

# Purton. Magazine

July 2019



Headteacher Mrs Clarke pays tribute to Shirley Lawrence, who retires from St Mary's Primary School at the end of the summer term, after 23 years dedicated service. See page 30.

50p

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## 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, <a href="mailto:bethaney23@icloud.com">bethaney23@icloud.com</a>	
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, <i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Pips Community Café	Duty volunteers	07498 526872
<i>(Tuesday-Friday 9am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm) <a href="http://www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/">www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/</a></i>		
<b>Schools &amp; Playgroups</b>		
Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Pear Drops at Playclose	Sarah Grigg	950159
Pear Drops Pre-School (formerly Under 5s')	Sarah Grigg	978536
St Mary's Primary School	Secretary	770239
<b>Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary</b> <a href="http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk">www.stmaryspurton.org.uk</a>		
<i>For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.</i>		
Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: <a href="mailto:vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk">vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk</a> Tel: 770077, 773031 (emergencies only)	
Curate: Revd Judith Wells	email: <a href="mailto:judithwells36@googlemail.com">judithwells36@googlemail.com</a> Tel: 770627	
Wardens	Sandra Horsnall: 770157	Jane Smith: 772422
Administrator: Rosie Harris	<a href="mailto:administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk">administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk</a> Tel: 773035	
<b>Methodist Churches</b> <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	
<b>Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett</b> <a href="http://www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk">www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk</a>		
Priest: Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues Tel: 852366		
<i>Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm</i>		
<b>Catholic Church - St Mary's Church, High St, Cricklade</b>		
Priest: Father Michael Robertson Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church		
<i>Services: Holy Days 7.00pm, Sundays 9.30am Mass.</i>		

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[www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)

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# Purton. Magazine

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

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

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

**Advertising enquiries:** Richard McCarthy Email: [advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

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c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton SN5 4AR

Tel: 01793 772954 email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

**Distribution & Delivery enquiries:** Sandra Horsnall 01793 770157

Email: [distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:

The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also online at [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk) © 2004-2019

**INTouch**  
Design & Print

## From the Editors

This month we learn a lot about our own language from the Course Director of the International Study and Language Institute at Reading University. As a nation that is traditionally so poor at learning foreign languages, we have become supremely reliant on the global reach of our mother tongue. So, it is as much of a relief as anything else that English is one of the most widely spoken and written languages worldwide. On page 71 it seems that maritime activity, trade and broadcasting have been the major influences behind the spread of English and which must have given rise to the saying that English is the language on which the sun never sets.

That said, we learn that the sun is setting on the career of someone whose work has been described as “unflappable” although you may need to look at page 30 to confirm your suspicions. As if not to be outdone, we include a report about the first ever Great Bradon Forest “Make Off” competition perhaps extending the English language a little further. However, you will need to turn to page 48 to find the description (or even definition) of “Make Off” which seems quite likely to become an annual event.

Then, on page 31 we learn about the two meanings of “breath-taking” in the same instance and on the same occasion, even if induced by the latest version of endurance fuel – jelly babies! It appears that there are also two meanings of the word “Betamax”. On page 54 we learn that it is the name of a long-acting first generation penicillin for cattle whereas it is also the name for an analogue recording and cassette format of magnetic tape for video developed by Sony.

This month we have come to the end of an extended use of English through these pages in the form of the 72nd and last of Rick Dixon’s Great War Project that we have been pleased to publish since 2013. It is said of the Great War that five great empires entered the war but only one emerged intact and the closing scenes can be found on page 58.

Finally, we are planning to update the Purton Directory and print it inside the August magazine. Please submit your organisation’s details with the people to contact before our next copy date, 10th July – further information can be found on page 47.

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Scoops of ice cream with sauce or sprinkles for only £2.00 at Pips – see page 24	Steps of despair encountered and conquered by two coastal trekkers – see page 31	British soldiers executed for cowardice during WWI but posthumously pardoned – see page 58

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### **Purton: A Dementia Friendly Community**

A huge thank you to all the residents, volunteers, businesses and kind donors who made our event on Saturday 26th May 2019 at Purton Village Hall a success. We raised £353.41 for Alzheimer's Research. #PurtonCares

### **Community Engagement**

This month's question is answered by Neil Hooper, Vice Chair of Council. neil.hooper@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 01793 771066

### **Question: Who is responsible for highways and footpaths?**

All road structures and public footpaths (tarmac) are the responsibility of Wiltshire Council and any issues regarding potholes, path erosion etc can be reported online at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting) or call 0300 0456 0100 or you can download their app on your phone "MyWiltshire".

