all of this we distributed and collected up thousands of Christian Aid envelopes; which all helps towards the fund raising for Haiti, a country still suffering from the results of earthquake and hurricane Matthew.

Now there is only our Curry Night to come... on June 19th, at the Maharajah, thanks to an invitation by Khalique. There will be two sittings: 6.30 and 8pm. Always a lovely evening. Do come and share it with us. Thank you so much.

To find out more please phone Libbie: 771018 or Mary: 770505

Health & Wellbeing Champion

Just a quick word to remind you all that 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 Tel: 07557 922020 or email: ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk

Purton Methodist Church

Our Concert given by Chedworth Silver Band at the Village Hall on 28th April was a great success raising £676 towards our refurbishment project. Their varied programme of music was entertaining and easy to listen to and delighted all who came, so much so that there were a number of requests for a return visit, and this has been planned for the end of the year. By the time you read this we will have had the Concert given by Geoff Walters and Encore, which we are sure will be another evening's entertainment to appreciate and enjoy.

Our next fundraising event will be a Coffee Morning at 35 High Street (the home of Moira, Sylvia and Colin) on 4th August from 10.00 a.m. till 12 noon. There will be the usual cake and bric-a-brac stalls with a raffle and tombola. Please come along and enjoy the genial hospitality and socialising that is a hallmark of these occasions. Thank you very much for all the support received for our fundraising programme.

Saturday 7th July 2018 - Guided Walk around Cirencester

3.00 pm leave Purton, 4.00 pm commence walk. A local guide, William Cooper, will be leading a town walk around Cirencester on Saturday 7th July 2018. It is planned for members and guests to share cars - arrangements as follows: We will meet in the layby at the bottom of College Road Purton at 3.00 p.m. to arrange car sharing. The walk is scheduled to commence at 4.00 p.m. and will last approximately one and a half hours. Meet outside the Abbey Church in Cirencester. There will be a small charge of £2.00 per person which will be donated to Cirencester Civic Society. Sturdy footwear is recommended. If you would like to come and require a lift please contact Marion Hobbs Tel: 770185 email: roy.marion@btinternet.com or Tony and Janet Neate Tel: 01793 770117 email: tjneate57@gmail.com

Purton Museum

The re-opening of the museum for the Summer months was successful. We were particularly pleased with the interest shown in the Purton Station exhibition which will remain on display until July.

Purton Historical Society are seeking a lecturer or lecturers for a six week autumn course on Wednesdays between 19.30 and 21.00.

Subjects to be considered can be "transport", "railways", the "RAF" and possible appreciation of music, art or architecture. Remuneration to be negotiated. If interested please contact Marion Hobbs roy.marion@btinternet.com

New Members and visitors always welcome

Do you look after, or help to look after a loved one or friend?

Illness, disability, old age; there are many reasons why three in five of us will look after a loved one and become carers at some point in our lives. Becoming a carer can affect personal finances, social life, education and employment, and general health and well-being. Who cares? We do.

Carer Support Wiltshire is a local charity which can help you access the information and support you might need. We also offer one to one and group support, carer cafes, complementary therapy sessions and breaks from your caring role.

So whether you're caring full time, for a few days a week, or juggling work with looking after someone, don't struggle on your own. Contact us on 0800 181 4118 or visit our website at www.carersupportwiltshire.co.uk

Purton Guide Dogs

The man came up from Wales and collected two large bags of used postage stamps from me, the proceeds from these I will be donating to Purton Guide Dogs. I hope to be having a stall at the Carnival Hog Roast at Playclose.

Brian Davies, for the Purton Guide Dogs Support Group.

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.



David Sheppard

Chris Sheppard and family would like to say a heartfelt thanks for all the wonderful support received over the last few months during Dave's illness. The overwhelming number of condolence cards have helped enormously at this very difficult time. Thank you all very much.

Chris Sheppard



A big thank you

The family of the late Kay Lewis would like to say a big thank you to all who attended her funeral on 26th April at Purton Church and for all the cards of condolence and kind words that we received. A special thanks also to Rev Judith Wells for conducting the service and to the Red House for the catering at the wake.

Michael, Matthew and Clive

Purton Carnival



In a change to the Carnival events schedule, the fun run will now not take place on Sunday 1st July. There is a huge amount of organisational work involved in staging this event, including getting approval from Wiltshire Council with detailed risk assessments, route plans, marshalling and first aid provision. We decided that without a great deal of time and effort to fulfil the stipulations of the Council and Police, we could not guarantee the safety of the runners taking part. Sadly, due to other commitments, we just don't have the time to meet these requirements at the moment.

However, all is not lost! We're working with Purton Bowls Club to offer a Fun Family Bowls Tournament, which will be open to young and old and will be held on the same day. With the facilities on our doorstep it seemed churlish not to make the most of them and hopefully introduce Bowls to the wider population of Purton. Family teams can register at 9.30am at the Red House for small fee per team, and participate in a Wimbledon-style knock out competition, with a prize for the winners. Look out for posters around the village and on social media for more details.

St Mary's Primary School

We have a busy couple of terms ahead with lots of exciting school trips planned. The Year 6 children are working hard preparing for their SATs and we wish them well with these. Our Sports Day is on Friday 25th May and we really hope that the sun shines on us for this event. We also look forward to welcoming the new Reception children in Sept with various induction activities planned over the coming weeks. We do still have spaces in Reception for Sept 2018, so if you have not yet finalised a school place and are interested in your child joining us here at St Mary's, please do get in touch.

As well as our popular Breakfast Club we have recently set up an After School Club, which runs every evening until 6pm. We are pleased to be able to provide parents with in house wrap round care for all children and we are delighted to have received some very positive comments following its introduction this term.

The PTA are holding their Summer Fayre on Friday 29th June 2018 from 3.30pm-5.30pm on the school field. There will be various stalls, games, refreshments and a raffle. Please do come along and support us if you can.

Staff News

We will be saying goodbye to Mr Waldron, our current Handyperson, as he retires at the end of May. We all wish him well with his forthcoming retirement. We are pleased to welcome Mr Stokes as his replacement who will start with us in Term 6.

EYFS Trip to Butterfly World/Jungle Jonathan

Classes 1 & 2 had a fantastic trip to Studley Grange Butterfly World and Farm Park. The trip helped to reinforce all of our learning from our 'Beast Quest' topic. In addition to meeting and handling minibeasts, we met the otters, meerkats, raccoon, goats, sheep, alpacas, chickens and many more farm animals. We had a guided tour around the Butterfly House, learning lots more about the life-cycles and habits of butterflies and moths. Some of us even had butterflies land on us! A thoroughly enjoyable first trip for the Reception classes.



Classes 1 & 2 were also lucky enough to have a visit from Jungle Jonathan's roadshow during the first week of term. Jonathan brought in a tarantula called Spinderella, a selection of stick and leaf insects, a snake and a gecko.

Wake 'n' Shake Festival – Wednesday 9 May 2018

Several local schools gathered at St Mary's to take part in the wake 'n' shake festival. Our KSI performers put on a great pirate themed performance!!

We do currently have spaces in some year groups, so should you be thinking of coming to join us, you are warmly welcome to look round the school prior to submitting an application. 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 school and all the exciting learning opportunities that take place, visit our school website www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk

Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

The topic for our April meeting was 'Fungi-The Forgotten Kingdom'. However, following the fascinating and illuminating talk given by Dr Lee Hayward from Cotswold Fungus Group, members were left with much to remember about the species. They are neither plants nor animals, but are their very own group known as a kingdom. Their main part is a complex network made up of thin, white strands known as mycelium. These strands creep through soil, leaf litter and living plant tissue, breaking down dead tissues and returning essential nutrients back into the ecosystem, making them essential recyclers.

They become more noticeable when fruiting, as mushrooms or moulds, when we see the characteristic toadstool or mushroom. Today we can find them everywhere, the Arctic, the tropics, the deserts, in oceans and rivers and even in space.

It's estimated that 95% of all plants and trees rely on fungi to survive and thrive. Fungal mycelium very often grow alongside the roots of trees and plants, providing nutrients that the plant can't get from the soil and the plants and trees provide the fungi with sugars which they make during photosynthesis. They are also one of the only groups of organisms that can break down wood, so in forest eco systems they are essential to stop dead wood and leaves from building up.

In fact if it weren't for Fungi we would not be able to exist on this planet. A sobering thought. Adversely there are pathogenic fungi that can cause disease in humans or other organisms.

The now extinct Golden Toad of Costa Rica is believed to have been wiped out by the Chytrid fungus. It thrives in warmer, drier climates and the increase in global warming in the mid 80's is thought to have been a major contributory factor.

White nose syndrome had had a devastating effect on bat numbers. It's caused by a



fungus that colonises the bat's skin causing an irritant. This wakes them when they are in their dormant state when then have insufficient food reserves to survive. As a direct result crop yields for farmers are significantly reduced as there are less bats to feed on the insects that feed on the crops.

Human pathogens include dandruff, athlete's foot and ringworm. Ringworm works on the same system as fairy rings where nutrient levels in grass are different where a fungus takes moisture out of the soil.

There are 3 main types of fungi:

- Symbiotic. All plants have a symbiotic arrangement with fungi. Fungi provide nutrients and water to plants and the plants reciprocate by providing sugars to the fungi.
- Saprobic. They are the biggest recyclers of any organism in the world deriving their nutrition from the dead remains of vegetable matter, sticks, leaves, logs etc.
- Parasitic. Rather than obtaining their food from dead matter, they prefer a living host often attacking and killing it. A prime example is Honey Fungus, the largest living fungi that creeps through soil from tree to tree. A DNA analysis of trees subjected to Honey Fungus in Washington, USA showed that it had travelled 7 miles.

Ascomycota fungus resulted in Dutch Elm disease responsible for the demise of one of our much loved native trees and let us not forget the famine in Ireland when over a million people died when a fungus cause potato blight killing all the crops.

There are several different mechanisms by which fungi release their spores into the air which then allows them to be dispersed.

Most fungi rely on gravity to carry their spores down from their underside and many of the fruiting bodies also have a stalk which raises the spore surface higher to increase the chance of them dispersing far and wide.

Others hold their spores in a tube or sac that bursts when pressure is applied, by rain drops for example. The Puffball holds its spores in a mass on the top of the ball. Rain drops or animal contact places pressure on the ball forcing the spores to puff out and be carried away on the air. So what would not exist without fungi.

Well bread for one, as yeast is a fungus and alcohol as fermentation is dependent on a fungus.

Marmite, soy sauce, quorn and blue cheese are all fungus based and let's not forget bio washing liquid as it is a fungus that eats the dirt!