The Parish Council has the resource of a Parish Steward provided by Wiltshire Council one day a month (normally split over two half days). The Parish Steward will only action the following items, all others are required to be sent to Wiltshire Council via the above options:

- Hand clearing and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers
- Hand clearing of blocked drainage gullies, grips, culverts, pipes and pits (unable to be unblocked by a jet system)
- Clearing storm debris from the roads and footways
- Preparation and painting of Pedestrian barriers
- Clearing and straightening of small road signs
- Street nameplates and bollards, securing of existing small road signs verge markers posts and supplied street names plates
- Removal of limited graffiti from road signs, collars and street nameplates
- Hand cutting of grass and vegetation in visibility areas
- Hand treatment of weeds
- Hand clearance of encroaching growth and soil from footways
- Repair of small potholes in roads and on footways.

Overgrown hedging/trees onto public highways/footpaths it the responsibility of the home/land owner. The Parish Council are able to write to land/home owners requesting them to clear vegetation and if they do not action within the standard time given (two letter approach), Wiltshire Council will then take over response and enforcement action.

### **Countryside Public Footpaths**

Purton is fortunate to have 161 countryside footpaths which are the responsibility of Wiltshire Council and the land owner to keep open and accessible. We do not

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have the “right to roam” in this country therefore all our footpaths require all users to stay on the designated route. A full map of all footpaths is available at the Parish Council offices (fee pending size), viewable at the Library or Doctors Surgery or on Wiltshire Councils website as follows: <http://wiltscouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=43d5a86a545046b2b59fd7dd49d89d22>

Purton Parish Council have an amazing group of volunteers who work with the Parish and Wiltshire Councils to maintain and keep as many footpaths as they can open and accessible, however there are times when this has to be dealt with by Wiltshire Council officers alone due to land owner issues. If you have any concerns please contact our office and we will do our best to advise and resolve matters.

### ***Highways Maintenance***

A new gully service has been introduced to provide assistance with the gully emptying in parishes and villages within Wiltshire. This will enable smaller villages/ parishes who are not visited regularly by the main contractor to have the opportunity of a gully clearance service.

The tanker will operate on a rota basis around the whole of the county meaning that once a request is received they will endeavour to visit our area within a six week period. Please send your request of gullies requiring clearance near your property, or within Purton via the offices with the exact location so we can add to the list.

### ***Donations - Working with the Community***

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

Any application to be considered must have been with the Council by Tuesday 28th May latest for discussion at the Council meeting to be held on Monday 3rd June 2019. Applications are available on our website or from the Council offices. <https://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Financial-Details.aspx>

Grants have been awarded in (June 2019):

Swindon Dial a Ride, Purton Toddlers and Wiltshire Council Fun In the Sun

### ***Meet your Councillors***

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

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## **Purton Youth Club For School Years 4-7**

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

For more details please contact the Youth Leader Jude Deaman Tel: 01242 224509; Mobile: 07787821798 Web: [www.communitymas.co.uk](http://www.communitymas.co.uk) A facebook page has also been set up under Purton Youth Club.

### **Councillors 2019-20**

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

### **July Meetings - 7pm Start**

Monday 8 July 2019	Play Area committee
Monday 8 July 2019	Burials Committee after Play Area
Monday 15 July 2019	Council meeting
Monday 29 July 2019	Village Hall Charity

All held at the Village Hall Purton, commencing at 7pm open to the public

### **Public Convenience**

For information the public toilets located to the side of the Village Hall are open 6am to 6pm Monday to Sunday.

### **Memory Stones**

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

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### **Planning Permission Granted**

- 19/02550/FUL Manor Hill Farm. Use of land for dog training and exercise and associated development.
- 19/03604/TCA 4 Church Street. 1.5 Metre crown reduction to holly tree and raise crown by 1 metre, and 1.5 metre crown reduction to yew tree.
- 19/02601/TPO Manor Farm, 1 Church End. Fell 1 ash (T1), remove lowest 3 limbs from 2 lime trees T2 & T3, reduce large extending limb of ash by 40% T4, fell 3 ash trees T5, T6 & T7
- 19/02793/FUL 20 Jubilee Estate. Erection of single storey rear and side extension.
- 19/02941/FUL 3 Jubilee Estate. Side and rear extension.
- 19/02988/FUL 6 Ray Close. Temporary consent for the use of garden shed as an aesthetics business (beauty salon).
- 16/10513/FUL Land at Restrop Road. Residential development of 38 dwellings including access, car parking, landscaping and other associated infrastructure.
- 19/02815/FUL 23 Witts Lane. Ground floor extension to the front of the property. Outbuilding at the bottom of the garden.
- 19/04067/TCA Land at Church Street. Work to trees in a Conservation Area.

### **Refused Application**

- 19/02763/FUL 1 Jubilee Estate. Proposed dwelling.

### **Charities**

As part of the review of the Village Hall charity, we have now completed our price list changes for 2019/20 which are viewable on our website and Facebook sites. We have offered a preferential rate for residents over non-residents and businesses, whilst trying to keep the hall competitive considering the size and amenities offered. If anyone wishes to receive a copy of the prices, please contact the offices on (01793) 771066 or email [lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### **Pop Quiz – keep the Village Hall open, please support this event**

We have arranged our first charity fundraiser. Friday 19th July 2019 at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. All proceeds will go to the Village Hall charity towards running costs and also the extensive works that are required. Tables of 6 people at £12.00 are available. There will be a bar, nibbles and a guaranteed fun night. Contact the office on 01793 771066 or email [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) for more information.

### **CHARITIES**

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

Please support your local charity. [www.facebook.com/PurtonVillageHall/](http://www.facebook.com/PurtonVillageHall/)

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## **Business Opportunity**

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

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

## **Community Speed Watch**

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

Community Speed Watch (CSW) is a locally driven initiative where active members of the community join together with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds.

Speeding continues to be a concern for many communities. Volunteers receive appropriate training and are supported by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) staff. If you are interested in knowing more and how you can be a part of this community initiative please either contact Paul Grigg on [paul.grigg@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:paul.grigg@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or Deborah Lawrence on [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or call the office on 01793 771066.

## **How to contact the Parish Council**

Tel: 01793 771066, Email: [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Website [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

## **Facebook, Twitter and Website**

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

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

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## Funding available to homeowners and landlords for home improvements

Wiltshire Council would like to make residents aware of funding that is available to make improvements to homes in our area. Homeowners and landlords can apply for a loan to make improvements to their homes. Essential home repairs such as a replacement boiler, new windows and doors, roof repairs (including thatch), plumbing, heating or electrical works and even structural repairs are included under the scheme. Everyone receives the same interest rate, whether you borrow £1,000 or £15,000 and no matter what your circumstances or credit score. Eligible homeowners choose their own contractor and there are a variety of loan products available to suit individual needs\*.

The scheme is delivered through Wessex Resolutions, a not-for-profit lender that works in close partnership with the Council. Established in 2003, Wessex Resolutions has helped many homeowners throughout the South West, lending almost £13.6 million. A recent client said "I had no idea the scheme existed until I contacted the Council. When my adviser visited me and explained everything perfectly it was a huge burden lifted from me – loan repayments that I can afford and the efficiency with which it was all arranged. I am truly grateful to all concerned."

For more information, call Wessex Resolutions on 01823 461099  
visit [www.wessexresolutions.org.uk](http://www.wessexresolutions.org.uk) or email [enquiries@wrcic.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wrcic.org.uk).

(\*subject to eligibility)

Loans have a fixed interest rate and typical 4.2% APR. Missing payments could affect your credit rating and ability to obtain credit in the future. Loans are typically protected by a Title Restriction and are subject to status.

Wessex Resolutions C.I.C.: a community interest company limited by guarantee, registered in England, company number 4512225. Registered address: Heatherton Park Studios, Bradford on Tone, Taunton TA4 1EU. Wessex Loans and Wessex Home Improvement Loans are trading names used by this company. Wessex Resolutions C.I.C is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (675263) for credit and debt-related regulated activities.

### Church Floodlighting

July 1st and 2nd

St. Mary's church will be floodlit in loving memory of my darling husband, **David Ernest Arthur Chamberlain**, who fell asleep 27 years ago. Forever in our thoughts. Iris, Roslyne, Lesley and the Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.