Their most important quality that affects all humans is in medicine as half of all the world's top medicinal products are based on fungi, antibiotics and statins to name just two. However, whilst they have many positive benefits, let us not forget that there are 30 deadly fungi. Death Cap is the most poisonous of all fungi and has 13 deadly toxins. Emperor Claudius is reputed to have been fed this by his wife.

Lee stressed that when foraging for mushrooms 'a little knowledge is a dangerous thing'. He cited Nicholas Evan, author of 'The Horse Whisperer' a keen forager. Whilst out on a walk, he picked mushrooms believing them to be Ceps or Chanterelles. They were in fact deadly Web Cap. He and his wife ate them with devastating results. He required a kidney transplant and his wife remains on dialysis. After the event he realised that the mushrooms he had eaten had gills on the underside and Ceps don't. In all other ways they looked identical!!

Their benefits may prove to be even greater in the future as we look to ways of dealing with global plastic waste as fungi are known to eat plastic. So Lee may have to look for a new title for his talk as fungi may not remain as the 'Forgotten' kingdom. This was a most informative talk from Dr Hayward whose passion, dedication and knowledge for his subject was obvious. E mail cotswoldfungusgroup.com for further information.

Despite the mixed spring weather there was a welcome number of exhibits for our competition '3 Tulips'.

Congratulations to the winners: 1st Mary Read, 2nd Maureen Griffin and 3rd Lorna Comley.

Just a reminder that our outings this year are to St Fagans on 20 June and Highfield Garden Centre on 12 September. So please book early to avoid disappointment.

Should you read this in time our Plant and Cake stall at Pavenhill shops is on Saturday 26 May from 9-12 noon.

At our next meeting on 26 June, Mike Benson from the Swindon and District Beekeeping Association will be joining us to present a talk entitled 'More than Honey'. The venue is Silver Threads Hall. Time 7.30pm.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)

Sing 4/4 Community Choir's Summer Celebration Concert

With our guest choir, The Alveston Singers, we invite you to come and enjoy a selection of favourite classics and songs from the shows on Saturday, June 16th, at 7pm at St. Sampson's Church, Crickade.

Tickets at £8.50 each (including light refreshments) will be available from Choir members, Mary New (01793 770630) or Margaret Roberts (01793 751063). Please see posters for fuller details of our three guest soloists. Proceeds from the concert will be donated to local charities.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Purton Stoke, Bentham, Hayes Knoll, Braydon and Cross Lanes*

The Lydiards Link

We are unfortunately suspending our services with effect from June 1 for a period of 3 months.

We started some 15 years ago, under the auspices of the Wiltshire Link Service, and have since helped many parishioners get to their hospital and other medical services, and other sundry appointments, and have made over 1000 journeys. Clients have been very appreciative of our efforts, and the friendliness of drivers.

Our journey requests have now fallen to a very low level, and we have been struggling with a reduced management team and a lack of volunteer drivers.

We intend to monitor the situation by the level of public reaction, and may consider reviving the service in September if there appears to be a need, and provided we can find additional management volunteers and drivers.

If you wish to offer any help or suggestions during this period, please contact Tom Pepperall, L.L. Chair, on 770734, or email: tompep@talktalk.net

We Record ...



Baptisms at St Mary's Church

15 April 2018 Kieran Charles Edward Reilly

Funerals at St Mary's Church

11 April 2018 Frederick John Maisey (Rob) (84)

26 April 2018 Kay Lesley Lewis (71)

In Memoriam:

6 June 1918 Richard Beasant, 88th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, killed in action, aged 21. He is buried in Marfaux British Cemetery, Marne, France. He is remembered on the Purton War Memorial, the Memorials in St Mary's Church and the Lydiard Millicent War Memorial.

10 June 1918 Albert Painter, 25th Battalion Australian Imperial Force, killed in action, aged 26. He has no known grave but is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France and on Swindon's Roll of Honour.

24 June 1918 Frank George Merchant, 1/7th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers (Territorial Force) died aged 18, of wounds received and is buried in Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. He is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and in the Memorials in St Mary's Church.

Ten Years Ago...

In June 2008 the Magazine took on a sombre note. A long editorial started by observing deaths from recent tragedies in Burma and China and then developed into a discussion on how bereavement should be treated and, especially, observed by those outside the family. It made special mention of the numbers of obituaries and letters the Magazine received. Indeed these were often both lengthy and loving. One Purton veteran was the subject of two obituaries. One described him as “an author [who] pursued a very successful academic career”. But the other claimed that “he had a very high and secretive post in the Civil Service”. In view of the latter, perhaps it is best not to mention his name.

Some corners were not so sombre. At the school concert “Mr. Calder’s contribution to the sound effects for the 1812 Overture [with which] the orchestra opened the concert was rather realistic!” One imagines hearing it across the village. The football club “could have been much higher had they not shown so much inconsistent play”. And so says every football supporter.

Age Concern was planning a trip to Hereford – so those who went this May were not trailblazers. And, eight years before The Referendum and less than two years after the opening of Facebook, there was a bit of Brexit “fake news” - the one about the straight bananas!

Purton Tennis Club



Nothing much to report as it is first week of the summer season- apart from the sun is out! Time to air your racquets – juniors on a Saturday and adults any time – please contact coach Ben Langley!

Report on the Khalique Cup next month. As always follow us on facebook & twitter or for information: www.purtontennisclub.com

Lindsey Hall

Cricklade Country Market



Our next market: Friday 29 June 2-4pm At The Jenner Hall Cricklade. All our produce is locally handmade, home cooked or home grown so come and find delicious pies and cakes, scones and cookies, jams and pickles and all manner of original gifts. Pop along for a delicious afternoon tea or come in for after school refreshments too!

Future Market Date: July 27Th

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

Purton Evening W.I.



Jane Smith, our vice president, took the April meeting which was 'knit-a-square' for Louise Tidman's charity in South Africa. Louise talked about the charity and how she has problems with customs duty and shipping, and the high cost of transporting these items. Most of us happily knitted during her talk and it now not squares she needs, but strips of 8x40" to make sewing into blankets much easier, she will also take toys or any other knitted items.

Trish Baker then presented the Resolution on Mental Health Issues which was debated at length, and members then voted for it to be taken to the WI AGM in Cardiff in June.

We have sent a donation to Denman College in memory of late member Sue Duck, also a donation to the Age Concern minibus fund.

Our skittles team has got through to the quarter finals at Bromham on 8 May. Our June meeting is 'My Journey to the Weakest Link' by Linda Dowsett, which sounds intriguing.

Jill Herbert

For more information call Barbara 01793 770818 or Janet 01793 772146
we will be pleased to hear from you.

Church Floodlighting

May 18 St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Dave Binstead** on his birthday. Always in our thoughts: forever in our hearts. Greatly missed by Dorn and family.



May 25 St Mary's was floodlit for **Venetia Ann Jefferies**. Happy Birthday Mum. Love you. Ginny, Kevin and Jacob.

June 14 St Mary's will be floodlit for **Harry Bunce**, remembering you especially today on what would have been your 100th birthday. Love from Edna and your family.

June 16 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **David Sheppard** on his birthday. Much loved and greatly missed by Chris, Jim, Hannah, Eddie and their families.

June 17 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Tony Mills** on what would have been Barbara and Tony's 65th Wedding Anniversary. So sadly missed by Barbara and your loving family

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.

The Virgin Money London Marathon

So... after six hard months of training in the rain, wind, ice and snow, the big day arrives and it's the hottest London Marathon on record! I can hardly believe I am here after securing a ballot place at the first attempt - and at my age!

Well what a day it was. I nervously awake at 6 am, get up and try to force down some breakfast. I am at Blackheath by 9 am and already it is hot. There is a fantastic atmosphere, nervous looking people from all walks of life, brought together to achieve the same dream of running London.

As we make our way to the start line, the nerves really kick in, my stomach feels like it is in knots - do I or don't I need the loo again - of course I don't, I only went five minutes ago! At 10.36 am I am over the start line and on my way. From that moment on the support from the public is incredible - crowds and crowds of people cheering you on, screaming your name and I have never experienced anything like it - EVER! Miles 1 to 7 just flew by as I adjusted to this fabulous atmosphere, soaking it all up and relishing every moment. Most London landmarks passed me by in a blur but I do remember running around the very splendid Cutty Sark which is a sight to behold.

At mile 11, I recognise the all-familiar red shirts of the Slinn Allstars Running Club of which I am a member. I run over to them for a much needed hug and high fives. They thankfully replenish my water supply as some water stations en route had run out, then threw the remaining water down the back of my neck to cool me down. As I already mentioned, the crowds are amazing but when you see people you know it is just the best feeling ever.

It's a fabulous feeling to cross Tower Bridge, as you know you are nearing the halfway point. It was truly amazing. Mile 13 and there was Paul and Dawn who have supported, helped and advised me throughout all of my training, shouting at me to come over for some much needed jelly babies - a quick energy burst. The next few miles are tough. I try to soak up the atmosphere, waving and chatting to the crowds as I run past, high fiving little children, accepting with delight orange segments offered to me by complete strangers. I then catch a glimpse of hubby Colin with Pete and Wendy Johnson, a welcome sight who provide me with much needed encouragement, a hug, water and energy gels. It was so good to see them, just what I needed at that point.

Canary Wharf at mile 19 brings some welcome shade from the sun. At mile 22 I hit this infamous "wall" that everyone talks about, when all the negative thoughts kick in like why am I doing this? And feeling like I cannot go on, I have had enough. My legs are now stiffening up and feel like lead, I am hot, fed up of sickly sweet jelly babies and the water is too warm to be pleasant to drink. It's a strange feeling as I want it all to end, but there again I don't. Yes I have had enough of running but the crowds and the atmosphere are electric and I never want it to end. So time to focus and think about why I am doing this. I am doing this for my Mum and for everyone else living

with one of the cruellest illnesses that is Dementia. I am also here for all of the people who have supported me through this journey.

Mile 25 and Colin, Pete and Wendy are again shouting encouragement. Another much needed hug and more energy gels will now get me to the finish line - that and the fact Pete whispered in my ear “get a move on!!” Right I will show him I thought!



Crossing the finish line is the best feeling ever - I

DID IT!! Ok it took 6 hours 44 minutes and 46 seconds but I DID IT! One medal and a goody bag later, then an emotional reunion with Colin, Pete, Wendy and my old school friend Nadine with her husband Brian, and it's off to the Alzheimer's Research party for a much needed massage and glass of bubbly.