*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.*

**BREAKING NEWS! Purton Age Concern are joining the 21st century!**

Our secretary, Georgina, has brought us up to date with a dedicated website [www.purtonageconcern.com](http://www.purtonageconcern.com) and you will find all the details you need about our contacts, events, news and links to other websites in the area. We also have a Facebook and Twitter account (for those of you who actually know what this means) which can be found at Facebook: @purtonageconcern and Twitter: @Purton\_AC We need to be accessible and these days this is the way to do it. Please visit our website and let us know what you think.

Although not organised by Purton & District Age Concern, we want to promote the Brass Band afternoons at the Red House each month throughout the summer. All the proceeds go towards the Minibus Fund and as you know this is something we need to continue with. There was a band on 19th May and Keith Bailey, who arranges these events, managed to get nearly 30 players assembled. They came from all surrounding areas, only three of them played in the same band. They were given the music that the conductor had arranged and off they went. They played some lovely tunes including marches and film scores and you would have thought they played together all the time, it was really good. So please come along and support these events, there are some exciting line ups for the rest of the summer. The dates to note are Sunday 21st July, Sunday 18th August and Sunday 15th September. Starts at 3pm until 5pm.

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

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

**Future Events**

**Coach Trip to Webb's of Wychbold** - On Wednesday 3rd July leaving the village at 10am. Price is £9 for pensioners and £11 for non-pensioners or people who live outside the village.

**Coffee Morning at Bentham** - On Saturday 13th July 10am-Noon. Always a popular event at Dick and Jackie Scott's house with lots of plants, bric-a-brac, raffle and of course coffee, cake and biscuits. £2 entry fee.

**Day out at Weston-super-Mare** - On Wednesday 7th August leaving the village at 10am for a full day. Price is £9 for pensioners and £11 for non-pensioners or people who live outside the village.

**Minibus Shopping Trips** - Hazel is organising a shopping trip on the 26th July to

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Cirencester and will leave the village at 9am. For more details and to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

**3Bs Evening** - On 4th October we are having another 3Bs evening, so if you would like to attend please contact Peter on 778119 for tickets (payment in advance). Please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place on the minibus if you need transport.

### **Information**

**Greg Izon, Station Manager - Swindon West, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service** has asked if we could mention the service they offer. They are looking to deliver a dedicated and free service for safe and well visits and fitting smoke alarms on a more proactive approach in the Purton area.

Visits can be booked through their website [www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/) or by calling 0800 038 2323

He says, "Our safe and well visits are free of charge and involves one of my safe and well advisors or one of my fire crews going to a property to fit smoke alarms and give fire safety advice to the occupant depending on their needs. Statistically we have found that for various reasons, over 65's particularly, those who live alone, are more at risk from having a fire".

So, if you need to upgrade your protection then please contact them direct. This scheme runs alongside the Bobby Van service and is designed to make homes safer.

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

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

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

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

### **Latest News**

We were all very sorry that Jenny Barnes has resigned from the Age Concern committee – in fact, Jenny was the longest serving member – well over 40 years I would think, and of course, she was a street warden in New Road for many years also. What a great asset she has been, not sitting on the fence but getting involved.

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Jenny used to run our horse and dog show and gymkhana at Purton House. How many years did she do that – it must have been over 20 years. The show became quite big and competitive, but the highlight was the time Princess Diana came with the two young princes who took part in the show.

The show finished mainly due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease, but Jenny did not sit on her laurels she then started the antiques and collectables fair which we held for a good many years in the village hall. It was to compensate for the loss of revenue from the horse show. Her knowledge of antiques was a great asset to us – she ran our own stall and picked up items from our jumble sales to sell for our funds.

In later years she became our ticket agent for anything we did that needed tickets. Jenny would be a person you could rely on at any of our functions, always ready to help.

The nice thing is that Jenny has said, if we ever need help at our functions, she would still be available. Thanks for everything Jenny and you must be proud of the way it is all still continuing.

Finally, we sadly said goodbye to one of our Street Wardens in May. Susan Pagett had been involved with Age Concern for a long while and was always willing to lend a hand and support our events. We are very grateful for all she did with the Charity. She will be very much missed in the village and we send our condolences to Richard.

*Peter Berry*

## *Purton Silver Threads*

Just an update on the activities, we have had meetings with speakers, choirs and entertainment every two weeks on a Tuesday afternoon at 2pm. You will be made very welcome on these occasions, with tea and cake available!

The minibus is kept busy ferrying members to and fro, we are extremely grateful to all the drivers and 'shot guns' for their help.

Bernice organises the programme of events and over the last couple of months we have enjoyed the Ashgrove choir, Co-Op choir, exercise and clothes with Mandy, entertainment from John and Margaret, to name but a few. We were hoping Paul would be playing his ukulele for us but unfortunately was poorly. Sheila Kirk, one of our members, spoke to us about life as an evacuee in Upper Stratton, in a household of 14. Vivid memories of a life which included bread and jam for breakfast and tea, dinner with plenty of vegetables and some kind of meat, but very little. They survived with lots of fresh air and fresh vegetables! A bath and a change of clothes once a week was sufficient. She held the audience's attention for the whole talk with no notes at all – thank you Sheila for a glance into your past.

Our last speaker was Sue Giles who gave a talk on Dementia, which gave us all a message to be more thoughtful and considerate to people with this disease – thank you Sue, we all became Dementia Friends.

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Most people who come to Silver Threads also belong to the Friendship Club, held once a month, and Luncheon Club. We would especially like to thank Pat and all of her team for an excellent meal every Tuesday and Thursday, it is very much appreciated and long may it continue.

*Jenny Barnes*

# Ten Years Ago...

This column is being written on the day the Prime Minister announced that she would be stepping down. Ten years ago, the last Labour Prime Minister was in his final year and things were not too rosy for him, either. The Purton Magazine editorial piled in criticising our Members of Parliament “sometimes referred to as the most knowledgeable constituency of electors”. (Subsequent events have proved the editor’s observation wrong!)

The crux of the problem was that our M.P.’s had been over-enthusiastic and imaginative in claiming expenses, culminating in the infamous duck-house. (One had also appeared in Purton, though it was not believed that the Council had paid for it.) Several Members had “announced that they would not be standing at the next election”. Next time around, even for those who do stand one wonders how many will actually be re-elected.

The editor finished by saying: “In the years to come, it will be very interesting to see what historians make of these last few weeks”. This historian feels nostalgic for a period when the only trouble was one or two duck-houses. It makes him understand the Brexit vote being fuelled by (irrational?) nostalgia.

Meanwhile in Purton, Age Concern had distributed over 1,000 low-energy light bulbs – it really must now be ten years since they came in and not all the traditional ones have yet burnt out. P’s & Q’s, among promoting many good points about the village, bemoaned “a police force that cannot respond to or even acknowledge simple nuisances even when sent photographic evidence”. And yet again I understand nostalgia.

Culturally, the event of the month was in faraway China where two Purtonians went to perform Edward Elgar’s *Dream of Gerontius* without revealing to the authorities that it was a sacred piece and thus could have been banned from public performance. Perhaps a legislature as dysfunctional as ours is a better bulwark against the repression found in some other countries.

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](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

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## Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



### **Purton Open Gardens weekend of 6/7 July**

The PPG will be taking part in Purton Open Gardens weekend and will have plants for sale at 44 Witts Lane (the home of one of our committee members, Peter Berry). Do come and visit us there.

### **Talk on Bowel Cancer - Wednesday 16 October**

The next Information Evening will be on Wednesday 16 October when we have speakers from Great Western Hospital to talk on Bowel Cancer. Usual time and venue – 7.30-9pm, Purton Surgery. Tickets (free) will be available from early September.

### **Table top sales**

Thank you to all who support our Table Top sales in Purton surgery waiting room – £575 has been raised since starting this earlier this year. If you wish to purchase any item from the Table please give your money to the Receptionists.

### **Future Fundraising**

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

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

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

## Angel Festival In Purton

Do you have a Guardian Angel? Many people believe they do. Do you know what an angel looks like? Do you have any angel ornaments or Christmas tree decorations in your home? Why not make an angel for our Angel Festival?

St Mary's Church is having an Angel Festival during Advent 2019. Would you like to share your angel(s) with visitors to our Church for a week or two? If you do please bring your angel(s) to St Mary's Church on Saturday 30th November between 10am and 2pm.



*For more information contact Jane Smith: [janersmith1@gmail.com](mailto:janersmith1@gmail.com) or Libbie Sheppard Tel: 771018 [libbie@sheppard.org](mailto:libbie@sheppard.org)*

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## Latest news from Pips Community Café

Communities are made of people. You can define a community by the shared attributes of the people in it, and/or by the strength of the connections among them.