Now my “journey” is over I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sponsored me, supported me, helped me to organise a fun charity evening in the Red House Club, people who gave their time unselfishly to train with me in all winds and weathers to get me to the best fitness I could be and all the messages of good luck. The support from this village has been overwhelming - good wishes and sponsorship from people I know and some that I don't know so well. The people who have stopped me in the street saying “glad I have seen you, here is a donation” and thrust money into my hand makes me feel truly blessed to be a part of this fabulous community, and I feel quite emotional just writing this. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Seeing first hand how dementia has affected my dear Mum, I am passionate and driven in my quest to help eradicate this disease and to promote dementia awareness. The generosity of people in this village means that the Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's Research UK will receive at least £1,800 (and still donations are coming in!) towards researching a cure and supporting people in our communities living with Dementia. I am so grateful that I was given this opportunity to raise much needed funds for a cause I am so passionate about and I will treasure my Marathon experience for the rest of my life.

Sue Giles

Purton Village Diary - June 2018

2	Sa	8.00pm	Tim Somerfield plays live at The Purton Club
		8.30pm	Karaoke and cocktails at the Red House Club
3	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church.
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
5	Tu	2.00pm	Seaside talk with Lynda Warren at Silver Threads Hall
7	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
10	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church.
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		2.00pm	until 6pm Age Concern Village party at the Red House with Chedworth Silver Band
		2.00pm	Samantha Howse World Challenge Garden Party at Alwynds, Upper Pavenhill
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Primary School
12	Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at the Red House Lounge for a talk on the Cotswold Canals
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
14	Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
16	Sa	7.00pm	Sing 4/4 Community Choir Summer Concert at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade
		8.30pm	Locomotown perform at the Red House Club
17	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church.
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
18	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a slideshow of villages around Swindon by Raymond Rumming
19	Tu	2.00pm	Sassi Gifts to buy at Silver Threads Hall
		6.30pm	and 8.30pm Christian Aid Curry Night at the Maharajah
20	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
23	Sa	8.00pm	Operation 77 play ive at The Purton Club
		8.30pm	Abbaholics Abba Tribute perform at the Red House Club
24	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		8.30am	Purton Historical Society outing to the Severn Shipwrecks
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church.
		10.30pm	Communion at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm Primary School

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- 26 Tu 10.00am Purton & District Probus meet at the Red House Lounge for a talk on Hearing Dogs
 2.30pm Communion at White Lodge
 7.30pm Purton & District Gardeners' Guild talk on beekeeping 'More than honey', at Silver Threads Hall.
 8.00pm After 8 "Which came first the chicken or the egg" Led by Yvonne at her house
- 29 F 9.00am Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester
 2.00pm Cricklade County Market at Jenner Hall
 3.30pm St Mary's Primary School PTA Summer Fayre
- 30 Sa 10.00am Coffee Morning at Silver Threads Hall

Every week

- 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)
 6.30pm Rock Solid at Purton Methodist Church
- Th 9.00am to 11am: Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
 12 noon Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
 2.00pm to 3pm: Age Concern Tai 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 Story Time at Purton Library for pre-school children
 2nd & 4th Tuesday Purton Probus at 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

Moon Phases

☾ 22 May ○ 29 May ☽ 6 June ● 13 June

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 or email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



The term started with some welcomes as both 2nd Purton Rainbows and 2nd Purton Brownies had new members. New members included Rachel and Zoe, new Rainbow leaders, or 'Star' and 'Twilight' as they have been named by the Rainbows. 'Official' welcomes too for Guides Becky, Emily, Holly and Vera who have made their promise as Guides having previously been Brownies elsewhere locally.

2nd Purton Rainbows have been focusing on getting to know each other and have been working hard towards their Roundabout Me badge. Activities have included making paper plate portraits, show and tell, drawing on rocks to hide in the local area and their own version of "Rainbows Have Got Talent" where the girls were put into groups and each group put on an amazing show for the others to watch. Something which went particularly well was completing an activity sheet to include a self-portrait, pictures of their families and a list of their favourite things. This became a really sociable exercise as they talked amongst themselves, discovering things they had in common with each other.

1st Purton Rainbows are doing the Get Healthy Roundabout badge. They have run, jumped and done star jumps – exhausting! They will be going on to learn about their bones.

St George's Day was marked by both Brownie units. 2nd Purton met on the day itself and made flags from beads. 1st Purton made their flags from biscuits which they iced and decorated. 1st Purton also decorated shields with symbols to represent them as individuals, thinking about their characteristics and what was important to them.

The big event for the Brownie units was their holiday to Narnia over the very hot and sunny May Bank Holiday weekend. Narnia was in fact Brooks Lodge at Briarlands campsite towards Bristol. They tried fencing, played water games, went orienteering, completed crafts and team challenges, cooked, cleaned toilets (surprisingly popular!) and also managed to fit in some sleep. One of the girls said afterwards that a highlight for her was making friends with others she'd not met before – a real benefit of the two Brownie units undertaking their residential events together.

To start the summer term, the Guides, in their five separate patrols, were challenged to work together to make the tallest tower (using 20 pieces of spaghetti, one marshmallow, sticky tape and string) as well as a tower to support a balloon (using 100g of spaghetti, 1 balloon and 20 jelly babies). There were some spectacular structures created!

Guides also had an evening of team building involving some drawing challenges and games. Good communication skills were key. In one game they were blindfolded so they couldn't see what they were drawing and had to rely on their teammate. In another game they had to work in teams to control a pen at an arm's length away with some duct tape. Sounds tricky!

Visitors are always welcome so the Guides were delighted to have Hannah, a Peer

Educator, visit them. Peer Educators are young guiding members who are trained to run fun, safe and challenging sessions for others. Hannah delivered a session on 'Think Resilient', to build the Guides' mental wellbeing, a resource which was developed with YoungMinds. Hannah worked with the girls to build their mental wellbeing and resilience and introduced them to some of the techniques they can use to do this. Leader Sarah also developed these techniques further with the Guides to understand their emotions and limits (knowing when things might feel too much), positive thinking (seeing problems as a chance to learn and grow) and recognising each other's strengths and achievements. The evening was rounded off with a session of chocolate mindfulness.

For more information about guiding locally, please contact District Commissioner Rachel Mead by phone on 07729 462054 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest in joining (girls or volunteers) at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/. Find us on Facebook too: www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision

Prospect Hospice

Light up the night at this year's Starlight Walk!

Join hundreds of other walkers lighting up the night in support of Prospect's specialist nursing care on Saturday 30 June. There is a 10km or 15km route to choose from both starting and finishing at Swindon Town Football Club with the added additional of beautiful bespoke lighting installations on both to help you see Swindon in a whole new way. The Starlight Walk now in its 11th year has raised over £500,000 for Prospect Hospice which funds directly supporting their nursing care both at the hospice itself in Wroughton and out in the local community. For more information or to register please visit www.prospect-hospice.net/starlight.

Avebury Rocks - a weekend of great live music

This year Avebury Rocks Music Festival has teamed up with the organisers of the popular Summer Breeze Festival to bring you a weekend of live music in the beautiful setting of Liddington Warren Farm. Focusing on new and original music, with a few good covers thrown in, there's sure to be something for all musical tastes over the weekend. The main stage will be hosting everything from folk to rock, and an acoustic stage will showcase some amazing singer songwriters for those looking for a more chilled out vibe. There's also a selection of bars including real ales and ciders, small batch craft gins and prosecco and delicious food from local producers. The festival is family friendly and for anyone wanting a more active start to their Saturday there's a morning walk along the Ridgeway before the day's music starts. The festival raises money for local charity Prospect Hospice, providing specialist and dedicated end of life care within the local community. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.aveburyrocksfestival.net.

Hollie Ricketts, Community Fundraiser

Knit-A-Square (KAS) & Mama Ntombi's Community Projects (MNCP)

Since January 2018 new rules and regulations regarding charity shipments to South Africa came into effect. The shipping company we have used since 2014 informed us in January that we can only ship 10 boxes a year to MNCP with them in future.

The new company we used in January to ship 10 boxes to KAS cost more than double the usual amount of money and took twice as long to transport the shipment to KAS. We had a stressful few months waiting to hear the boxes had arrived at the charity. We won't be using this company again.

Sylvia and I had a re-think about where we will send the majority of our knitted items in future, after several internet searches and many telephone conversations, a charity in Folkestone called OPERATION SUNSHINE have agreed to accept our goods and ship them to Zambia, We will pay towards the shipping costs but it will be far more cost effective for us.

OPERATION SUNSHINE require us to make a few changes to the items we knit and crochet. They DO NOT require SHORT SLEEVED JUMPERS OR TANK TOPS, no CUDDLY TOYS whether handmade or shop bought (apparently they are the most difficult items to get through the Zambian customs department) and most importantly for us, NO SQUARES. To get round this I am now asking everyone to knit strips that we will sew together into blankets before sending to Zambia. The stripes need to be 8 inches wide by 40 inches long. This is equivalent to 5 x 8 inch squares.

Please contact Louise on 772558 if you need further advice about knitting the strips.

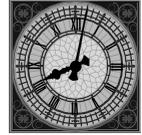
Operation Sunshine will accept:

- Blankets
- Long sleeved jumpers and cardigans for children of all ages and adults.
- New born and toddler sized jumpers, cardigans, hats & mittens.
- Hats for children and adults.
- Gloves & mittens for children and adults.
- New pairs of pants and socks for children of all ages.
- Educational items of pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, crayons, colouring books, basic reading books.
- Shop's own brand of soap and toothpaste (not branded ones such as Dove soap or Colgate toothpaste)

Many people knitted children's hat and glove sets for Sylvia to put in the shoeboxes, these sets will be ideal for Operation Sunshine. Sylvia also collected pens, pencils, crayons, colouring books, soap and toothpaste for shoeboxes, all of these items are needed for Zambia. Sylvia is on the case....all donations of these items will be gratefully received and can be left in Sylvia's porch. Thank you for your continuing support.

Louise Tidman Tel: 772558 and Sylvia Freemantle Tel: 770686

After 8



Our April meeting was “A Look at Social History during World War II”. It proved to be a very interesting evening looking at several aspects during the war. We were lucky enough to have excerpts from personal diaries of family members of our After8 group. We began with a rather short entry from one diary, September 3rd 1939

“Went for a ramble to Park Hall War declared! First Air Raid Siren at 3am”

We had accounts of life in Purton at that time ranging from Polish prisoners of war at their camp opposite Hyde and Seek to evacuees arriving at the train station.

(Mrs Ward had 400 evacuees staying at Red Lodge, Braydon and had to buy an extra cow)

American Glider troops were based in Lydiard Park (the blacks and whites were only allowed off camp on alternate nights because of the infighting)

The Red Caps were based in Braydon Woods. Conscientious Objectors were housed at The Red House.