We are very proud at PIPS to be able to offer not just a space to be shared by our very local community but also by other external groups in the wider community. One example of this was the recent Baby Clothes Sale held at PIPS during Christian Aid week. There was a lovely display of clothes, books and baby equipment. A magnificent Nappy Cake was added to the raffle so over £100 was raised on the day; all proceeds for Christian Aid.

White Lodge Care Home regularly brings along some of their elderly residents in their mini bus for a cuppa, a chat and a slice of cake. During their last visit the carers asked if the art and crafts people in the village would be willing to spend some time at White Lodge sharing their crochet, knitting, painting and ceramic skills – watch this space. Another example of how different groups within a community can support each other.

The Arts and Crafts group held a successful table top sale in June showcasing their wares.

Our new summer menu is proving to be very popular. We offer a weekly special quiche (made by Delicious Delights using organic eggs from Purton House) and a weekly special salad.

**Salads** - either the quiche of the week, ham, cheese or tuna mayo with full plate of mixed salad including coleslaw and potato salad £3.50

**Ploughman's** - cheddar, brie, stilton or ham with salad garnish, pickled onions, chutney and baguette £3.00

**Ice cream sundae** – 3 scoops of ice cream with chocolate or strawberry sauce and sprinkles £2.00

Don't forget the other menu favourites too, home-made soups, Paninis, and jacket potatoes and of course the delicious cakes and biscuits.

We held the 1st book club on Wednesday 5th June. There was much discussion about the types of books we could read. We decided for our 1st book, to read *The Peculiar Life of a Lonely Postman* by Denis Theriault. A story about a solitary postman who has a secret vice: he steams open letters before delivering them to the recipient – what could possibly go wrong?

If you couldn't make it for the first meeting and want to come next time please do – the more the merrier.

Bring along a list of 5 books so we have lots to choose from moving forward.

We are also starting a "Talking Table" – just pop in and chat to whoever is sitting there – what a lovely way to make new friends - Every day from 10am.

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## **Purton Open Gardens Saturday 6th July**

Pips will be open from 10am with last orders at 4pm (3 hours longer than usual). Purton club are welcoming non-members at the bar to buy drinks that day too, so why not pop in and have a cold refreshing drink with your lunch. Please note we won't be open on the Sunday.

Remember - Please do let us know if you can spare even a few hours per week or month. It's good fun, full training is given on the easy to use equipment and it's a really good opportunity to meet your fellow villagers. Why don't you pop in and see for yourself? Contact details are at the end.

### **Clubs and Activities**

- Tuesday: Talking Table 10am  
Knitting group - alternate Tuesdays 10am to midday  
After school chess and board games club - until 5:30pm
- Wednesday: Talking Table 10am  
Hand sewing, patchwork, quilting - 1 - 3pm  
Book Club - 1st Wednesday of the month
- Thursday: Talking Table 10am  
Art - 1.30 to 3.30pm
- Friday: Talking Table 10am  
Crochet Group - from 10am to midday

All are run by members of the village (not Pips), have no membership fee, are quite small groups and would love new members. So why not come along?! Or if you want to start a group, let us know and we'll try to accommodate you.

In good weather well behaved dogs and their owners are welcome to sit at the tables outside the front of Purton club or on our bench in the car park.

Remember if you don't fancy the walk you can always hop on the 53 bus at the top of the village, pop in see us then get the next bus back.

Contact us: [marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk) 01793 772298 or look for updates on the Pips facebook page -[facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe](https://www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe)

*The Pips team*

### **Our opening hours for July will be:**

Tuesday 10am - 5.30pm, Wednesday & Thursday 9am - 4.30pm, Friday 9am - 4.30pm, Saturday 10am - 2pm. Last order 30 mins before closing.

## *Prayer for Purton*

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Hillside, Station Road, Willow Brook, Bamford Close, Shaftesbury Close, Smiths Court, Widham, Clardon, New Road, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Course Meadow and South View*

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## St Mary's Primary School

Congratulations to all the Year 6 children who undertook their SATs so brilliantly in May. We are all very proud of the efforts you made and the way you conducted yourselves during this assessment period. These children are now eagerly looking forward to the residential trip to Bude in June and their end of year production.

### **Staff News**

At the end of this academic year we will say farewell to Miss Jones and Mrs Campbell. Miss Jones has a new job in Swindon, and we wish her well in her new school. Mrs Campbell returns to Wales with her family, something she is very much looking forward to. Miss Harries will be taking maternity leave at the end of this term.