Volunteers reported to The Old Scout Hut.

Life in Purton became more interesting, there was a weekly film at the Institute.

Vic Hill's Brickworks were producing round the clock to supply bricks for bomb-damaged London. The bricks were loaded onto trains and redistributed at the other end. Harold Barnes, the local carpenter (exempt from signing up because his skills were needed for the war effort), was called to London for repair work.

Rationing was introduced. Surprisingly it didn't end until 1954.

However, Purton seemed to fair quite well because being in the country there were personal, plentiful supplies of hens, pigs, cows and vegetables.

We had personal accounts from diaries of relatives in Newcastle, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Plymouth and Warrington, which included bombs landing, doodle bugs, spending all night in air raid shelters, school children being packed up with their belongings, teachers and sometimes mothers and evacuated to safer areas of the country etc.

These personal snapshots gave us an opportunity to imagine what life was like in that very difficult time and to marvel at how everyone responded and indeed survived.

Avril Ainscough

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

The Great War Project

Part 59: June 1918

Western Front

The German offensive on the River Aisne continued and they pushed towards the River Marne. They reached the north bank of the river at Château-Thierry, 95 kilometres (59 miles) from Paris, on 27 May. On 31 May, the US 3rd Division held the Germans at Château-Thierry. But on 1 June, Château-Thierry and Vaux fell, and the German troops moved into Belleau Wood. The U.S. 2nd Division, with a brigade of US Marines, faced them. The Marines attacked the woods six times before the Germans finally withdrew on 26 June. The battle marked the first US victory of the war, but also one of their bloodiest and most ferocious battles with 9,777 casualties, including 1,811 killed. Many are buried in the nearby Aisne-Marne American Cemetery. The battle also became a key story in the history of the United States Marine Corps recounting how they fought off parts of five divisions of Germans, often reduced to using only their bayonets or fists in hand-to-hand combat.

By that time, 650,000 US troops had arrived in France, with 10,000 more arriving each day.

Richard Beasant, the son of Richard and Louisa Beasant of Lydiard Millicent was serving with the 88th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. He had been badly gassed earlier in 1918 but had returned to his unit which was at the Battle of the Aisne, at Bligny and Bois-des-Buttes. Richard was killed in action by an enemy shell, aged 21, on 6 June 1918 and is buried in Marfaux British Cemetery, Marne, France. He is remembered on the Purton War Memorial, the Memorials in St Mary's Church in Purton and also on the Lydiard Millicent War Memorial. The Battle of the Aisne ended that same day.



Albert Painter (pictured) was born in Purton in 1892 and had emigrated to Australia. He enlisted with the 25th Battalion Australian Imperial Force in 1915 and saw action at Gallipoli, then in France at Pozières during the Battle of the Somme of July 1916. There he took a gunshot wound to the buttock and convalesced in Leicester. By December 1916, he had re-joined his battalion in France and was soon promoted to corporal, then to sergeant. By 10 June 1918, he was in action in the 3rd Battle of Morlancourt attacking German positions between Sailly-Laurette and Morlancourt. His platoon was caught by machine gun fire in no-man's-land. 42 were killed, 156 injured and 8 missing. Albert was killed in action, aged 26. He is

remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France. He was initially buried near Morlancourt. During the post-war battlefield clearances, it is possible that Albert's body was reburied at CWGC Beacon cemetery, which holds many who died around that same date, including many unidentified Australians whose original identifying marks had been lost. Albert is also remembered on Swindon's Roll of Honour.

On 9 June, the Germans launched the fourth operation of the Spring Offensive known variously as the Noyon-Montdidier Offensive, Operation Gneisenau and the Battle of Matz. They planned to push their Front Line west between Amiens and the Aisne. Although they made progress on the first day, a counter-attack on 11 June by 3 French and 2 American divisions plus tanks halted the offensive after 3 days.

Frank George Merchant, was the son of Albert and Isabella Merchant, of Pavenhill, Purton. He was serving with the 1/7th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers (Territorial Force) who were in the Hebuterne and later the Beaumont-Hamel sectors. Frank died, aged 18, on 24 June 1918 of wounds received during a German air raid and is buried in Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. He is remembered on the Purton War Memorial and Memorials in St Mary's Church.

The War in the Air

Between 30 May and 1 June, Canadian ace William (Billy) Bishop downed 6 German aircraft, including that of German ace Paul Bilik. Bishop was credited with 72 victories, making him the top Canadian ace of the war. He had been awarded the Victoria Cross in 1917, survived the war and died in 1956 (aged 62) in Florida.

The Royal Air Force had been created in April 1918. The Independent Air Force (IAF), was set up on 6 June as a strategic bombing group within the RAF to strike against German railways, aerodromes, and industrial centres without co-ordination from the Army or Navy.

The first aeroplane bombing raid by an American unit in France was made on 12 June.

The War at Sea

An example of the perils of operating at sea in war-time is the story of RMS Kenilworth Castle. Kenilworth was homeward bound to England in company with the Durham Castle and convoyed up the English Channel with an escort of the cruiser HMS Kent and five destroyers. In morning darkness on 4 June, and with all ships without lights, Kent left the convoy, 35 miles out from Plymouth, and changed course as planned. However, that put her on a collision course with the Kenilworth Castle. Kenilworth swung over to avoid Kent but hit the convoy destroyer HMS Rival cutting off Rival's stern which held depth charges for submarine attack. The depth charges exploded underneath Kenilworth Castle causing a large hole in the hull. Kenilworth limped towards Plymouth with her passengers. 15 were drowned including some of the 36 nurses on board.

Seven were killed when a Dutch hospital ship *Koningin Regentes* was sunk on 6 June by a German submarine en route from Boston (Lincolnshire) to Rotterdam.

On 10 June, the Austrian battleship *SMS Szent Istvan* was sunk by two Italian motor torpedo boats off Premuda Island on the Dalmatian Adriatic coast.

An Australian steamer *Wimmera* was sunk, on 26 June, off Cape Maria van Diemen near the northern tip of New Zealand by a mine laid a year earlier by the German raider *Wolf*. 26 of its 151 passengers and crew were killed.

On 27 June, a British hospital ship *HMHS Llandovery Castle*, one of five Canadian hospital ships that served in the First World War, was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Ireland. The sinking was the deadliest Canadian naval disaster of the war. 234 doctors, nurses, members of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, soldiers and seamen died in the sinking and subsequent machine-gunning of lifeboats. Only 24 people survived, all occupants of a single life-raft. The incident became infamous internationally as one of the war's worst atrocities. After the war, *Llandovery Castle* was one of six British cases presented at the Leipzig war crimes trials in 1919.

Italy

The Battle of the Piave began on 15 June as Austrian forces attacked at the request of Germany. Austrian forces crossed the river and opened a 12-mile front, but they couldn't hold it: they were suffering from a lack of food, horses and supplies, and were facing a refreshed Italian Army with support from British forces at Asiago, sent to Italy after Caporetto late in 1917. The Austro-Hungarian attack was halted at the Asiago Plateau and the Austrians withdraw after suffering 150,000 casualties. Austrian soldiers in Italy begin deserting. The Battle of the Piave ended on 24 June.

The first contingent of United States troops arrived in Italy on 30 June.

Russia

The Allies continued to see Russia as a corridor for German ambitions into the far north and east. The North Russian Expeditionary Force (NREF) created in May was bolstered by a section of British marines landed at Pechenga on the north Russian coast on 4 June. Another British force landed at Kem on the 7th.

On the same day, the Czech troops in Siberia captured Omsk, an important city on the Trans-Siberian railway. The local Bolshevik secret police had been guarding the imprisoned Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich of Russia, together with his secretary, Nicholas Johnson, in Perm, since the revolution. The police decided that the Czech advances were a threat to the Grand Duke's imprisonment and that he might become a focus for counter-revolution if freed. On 13 June 1918, they drove him and Johnson by horse-drawn trap to Motovilikha near the railway, where they were murdered by hand gun fire. The Ural Regional Soviet approved the executions after the event as did Lenin. The Grand Duke was the first of the Romanovs to be executed by the Bolsheviks and a forerunner of later events. Neither his nor Johnson's remains were ever found.

Allied actions continued despite the 8th June order by the Russian Bolshevik Government that Allied forces must leave North Russia. Instead 2 new British forces joined the NREF on 23 June. On 30 June, Allied forces took control of the railway from Murmansk to Soroki and the local Murman People's Soviet decided to support the Allied forces against the Bolshevik Government. At the far eastern end of the Trans-Siberian Railway, a provisional government, opposed to the Bolsheviks, was set up on the 29th at Vladivostok, the Russian port on the Sea of Japan.

The Cossacks in the River Don region (Don Cossacks) declared their own independence on 4 June.

As the bulk of the Russian Black Sea Fleet had been captured by the Germans in May, the crew of the Russian battleship Svobodnaya Rossiya (Free Russia) scuttled the ship in the Black Sea to avoid it falling into German hands.

The New Republics

On 3 June, the British, French and Italian governments declared support for the national freedom aspirations of the Poles, Czecho-Slovaks and Yugo-Slavs within the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires. The US Government echoed this on 29 June, announcing that all branches of the Slav races should be completely freed from German and Austrian rule. And a treaty was signed on 30 June between Italy and Czecho-Slovak Council delegates recognising the Council's jurisdiction over the Czech and Slovak peoples.

On 8 June, a German force landed at Poti in Georgia. That day the Georgian government and the Armenian Council both signed peace agreements with Turkey and Georgia with Germany. German troops occupied Tiflis in Georgia on the 12th and Turkish forces occupied Kurdamir in Azerbaijan.

An armistice was agreed at Kiev on 12 June between the Ukraine and the Russian Bolshevik Republic.

Spanish 'Flu

Between June and August, Spanish 'flu spread and became pandemic. Over 30 million died in the following 6 months.

Prisoners of War

The first sitting of an Anglo-German Conference at The Hague concerning prisoners of war was held on 9 June.

Rick Dixon

Purton Profferings

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



A Monster Twist for 500 Words Author

Year 8 student, Olivia Steinhardt, has made it to the Grand Final of the Radio 2 “500 Words” Writing competition! She is one of 56 finalists from 137,000 entries - an amazing achievement!

Olivia’s story is about the Loch Ness Monster: “I wanted to pick a tale that everyone is familiar with but add my own twist to it. I’ve always loved reading and writing. I remember writing my first story when I was about 5. I stapled all the hand written pages together and it was about my teddies coming alive when I wasn’t there.”

English teacher Mr Johnson said: “She is a very talented writer so I’m pleased she is getting some recognition for it!”

First prize of the competition is to win Chris Evans’ height in books and Olivia’s favourite is fantasy books. “My favourite author at the moment is Michelle Harrison who wrote the ‘13 Treasures’ series. I highly recommend her!”

We wish Olivia the best of luck for the final on 8 June at Hampton Court Palace.

“I’m so excited, I can’t wait for the final! I’m so proud to have made it this far, anything else would be the icing on the cake!”

The final will be aired live on the Chris Evans Breakfast show.

Wiltshire Football Cup Finals – “Sometimes it’s About the Journey, Not the Destination”

Mr Towers reports:

The U14 and U16 Girls’ Football Teams both played their finals at Stanley Park in Chippenham. It would be fair to say that neither result went the way we would have liked, but all the girls were fantastic and did themselves and the school proud.



The U14s played against a very capable John Bentley team, and found themselves 4-0 down very quickly. Despite this, they never let their heads go down and battled through until half time, keeping the score at 4. In the second half the girls played with much more freedom and were so unlucky not to grab a goal, before John Bentley scored a further two goals late on. Not one of the girls gave up at any point and they fought for every ball – a real performance of resilience that I

know all the parents watching on the side were really proud of, as were myself and Mrs Evans.

The U16s played an unbelievably strong Highworth Warneford team, and despite having early chances, including one cleared off the line, found themselves 2-0 down at half time. They too kept playing right up to the final whistle, eventually going down 5-0. Afterwards, Year 11 Hannah Peachey said that she had really enjoyed the experience this year, particularly the win last week in the semi-final at John Bentley. I am really proud of what these two teams (and all of the girls who have played football this year) have achieved. It has been another fantastic season, and to have two teams in the Wiltshire Cup Finals was an outstanding achievement for all involved.

All the girls agreed that they had enjoyed the day, but as much as anything they had enjoyed the journey of getting to the finals in the first place.

Girls' football at Bradon Forest is looking very healthy following the 2017/2018 season, and there is definitely more to come moving forwards. A special thank you and well done to our leavers, Jazz Payne, Hannah Peachey, Katherine Moyses and Elizabeth Selwood, as well as all of the other Y11 girls who have been involved during their time at Bradon.

Thanks again for all the support and encouragement, it's been superb throughout.

Maths Enrichment for Year 10



Earlier this week a team of keen mathematicians from Year 10 visited Swindon Academy. The trip was for students who may be interested in studying Maths at A-level and/or seeing Maths in a different way to that which they see in normal lessons.

The highlight of the trip was a talk on The Creation of Number by Ben Sparks which was thought provoking and challenges some current understanding about where numbers come from. It gave our students some insight into how the Maths they might study at A-Level, Further Maths and beyond may be used.

There were also competitions with other schools. The team with Christian Vines and Cameron Clements in came second winning a book and some chocolate.

Mrs Hooper, Maths teacher, said:

“All the students worked really hard today with some pretty challenging Maths. They had to work with other students they didn't know and I was very impressed with the way they did this. One of our students was organizing the team to make sure they did the most in the time they had – good tactics! Students got the opportunity to see Maths used in a different way and to look at the philosophy behind it and I hope they've come away with a better idea about how they see Maths being a part of their lives in the future.”

Feedback from student Courtney White: “I think the Maths Enrichment day at Swindon Academy was great! It gave us a good insight into what taking further mathematics would be like. We had a chance to meet and work with new people which would be expected in a job. As well as the competition we did, we learnt about the history of maths and its applications in the future. We all really enjoyed it and it let us see what we are capable of doing by challenging ourselves.”

Student, Katie Terrett reports on her trip to Nepal:

10 - 11 April The day we embarked on our incredible journey! We left Bradon Forest at 12:30pm to arrive at Heathrow nice and early for our 5:05pm flight to Bombay. Whilst going through Heathrow security, Robin had his one of many security stops. Talia was our team leader, and Tobias was deputy, and they helped us get through the airport too. Everyone found the 9-hour flight surprisingly reasonable and interesting, especially Deborah as it was her first flight. Bombay airport was a new experience for us all. It was very rushed and disorganized, nothing like the airports at home. We then departed to our 2 hour flight from Bombay to Kathmandu. Kathmandu airport was very crowded, and again, a disorganized mess. This new, laid-back culture hit us very early on. We then had bus transport to Kathmandu Guest House. During this journey, we had our first sights of Kathmandu, a very highly populated place, with manic traffic, and vibrant colours. Our team leaders and accommodation team with the help of teachers checked us in and allocated our rooms. A jet-lagged nap was needed, so at 4:00 we slept for 2 hours. At 6:30 we gathered everyone and went out for dinner at a local eating place called ‘Bluebells’. This is also where we met our in-country agent, Andrew, who explained to us how our next two weeks would going to pan out and briefed us on safety.

12 April We started our community engagement phase, which was helping at the SHREE BAL VIKAS SAMAJ ENGLISH MEDIUM BASIC SCHOOL. The day started with breakfast, which was pastries from a local bakery. After that, we had a 2 hour bus journey to the northern part of Kathmandu where the school we were helping was based. During the transport we stopped twice for supplies. For example, paint and brushes for the rooms and buckets for washing up. When we made stops the team leader (Tobias) and project managers (Tom and I) got off to help our in-country project leader to buy and decide on the supplies. When we arrived at the school we cleared our camping area of small pieces of rubbish and set up our tents. We then received a warm welcome from the head teacher and staff at the school. They showed us around the school and gave us an opening ceremony. They were very generous and kind. The head teacher told us all about the history of the school and how he opened and ran the school at only 16! In the ceremony they also gave us traditional scarfs. Jazz and Robin gave a speech too, about how we were excited to help the school and grateful for the experience. We started work in the afternoon and split into two groups that rotated every half an hour. One team doing sanding and painting of the window panes, and the other collecting bricks from the top of the hill and bringing them down for the school to later pave. At 4pm we had one

of the first of our daily tea breaks. Work carried on after until dinner, then we had our nightly de-brief. Taisei also got ‘douche of the day’, memorably for “whacking his head, then tripping and putting his foot in the holes we used for toilets”.

13 April This was day 2 of the project. We had breakfast of porridge then started a tough morning of moving the bricks from the top to the bottom of the hill. So we didn’t exhaust ourselves, Talia created the chain idea. This is where we would all have different stations on the hill and travel short distances to each other until the bricks got to the bottom. We had lunch, then in the afternoon we finished off the painting job and started to perfect and tidy up the school. Connor was team leader today and I was deputy, then Talia and Will were the project managers. That night was also their Nepalese new year, meaning that the date was 2074/12/31. The cooks also made us a cake as it was our last night of the project. There was loud music advocated during the night for their festivities, however this did keep some of the team up in their tents.

14 April In the early morning we finished our job on the school and donated some games and old possessions (trainers, footballs, bubbles etc). Then at 10am the head teacher’s daughter kindly gave us a tour of the village. During this, we got to witness some of the damage the earthquake caused, although despite the damage done, we saw how caring and hardworking their community is. A true life lesson I learnt from this is to always help and support each other. We also experienced a tour in a nearby school where the monks work and train, an orphanage, and a religious site the villagers regularly visit. When we arrived back at the school we then received a leaving ceremony. Here the head teacher thanked us and awarded us certificates. Then on our parting, the team leader (myself) and deputy (Hattie) gave a speech, as well as Mr. Hartley. In these we explained how we were thankful for the experience and that we hoped our efforts would positively impact the school. We then also tipped the cooks, workers and gave a donation to the school. Then the whole team performed the ‘cup song’ to end the ceremony. This then led to our departure at 2pm, back to the busy city. Instead of staying at the Kathmandu Guest House again, we decided to stay at Hotel Utze instead. That night we had dinner at the restaurant in the hotel.

15 April Today was our travel day from Kathmandu to Pokhara. We all woke up at 5:15am, ready to be on the roads for 6.30am. This 8-hour journey was not as terrible as we anticipated, the traffic was good, and we made entertainment for ourselves. For instance, we sang many songs that became a trademark for the trip. When we arrived in Pokhara at 3pm the accommodation team checked us in at the Grand Holiday hotel. Then we went on a walk and got to see the beautiful Phewa lake, beside this we also saw many cows as they are a sacred animal in Nepal and can roam freely. We then went to a lovely restaurant called the Moonshine and had delicious meals. Afterwards we headed back to the hotel for an early night, as the next day was the start of our trek!

16 April Today was the first day of the trek. We met our trek leader, Mingma, and our trekking team. We had breakfast at the hotel and then had a 1 hour and 30 minute journey to our starting point. Conditions were hot, so we were thankfully our first trek was only 3 hours until we reached our camping spot. When we had been settled there for a couple of hours, when the “mango tape” incident happened, leaving Sammie in a bit of a sticky situation. Our navigators today were Robin and Chloe. I found that keeping a positive mindset made the experience much easier, and less challenging physically.

17 April Our second day of the trek: we were off to an early start and our tents were all packed away. Some people had a rough sleep because of a dog that followed us on our first day of the trek, as he barked through the night. Today was a 7-hour trek and we climbed 1500m, and 3000+ stairs. We got to witness beautiful views and stunning wilderness. Our navigators today were Emma and I. Our destination was a tea house, and we arrived just in time, as it started to hail as soon as we got inside! An early night's sleep was necessary as our time to wake up the next day was 4am, to catch the sunrise for Poon Hill.

18 April Everyone woke up at 4am, to leave at 4:30am, for our 45-minute trek up to Poon Hill to see the sunrise. We had our head torches on as it was a dark climb. When we got to the top, all the trekking had been so worth it. The sun rose, and the clouds separated to unleash a breath-taking view of the surrounding mountains. We took many photos to capture the beautiful moment and gathered to have a celebratory hot chocolate. We arrived back at the tea house for 7:00am and had breakfast. Then at 8:30 am we set off for our 7-hour trek back downhill. Our navigators today were Maisie and Talia. Again, we got to witness amazing views whilst trekking, and when we arrived at our camping destination we had a 4pm tea break to discuss the remaining days of the trek. We were made aware that if we were to do the full fifth day of trek, there wouldn't be time to do the zip-wire. So, there was a vote and majority said that they would rather do the zip-wire, than a day trekking, consequently the last day of trek was cut out, meaning that we only had one more day of trekking.