In addition, after 23 years of loyal service, Mrs Lawrence our admin officer and receptionist is retiring. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best as she takes a more relaxed pace of life away from St Mary's! A separate tribute to Mrs Lawrence has been included in this month's magazine.

### **Diary Dates:**

The PTA are holding a Family Barn Dance (Hoe Down) in the Village Hall on Friday 5 July from 7pm - 11pm. Tickets available from school. All welcome! Please see the placard page for more details.

### **Darcy Bussell Dance Fitness Competition**

Twenty-three St Mary's children spent their Friday of half term at the Regional DDMX Dance Finals at Salisbury Cathedral. The children had entered the competition the term before, entering their Japanese dance into the competition. Their hard work and many practices at lunchtimes earned them a place with 6 other schools in the regional finals. They performed their dance to their parents and the other schools and were presented with a certificate to represent their achievement by Dame Darcy Bussell. An outstanding achievement. Well done, we are very proud of all of you!



### **Sports Day**

A huge thank you to everyone who supported sports day last month. The weather was very kind to us and the children enjoyed participating in all the different sporting challenges on offer. Special thanks to Mrs Lambe and Miss Heal for organising the whole day and to Mrs John and her dance group who performed for us in the opening ceremony of the KSI session.

A report by Mrs Lambe follows:

The morning of Wednesday 5th June dawned bright and sunny and so began our annual sports day events. This year, Bradon Forest School agreed to host the Key



Stage Two event. The children were amazed when they realised that they would have the use of the fantastic facilities at the senior school. They competed in their houses - Kestrels, Peregrine, Ospreys and Harriers, and moved around a selection of activities. This included tug of war, crazy catch, speed bounce, standing long jump and many more. Whilst these activities continued, the 600m, 400m and 100m races were run.

St Mary's would like to thank

Bradon Forest School for the use of their facilities, the Bradon Staff for help with setting up, and the ex St-Mary's pupils from Years 7 through to 10, who made themselves available for the morning. We look forward to seeing you next year!

The afternoon saw our younger half of the school showing off their sporting prowess whilst they competed in a scaled-down version of the morning's event on the St Mary's school field. They began with the 50m sprint races and then moved on to compete in a variety of activities in their house teams. Well done to all of our young competitors. It was a lovely day of sport.

We do still have spaces in Reception for September 2019, (and in most other year groups) so if you are interested in your child joining us here at St Mary's, please do get in touch. Visits can be arranged through the school office [admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk) or by phoning us on (01793) 770239.

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

*Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher*

## Cricklade Country Market

Friday 26 July, 2-4pm at Jenner Hall, Cricklade

Everything we sell is locally handmade, home cooked or home grown. This is a local market supplying local things... with a tea-room too. Come and see what we have to offer. There is no charge to look!

Future market date: August 30th

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



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## Mrs Lawrence's retirement

Thursday 25th July will see the end of an era at St Mary's: our very own Mrs Lawrence will start her retirement and will no longer be gracing the school office.

Mrs Lawrence is absolutely unique - one of a kind. A kinder, more considerate person you could not wish to meet. For an incredible 23 years she has provided generations of St Mary's children and their families with unreserved dedication. Her devotion to her job sees her start work far earlier than she need, finish later than she should and come into school during her holidays! As well as being 'front of house' and keeping the reception area running smoothly from dawn 'til dusk, her many and varied activities also means she can regularly be spotted collating registers, distributing fruit and milk to the youngest children, collecting lost uniform (of which there is usually a mountain and most of the time unnamed!) and trying to get it back to its rightful owners! Most importantly, of course, she ensures that children have the very best care and are comforted if they are hurt or ill.



Saying 'Thank You' just doesn't come close to expressing our gratitude and appreciation of all Mrs Lawrence has tirelessly contributed to St Mary's for such a long time. Anyone who has had anything to do with St Mary's, whether more recently or in years gone by, will have been afforded her attention at some time or other and she does this with absolute grace. She is 'unflappable', calm and considered in everything she does. Over the years I have personally sought her counsel on many occasions and her sage advice has always been very worth listening to and indeed following!