19 April This was our last day of the trek. With aching legs, we set off at 9am and had a great 7-hour trek. Our navigators today were Natasha and Tobias. We were supposed to camp, but it was hailing extremely hard and lighting when we arrived, meaning that it would have been too dangerous to camp. So instead we stayed in a nearby tea house and since we didn't need our walking sticks anymore, we gave them to the local children, which made them very happy and entertained. At our 4:30pm tea break, we were told that the zip wire had been cancelled as it was under maintenance and too risky to use, therefore after all we could have done the 5-day trek; but transport for the next day was already booked. So instead of doing the zip wire in Pokhara, we were going to do some tourism instead. As it was our last night of trek, the cooks made us a world challenge cake too!

20 April This day we were traveling back to the sister hotel to the one we stayed in Pokhara. We woke up, had breakfast, then had a 20-minute walk to catch our bus. Before we got on the bus, we paid and tipped all our helpers from the trek. After our journey, the accommodation team booked us into our hotel, we had lunch, then split into three groups for different activities; Gurkha museum, going to the salon, walking round the local area and going shopping

After our afternoon activities we rested at the hotel for a while, and a few of the team went onto the roof of the hotel to watch the sunset. We then went out for dinner at a restaurant we hadn't been to before; the food was very tasty! We collected the laundry (as we had enough money in the team budget to get our clothes washed!) and headed back to the hotel.

21 April This was our travel day from Pokhara back to Kathmandu. Number 18 of our team was no longer with us, but we carried on regardless. The bus journey back was full of songs and laughter, however it was slower than the first bus journey, because we got stuck in stand-still traffic towards the end. When we arrived, the accommodation team booked us in at the Kathmandu Guest house, and we went out to the "steakhouse" for dinner. We all enjoyed the delicious food and indulged happily. It was a great night with music to dance to as well (more so the girls dancing, than the boys!).

22 April This was our last full day. We had breakfast at the hotel for 8:30am, then at 10am set out for Durbar Square. We went on a crowded 20-minute walk, only to be told when we got there the high prices they expected us to pay- so instead we walked back, had lunch, and went to The Great Boudha Stupa instead. This was a fascinating attraction, with prayer flags draped everywhere. The Stupa had lots of small, interesting shops, consisting of jewelery, singing bowls, and souvenir to buy in them. On our way back in the transport, we got stuck in traffic again. When we arrived back at the hotel we rested for a bit, then went out for dinner at "bon Appetit". The restaurant was on a balcony and had a picturesque view of Kathmandu. We had an enjoyable last meal out as a team and reflected on the fantastic time we'd spent together.

23 April An early start for departure from Nepal. Everyone was up at 4:45am to leave at 5:30am. When we got back to the manic Kathmandu airport, we passed through security and had our breakfast from one of the bakeries/shops in the airport. We had our first 2-hour flight to Delhi (which Robin had initially lost his boarding pass for!). When we arrived at Delhi airport it was obvious that the security is nothing like ours- it had such odd organization! We finally got onto the plane after rushing through the airport, because we thought we were going to miss our flight due to the delays and slow airport system. It was now the 9-hour home stretch to landing. The flight seemed faster on the way back, and before we knew it, we were in the UK after the extraordinary time we just experienced! We then got our mini bus back to where it all began - with our families at Bradon Forest.

Purton Placard

PURTON SILVER THREADS
Coffee Morning
Saturday 30 June 10am-12pm
At Silver Threads Hall

PURTON AGE CONCERN **Village Party**

Sunday 10th June, 2pm-6pm
at the Red House. All ages welcome.
Presentation of our new minibus, BBQ &
Cream Teas will be on sale.

The Chedworth Silver band will be
providing the music. Games for the
children. The Red House bar will be open
all afternoon.



MAMMA MIA!
THE MOVIE SOUNDTRACK FEATURING THE SONGS OF ABBA®

THE BIG NIGHT-Fantastic MAMMA MIA EVENING Saturday 16th JUNE
Greek Buffet, watch the Movie, Sing-a-Long & Raffle
DRESS: From Greek Island chic to your favourite 70's outfit-welcomed but not necessary
Tickets £20 - Group bookings welcome – supporting 'Breast Cancer Now'
Venue: Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon 7.15pm
Tickets available from esunice.salmon@btinternet.com

World Challenge Samantha Howse World Challenge




Garden Party
Saturday 30th June

2 - 6pm

Cream teas and Refreshments

Games and Tombola

By kind permission of John and Bridget Howse.
Alwynds, Upper Pavenhill
Purton SN5 4DQ
Contact Lorraine Howse:
07729906916




St. Mary's PTA

Summer Fayre
Friday 29th June 2018
3.30pm - 5.30pm

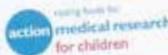
Refreshments Tombola

Games Raffle

All Welcome



CHRISTIAN AID
Curry Night
Tuesday 19 June,
sittings at 6.30pm and 8pm
at the Maharajah with huge thanks
to Khalique and his team.
Join us at this popular annual event
for another fabulous feast and help
raise funds for Christian Aid.
To find out more please phone Libbie:
771018 or Mary: 770505



Grittleton Plant and Spring Fair

Grittleton House
Chippenham SN14 6AP
(By kind permission of the Stage Family)

Monday 28 May
11am to 3pm

Entrance £3 per person
Children free (under 12)
Over 50 stalls
Cream teas and refreshments
Special guest Paddington Bear

Best supported by
Chilvestar

action.org.uk/grittleton



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



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

A Book I will Always Remember

long; 450-500 words. As usual, the copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on Page 4.

The Midnight Folk by John Masefield

John Masefield's *The Midnight Folk* was published in 1927, three years before its author became Poet Laureate. My Puffin paperback dates to 1963, and I must have read it first when I was about six, and then reread it every year or so throughout my childhood. It isn't a book I tire of even now, because it is written with a wild exuberant energy that never flags. The descriptive prose sings, as do the verses scattered through the text, and the characters have stayed with me all my life – Rollicum Bitem Lightfoot the fox, hanging up rabbit skins, Pimply Whatto the poacher with his knoppy blackthorn, and Rat the cellarman, who does a bit in the dustbin.

Kay Harker is an orphan, growing up in Seekings House under the care of his unpleasant governess, Sylvia Daisy Pouncer. Long ago Kay's great-grandfather, a sea captain, was entrusted with the treasure of Santa Barbara in the West Indies. His crew mutinied, put him ashore and sailed away with the loot. A shadow has hung over Captain Harker's good name ever since – for, as Kay's guardian Sir Theopompus remarks: "Of course, some say that your great-grandpa brought that treasure home with him and hid it somewhere."

One night Kay is woken by Nibbins the cat, who introduces him to the *Midnight Folk* and shows him the house is being used by a coven of witches. The leader of the witches is Abner Brown, whose grandfather was involved in the original search for the treasure; the witches are now hunting for the treasure to keep it for themselves.

The battlelines are drawn. The governess turns out to be Abner Brown's confederate and a witch herself. A series of adventures follow as Kay gradually pieces together the story of what really happened to the lost treasure. He flies on a broomstick and swallows a potion of invisibility to spy upon his enemies. A black mare with golden wings takes him to Yorkshire to meet "a wicked old woman" sitting up in bed "reading a sprightly story" while drinking champagne. A model of Captain Harker's ship crewed by water-mice carries him to the Caribbean, where he swims through the wreckage of the original ship in the company of a mermaid.

By turns funny and sad, the book is shot through with a sense of loss. Visiting the deserted stables, "frouzy and cobwebby," Kay can faintly remember the harness-

room bright with a blazing fire and the sound of men singing. The governess has packed away Kay's old toys, the Guards of Seekings House, because they might remind the boy of his dead parents. Their absence has allowed witchcraft and wrongness to flourish, and their triumphant return with the treasure will make things gloriously right again.

What I did not notice on a conscious level when I was a child is just how gorgeous the prose is. Not a word is wasted, and all the words are the right word.

And there's a sequel, *The Box of Delights!*

Patrick McCormack

Purton Annual Flower Show-Arts-Craft-Produce

At our meeting this week we finalised this year's Schedule, which will be shortly going to print. This will be available hopefully by early June. Available from committee members and various locations, which I will publicise next month. We have increased our Classes this year and have a total of 92 for you to choose from. We think there will be something to suit everyone. But I am sure there will always be scope for more! in the future.

The Vegetable classes are broadly unchanged in particular we have 6 different Onion classes. We would love to encourage some more/new exhibitors to these. Don't forget if there is not a specific class for the vegetables you grow you can always enter it in Class 21 - Vegetable not in Schedule. I particularly look forward to seeing this class. For those of you who specialise in oddly shaped produce. Class 16 - Any misshaped vegetable could be the one for you. If you would like a Schedule for this year's show sent or emailed, or for further information please contact me:

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

Delivering your magazines

Almost 850 copies of Purton Magazine are hand delivered to our readers every month by members of our team of nearly 30 volunteer distributors. The aim is to have the magazines delivered on or before the 1st of the month of publication. Just very occasionally that target slips by a day or two, perhaps through the absence or illness of a distributor although the team do have one or two emergency distributors who can help out at the last moment.

It follows that the magazine committee do apologise for any late deliveries experienced. However, if you would like to join our team of volunteer distributors, either on a regular monthly basis or just on an emergency contingency basis, please contact Sandra Horsnall on 01793 770157 or distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk to offer your services. The maximum commitment would be an hour or two a month and would be a really helpful contribution to the service we provide to our neighbours in the village.

The other side of the gate

What a difference a couple of days of sun can make! Only a few days after writing the last instalment, the cows were out and not a day too soon. Three weeks on and the milk yield has already risen 250 litres a day, not all due to the grass though; we sold two calves at Cirencester Market and one (Snooker's white calf pictured in May's magazine) to Gerald Carter at Bentham Farm, Purton Stoke, so there is bit more for the tank!

We keep the calves with the cows as long as we can and there is no doubt they grow much quicker and are thus much stronger. This is testament to the prices we get at market: both the British Blue heifer calves topped the calf prices that week and they sold better than a lot of the male calves.

TB testing rules stipulate that any calf over 42 days old must have a pre-movement TB test. This is to help prevent the spread of the disease between cattle. Pre-movement tests are carried out by the vet and cost over £30 for each animal tested, so we try to move the beef calves off the holding before a test is needed, however this is not always possible. Sometimes the calves look under the weather or have a digestive problem on market day so we won't send them – only strong calves go to market from Quarry Farm. The calf buyers know this and as you can see from the market report, will pay a premium for them. The same applies to Brian Scott, Hursted Farm, Purton Stoke, who you'll see topped the Bazadaise bulls and Ben, Robin and Trevor Gough from Red Lodge regularly come top with their fantastic Simmentals. It's an important part of our income and it's also good to know the stock you sell is top notch!

At Quarry Farm, we'd be classified as old-fashioned farmers. The larger, more industrial types of farm cannot do what we do. If you have hundreds of cows it's impossible to leave the calves with their mothers. A friend of mine farms near Launceston and we went to see him in the summer during his intense calving period; 550 Jersey/Kiwi cross cows calve within 12

53 REARING CALVES

10.30 am – Auctioneers: Jon Pullin
Bulls £398, Heifers £342

A short entry of mostly good calves selling to a good trade, just a bit easier at the top end. Only weaned Friesians bulls forward to £242 from PJ & SR Bennett, some good Shorthorns to £210 from B Gough & Sons. Aberdeen Angus bulls to £290 for R & R Baker with quality heifers to £350 from RJ & TJ Andrews average £300. Best Continentals bulls saw the first calf in the ring top the day at £398 from EJ Pike & Son (Simmental) with £395 for John Millards Simmental. Best Bazadaise from MT & I Scott & Son at £340 and £368.

Heifer trade remained firm British Blues to £342 and £335 from JR & SE Cook & a run of part weaned Herefords from VA & R Allen £240-£250.

A mixture of 2nd and 3rd quality weaned dairy bred calves sold £140 - £200.

BULLS				
Breed	Qty	Top £	Avg £	Vendor
Shorthorn	3	210	185	B Gough & Sons
Aberdeen Angus	6	290	209	R & R Baker
Hereford	8	350	298	RJ & TJ Andrews
Bazadaise	2	368	354	MT & I Scott
Simmental	5	398	350	MD Pike
Friesian	3	242	242	PJ & SR Bennett
HEIFERS				
British Blue	2	342	338	JR & SE Cook
Hereford	9	250	227	VA & R Allen
Simmental	4	248	222	B Gough & Sons
MALE WEANED				
Aberdeen Angus	2	150	150	CB Powell & Son
Brown Swiss	2	80	80	M Harwood
Kiwi	2	140	140	CF Harwood
Norwegian Red	1	140	140	CF Harwood
Friesian	3	200	180	SJ Yarnold & Son
FEMALE WEANED				
Aberdeen Angus	1	195	195	CB Powell & Son



weeks. One morning he collected 28 calves from the field with a trailer. The cows will follow him to the nursery where they stay with the calves for 24 hours before they are separated. It's impressive to see but completely the opposite to what we do or indeed would want to do!

Not all cows are maternal, which I believe is a bad consequence of breeding for 'type'. The industry has bred ever larger, milkier cows that yield more fat and protein at the cost of other traits, such as being a good mother. Pinky (she has a pink nose

that was sun burnt when she arrived at Quarry Farm) for instance, will drop her calf and walk away – she completely refused to have anything to do with her first calf. Hollie is now (hopefully) pregnant after being hand reared by Sarah and is named so as she's a pure bred Holstein - I know, I know, our calf naming talents are impressive!

Neospora is a blood parasite that can infect cattle. Its distinguishing feature is that it causes cows to abort at 4-6 months. Caramel, who has caramel coloured ears and is one of our Pedigree Holsteins has just aborted, five months into her pregnancy, so I'm sure she has now contracted the disease. There are two infection routes: one is from dog mess, the other is transfer from their mothers during pregnancy. Unfortunately, it's a lifelong infection that cannot be cured. Caramel is the fourth cow we now have with neospora – she joins Muncher, Queenie and Boggy and these cows will probably have to be culled way before their natural time. So a plea to all dog owners: pick up your dog's mess, even on fields where there are no cattle, as it can be brought back in silage bales. It may be a pain, but it's costing the lives of our cows!

Did you know that every bovine has to have a passport? It's not like a human passport – it's all to do with traceability, starting at birth and following the animal through to death. There is a paper copy that stays with the current owner, whilst the government holds a database (BCMS - British Cattle Movement Service). As soon as a calf is born, we have to put two ear tags in its ears (it's horrible piercing their ears as it makes a crunching noise that turns my stomach every time), then log on and register its birth. This must be linked to its mother's ear tag number (ETN) and sire's ETN (if known). It shows the date of birth, breed, sex, its ETN, where it was born, the County, Parish and Holding number (CPH), who the owner is and every subsequent home it may have. We're required to register the birth within 21 days and report any movement within two days – if you don't, they come looking for you! Now, I'll admit it doesn't happen very often, but both Sarah and I forgot to move a calf off in January. We were 10 days late! A big red (I guessed it was red as I'm virtually 'grey scale' colour blind) triangle flashed onto the screen with a warning of the trouble we were in and that if we did it again they'd hunt us down and cart us off to Coventry in irons! Well, hunt us down they did! Anyone that has had dealings with a government body will understand the frustration we were about to go through. The RPA (Rural Payments Agency) man arrived and proceeded to check every animal's ETN, checking

they're still in as often they get ripped out or broken. Every farm has missing tags, it's inevitable, but if you're from the RPA this is not acceptable. I had previously ordered some replacement ear tags but was told 'that was worse' as I should have put them in, so I had to order them again to make it look like I'd been a good boy and done what he said (they can check with the ear tag manufacturer that I have indeed reordered!). We had to justify why we'd not notified



Photo: Alex Thomas

them in good time about the off move in January. Of course I couldn't so I did the next best thing and blamed Sarah! The worst was yet to come: somehow we'd missed a calf – yep, no passport for Costa, four months old and looking a picture of health with all the other calves. "I don't have a record for this animal," he said and "Oh bugger" is what I said! Of course, this was also Sarah's oversight, which I told him, but that gained me no sympathy or leniency. He said we could have a CPP35 for Costa. "Thanks" I replied, but what does that mean? He can stay here but can never leave alive. "Oh" I said, "can we eat him?" "No!" So, he can stay here but can't be eaten? "Yes." Now, that's a bit stupid in my book! He then proceeded to go all Jeremy Kyle on us, by saying we could get a paternity test done. If you can prove he's yours, "They might give you a full passport, but because you've been so naughty they will probably reduce your Single Farm Payment" (I'll go through that another time). I enquired how much, but wish I hadn't: it was £1350! So, what did I learn from this excruciating experience? Quite a few things, but mainly that I'd really hate to get up each morning and do his miserable job! Costa and I are still friends and the paternity battle is being fought (at great expense I might add!).

I have very little room for raw milk's health benefits this month, however I would like to say this: fat doesn't make you fat, sugar does!

Do you buy our raw milk? If so, may we ask a favour of you? The Food Standards Agency will be reviewing the Raw Milk laws in June and they are trying to gain a better understanding of why and how consumers choose to buy it. As producers, we are aiming to provide them with plenty of information in order to help them in their decisions. Our aim is to help make raw milk more widely available whilst ensuring that farmers who sell it are properly supported in achieving high production standards. We would be very grateful if our customers would fill in a short survey about their reasons for buying raw milk on the new website. Thank you www.rawmilkproducers.co.uk

Jonathan Cook

The Red House

The reason I have asked the editor of the magazine to put the details of how the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre was purchased is that in 1995 the Charity Commission made the Red House Social Club surplus to requirements which I feel was not made common knowledge at the time and was the wrong thing to do. It belongs to us, the people of Purton, and not the Charity Commission. It is an insult to men whose names are on the roll of honour inside the entrance to the Club and also all the people who raised the money to buy it. Their vision for the future gave us what we have today. We have so much to thank them for and a special mention to John Scott and his persuasive powers! Let's not forget all the voluntary work that has gone on over the years to make the Centre what it is today. I have sent a letter myself to the Charity Commission and along with it letters of support from the Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion (whose headquarters it is), the Football Club, Tennis Club, the Bowls Club and the Red House Social Club, asking for the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre to go back to how it was prior to 1995, which is what the people of Purton collected for in 1946, and for it to be run how it was intended.

There was already a cenotaph in the village which bore the names of the fallen from the 1914-18 war. It was quickly agreed to add the names of the brave people we had lost from our village during the 1939-45 war.

Many of us wanted a permanent memorial in the form of playing fields or a Village Hall. The Red House, owned by Miss Russell, and the land around it, which I had rented for many years, offered the ideal opportunity to form a Village Centre with space for playing fields and a Village Hall. Miss Russell now lived in Bournemouth. The house had been occupied by soldiers returning after Dunkirk but had since been empty. A small exploratory Committee was set up to see if we could raise sufficient money to purchase the property, which was on offer by Fox and Sons for the sum of £8,500. Colonel F W Wilson-Fitzgerald became our chairman, Mr Fred Leach was appointed Hon. Treasurer and I became Hon. Secretary.²

I was aware that no "Deed of Plight and Condition" of the property had been made when the Army took over, so whoever bought the property would have a fair "claim" on the War Office, as the Army Occupation had not improved its value. If we acted quickly we stood a good chance of receiving substantial grant aid both from the King George Vth Fund and from the National Playing Fields Association providing we could raise sufficient money to purchase. It was agreed that we would make as full an enquiry as possible and then call a Public Meeting and, if approved, a fully representative committee of all village groups would be formed.

We worked hard to get all the information possible. I called on our Chairman by appointment one evening to report progress. I thought highly of the peppery old Colonel but he was never very forthcoming with the bottle. He sat at his desk on his revolving stool in his study while his very likeable wife sat reading a book beside

the fire. As I explained how much progress we had made he seemed to give me the impression that this or that might have been done. I became very annoyed, as we had made considerable efforts.

I suddenly said, "Colonel, you can sit on your arse on that swing stool all day, and do what you like just when you care to, but we have jobs to do, and all this other work has to be done in our spare time". His wife exploded with laughter, threw her book to the ceiling and, clapping her hands, said "John, good for you! He has needed to be told that for a long time". He was quite non-plussed and suggested that we might have a sherry. He always had a drink and a welcome for me after that, and we worked together for a long time.

Buying Red House

Having obtained an architect's and surveyor's report on the property, which had not yet been advertised for sale, I approached several businessmen and farmers with a view as to how much they might donate if we went ahead with our proposals. Having obtained a good response, I had a fair idea of how much we could raise in cash terms, but it was certainly not enough to reach the asking price of £8,500 which really was not an unreasonable price.

I had known Miss Russell from the early 1920s and used to deliver eggs, butter and cream to her. She was a benevolent lady when she lived in the village, allowing the villagers to use the three existing grass tennis courts at Red House. She also owned the very first beautiful Sunbeam car that I had ever seen. This old car was in one of the two garages at Red House, though unused for many years, until gypsies took it for scrap.

It was suggested that I journey to Bournemouth to meet the dear lady, together with her agent. I arrived early in order to have a little private discussion. She was by now well into her eighties and had a habit of allowing her top set of teeth to drop at the end of each sentence, but she certainly had all her faculties. Messrs. Fox's representative joined us and we began to talk business. He said the price could not be lowered. But Miss Russell was certainly interested in the project which we had in mind.

After a long discussion I was asked how much we could afford to pay for the property. My reply was that the most we could possibly raise was £5,000 and stressed, of course, that it would be a wonderful War Memorial. At this Fox's answer was "out of the question" but Miss Russell pulled herself upright in her chair, adjusted her top set more firmly, and said "If the Purtonians agree with your committee's proposals, John, I will agree. Turning to her agent, who was by now dancing around like an apoplectic sparrow, she continued, "The price will be £4,975 and the £25 extra will be my donation if the sale goes forward".

What a generous lady she was. I wonder how many users of this splendid centre ever appreciate how it was obtained. I thanked her, kissed her good-bye, and left to report to my committee. They were amazed at my success but lots of work lay ahead.

Raising the funds

The villagers were summoned to a Public Meeting which was to be held at Purton Institute (this building having been given to the village many years before by Squire "Jimmy" Sadler). The meeting, which was the largest I can ever remember, was chaired by Captain Ward of Red Lodge. There was space at the Red House for all activities but I was convinced that we could not buy or run the Centre unless we could obtain a licensed bar. We had a lot of Methodist opposition in the village, who did not like the idea of the bar.

Having done my homework, I had persuaded our worthy Colonel to donate £1,000 (£500 of which was to be a gift, the other £500 to be repaid at a later date). Other sums were promised if we went ahead; one of £100, two of £50 each, and eighteen of £25 each and lots of £10 and £5.

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

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

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

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

The property was purchased on behalf of the Parish of Purton and vested in Trustees for the benefit of all persons resident in the Parish. The Centre was to be a perpetual tribute to those who laid down their lives in the 1939-1945 War and would provide facilities for the benefit of the inhabitants without distinction of religion, political views or sex. The Membership was open to all Parishioners of Purton, Braydon, Purton Stoke, Lydiard Millicent and Lydiard Tregoze on payment of an Annual Subscription, subject to revision annually³. Management was to be by a committee representing a wide range of village interests.⁴ I wonder how many of these early rules have been strictly adhered to?

The house itself could provide for a caretaker's flat, a convenient bar, billiards and table tennis rooms downstairs, with considerable space upstairs for large and small meetings. There were three existing grass tennis courts and plans were drawn up

to make a bowling green in the gardens with a further three hard tennis courts at a later date. The outbuildings lent themselves to making into a skittle alley, and there was space to erect a new Village Hall. The adjoining land would provide a children's playground and a full sized soccer pitch, but considerable levelling had to be done as there was a fall of 18 feet from South West to North East corners.

I managed to get Lord Justice Lawrence and my old Sports Master F.N.S. Creek to officiate in the Grand Opening Ceremony.

Though I left the village in 1951, I remained as President of the Football Club and the Purton Tennis club for many years, both based at the Red House.

Relationship with the Parish Council

When we were trying to buy the Red House and set up the Centre as a War Memorial the Parish Council of the day did not wish to co-operate. Perhaps they thought the Red House would not be self-supporting. However, they were invited to appoint two members to Management Committee, which they did.

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

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

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

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

Other members of the committee were Colonel Hugh Ryder of the Manor House, Mr Bob Wightman, who was an Auctioneer and Estate Agent and who kindly did all his advising free of charge, and Mr V Jupp, a practising Solicitor whom I managed to get co-opted and likewise gave his service free.

The initial subscriptions were for Adults 2/6, Youths 15-18 1/- and children free.

The Management Committee was to consist of one member from each functional organisation in the village, four annually elected members, three co-opted members with the Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary being elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Tony Price

Purton and District Probus Club



Our speaker on the 10th April was Dr Nick Humphris, a retired university lecturer and a Volunteer Site Guide for the National Trust at Chedworth Roman Villa. The first stone structure at the Chedworth site dates from around 120 AD and was a relatively simple construction of three detached buildings, each with a few rooms. Over the next two centuries the villa was extended and improved, reaching its heyday between 360-380AD, by which time it had become a place of wealth, luxury and comfort, boasting many rooms and corridors with rich mosaic floors, hypocaust heating and an extensive Bath Complex.

Cirencester is only a half-hour's horse ride from the Chedworth Villa, and its reputation, as the second largest centre of provincial/tribal government, led to Romanisation of the area and ensured the wealth of the Romano-British elite. There is a large concentration of villas in the Cotswolds and within a ten mile radius of Chedworth, no less than fourteen have been identified. Those at Yarnworth & Withington are only a few miles away.

As with all settlements, a supply of potable water is essential, and here, it comes from a freshwater spring in the Northwest corner of the villa complex, which has been recorded as flowing almost constantly for no less than 360 days of the year. Here can be seen the pool and rear wall of a shrine to the water-nymphs, a Nymphaeum, which in Roman times would have been a porticoed structure with colonnades. Scratched on the stonework of the pool is the Christian Symbol chi-rho. Immediately below the water source, at the high-point of the north wing, are the remains of the earliest bath-suite, with a stoke hole, a hot bath, a tepid bath and a cold-plunge. In the early 4th century the villa was extensively redeveloped. The dining room (triclinium) received its mosaics and the northern half of the west wing was converted to become a second set of baths, eventually with a dry heat bath, a Laconium, something similar to today's Sauna. In an adjacent room, dirt and sweat would be scraped off with a Strigil, oil applied and manicures given.

Roman mosaics can be a good indicator of the life-styles of the inhabitants of the buildings at the time of the mosaic's making. At Chedworth they represent pastoral activities. The floor of the dining room has emblems at each corner of Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn, local knowledge of which was necessary in order to maximise agricultural production. In the centre, somewhat damaged by the collapse of the hypocaust, is shown Bacchus, the god of wine, and Ariadne complete with an entourage of Satyrs and Maenads. By contrast, Nick showed a picture from a Sicilian mosaic of the carcass of a wild boar being carried home from the hunt, illustrating the fact that early invaders were very dependent on hunting for the sustenance of their armies.

Chedworth Villa was accidentally discovered in 1864 by a gamekeeper, Thomas Margetts, who was digging for a ferret, when he unearthed fragments of paving and pottery. James Farrer, MP for South Durham, first excavated the site. The owner of the land, Earl Eldon, financed the excavations. He also covered the mosaics and built

the modern villa to house a museum for the artefacts. In 1924, with the help of some public subscription, the site was acquired by the National Trust, who manage it today. A £2.2 million programme of conservation was completed in 2012, and excavations are continuing. Dr Humphris' talk gave life to the Villa. It is interesting to contemplate that the luxury life-style of the Romano-British at Chedworth was reached 300 years after Boudicca fought, to the death, against the armies of the Roman governor, Suetonius Paulinus.

The 30th Annual General Meeting of the Purton & District Probus Club was held on the 24th April 2018 at the Red House. Nineteen members attended. The retiring President, John Godfrey, spoke of his pleasure in serving in the office of President, both, while at the Purton meetings and in the company of the Royal Wootton Bassett Club & the Highworth Club. He thanked the various committee members for their support throughout the year: Trevor Domm, the General Secretary, Hector McLean, the Vice President, Brian Gill, the Speaker Secretary, Mike Housley, Brian's assistant, Bob Stevens, Treasurer, and Peter Jinks for conducting the raffle at each meeting. John congratulated the club on attaining 30 years of continuous meetings since its inception as the Church Hill Probus Club in 1988.

Trevor Domm, the General Secretary, expressed his thanks to Brian Gill for an excellent programme of speakers, to Neil and Janet for the hospitality and service at the Red House and to Les Walker for inviting our members to participate in various Highworth Outings. Trevor also reported that the majority of our members enjoyed a memorable President's Lunch at the Wiltshire Hotel. Finally he reminded us that we should all strive to introduce new members, because it is only by maintaining the present numbers that we can afford to invite entertaining speakers or meet the travel costs of those from further afield.

The Treasurer presented the balance sheet and the accounts were approved. It was necessary to raise the membership fee by one pound to counter the rising travel costs of next year's speakers.

Election of the Committee. With the exception of the roles of President and Vice President, the standing members were elected en-bloc.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the club, Peter Jinks was presented with a Founder Members Badge. Peter, in a short acceptance speech, explained how the Royal Wootton Bassett Club had evolved as an offshoot of the Bath Road Swindon Club, but had grown quickly in numbers, requiring further division. Peter Moody then suggested launching the Church Hill Probus Club (May 1988) to embrace members from Lydiard and Purton. In 1998, the club moved its meetings to the Red House and took the new name of Purton & District Probus Club. Peter thanked the Club for the award and said he was pleased that we are still meeting regularly.

At this point the Standing President presented the Chain of Office and the Gavel to the New President, Hector McLean. In accepting, Hector said that he had enjoyed the Probus meetings since his first visit in November, 2013, when he challenged the Speaker regarding the rarity or otherwise of stained glass windows depicting

Angels with Bagpipes. As his Introduction, he explained that, after 28 years with ICI, he had served 9 years with the Church of England as Appointments Secretary to the Archbishops of York and Canterbury, during which time he had taken a keen interest in Church Buildings. He concluded by saying that he is looking forward to his year as President and has already received an invitation to attend the RWB Probus Club's Annual Lunch.

The meeting concluded with discussions under some minor headings of Any other Business.

Purton Probus Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month at 10am in the Red House Lounge. June Programme: 12th June, Cotswold Canal s Trust, 26th Hearing Dogs

Bob Stevens

Grittleton Plant & Spring Fair – Monday 28 May 2018

Back for its 6th year we are delighted to announce that Grittleton Plant and Spring Fair will be taking place on Monday 28 May 2018.

Set in the stunning house and grounds of the Grittleton Estate, the Grittleton Plant and Spring Fair is perfect for plant lovers, foodies and those looking for the



ideal present. With over 50 stalls ranging from specialist nurseries selling plants and stunning accessories for your room outside to quality stalls selling a range of delicious food stuffs, bath products, unique gifts, 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.

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

Doors open at 11am and refreshments and cream teas will be available. Entrance is £3 per person and children under 12 are free. Free parking. Assistance dogs only please. See www.action.org.uk/grittleton for details.

All proceeds and donations will be going to support children's charity Action Medical Research. Action Medical Research is raising funds to offer hope to thousands of families across the UK who are dealing with the trauma of a baby born too early, striving to support a child affected by disability or facing the challenge of caring for a child with a rare and devastating disease for which there is no cure. Further information on AMR successes, case studies and current research projects can be found at www.action.org.uk