Mrs Lawrence, you are the smiling, welcoming face - and indeed 'voice' - of St Mary's and you have no idea how much you will be missed by us all. When the new school year starts in September, I wonder how we will manage! We certainly hope you won't be a stranger to us and we look forward to hearing about your adventures during retirement.

We will miss you so much, but wish you the very best in health, contentment and happiness in your retirement.

*Love and best wishes, Mrs Clarke and all at St Mary's*

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## Jurassic Coastal Path: Conquered!

On Saturday 8 June we completed the Jurassic Coast Trek, as featured in the June issue. It was certainly a challenge and the 26 mile route from Osmington, near Weymouth, to Langton Matravers, near Swanage took us nearly 12 hours to complete.

Despite our training and reasonable level of general fitness, the relatively flat Wiltshire countryside was no preparation for the gradients of the coast. We climbed and descended the undulations of the cliffs, not able to decide which was worse - the 'ups' or the 'downs'! We climbed an equivalent of 1.5 times the height of Snowdon and descended the same. This term's value at St Mary's of 'Perseverance' was certainly tested!

The weekend didn't start well. We arrived in Dorset on Friday to heavy rain and as the evening progressed the rain continued and winds picked up. By the time we returned from a meal at the friendly local, The Kings Arms, we were preparing for a night of Force 9 onshore southwesterly winds. Camping in the torrential rain and howling winds was not much fun and neither of us slept – not ideal preparation for the task ahead!

We were both awake when the alarm went off at 5am and were relieved to find our tent unscathed after a meteorological battering. We set about readying ourselves for the hike;



*The stunning coastline with Weymouth and Portland in the background*



*Selfie at Durdle Door*

hot drinks, porridge, taping feet, practiced sock combinations and hairdos, and filling our rucksacks with water, provisions, waterproofs, and every conceivable item we could possibly require, and realistically carry, during the hike.

We caught the bus to the start at 6.30am and were given a safety briefing, map and timing chip which would register us at all the checkpoints along the route. It was

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a drizzly start but we pressed on to the first check point, with little concept of the enormity of the task that lay ahead.

The weather improved as the terrain became more challenging towards Durdle Door, with almost vertical ascents and descents, taking a long time to navigate and gaining us little distance. The sun was shining as we walked over the headland and down into Lulworth Cove for the first checkpoint, and after a short comfort break we continued on our way.

There's no denying the scenery was beautiful and the sun shone on the constantly changing turquoise blue of the sea. The white cliffs were breath taking - in more ways than one!

At 14.5 miles we stopped at the next checkpoint at Kimmeridge Bay, almost eight hours after we started. Here we were told there was approximately five hours of walking left to complete the route. Our morale took a bit of a nosedive on hearing this, but we ploughed on hoping the terrain would be a little more forgiving. Heather applied the second layer of zinc oxide tape to her feet (see photo, right) at this point, after the first layer was almost worn through.



The next few miles were a little easier and we managed to pick up our pace a bit, until we hit the 221 'steps of despair' at Emmetts Hill, 21 miles in. We both felt sick with exhaustion at this point and the prospect of hauling ourselves up these steep, uneven steps to St Aldhelm's Head filled us with dread. However, on this remote part of the coastal path, we either had to climb the steps or call the Coastguard to rescue us, this second option of course being out of the question. So taking on

board some much needed endurance fuel (jelly babies!) we climbed, and climbed and climbed.

With cake on offer at St Aldhelm's Head checkpoint, we grabbed a couple of pieces and headed inland and towards the finish.

We crossed the finish line at the campsite at 8.15pm, in 99th and 100th place, covering the 26 mile route in 11hrs 57 minutes. A glass of prosecco was thrust into our hands, a medal hung around our necks and we were filled with



*Pictured left: After we crossed the finish line, below: our finish position, registration number, start time, time registered at the first checkpoint, final checkpoint time and finish time.*

99.	114	Ponting-Bather Heather	8:06:11	3:57:09	7:10:50	11:57:11
100.	26	Clarke Naomi	8:06:11	3:57:08	7:10:51	11:57:16

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an immense feeling of achievement and relief.

Heather and I would like to say a huge thank everyone who supported us in this challenge; friends, family, St Mary's School staff and parents, and Purtonians. Our joint fundraising target was £400 and we are happy to report that we have now raised over £1000 for Julia's House Children's Hospice. We were overwhelmed by the generosity and messages of encouragement we received.

The work of Julia's House is so vital for those families whose children have life-limiting illnesses. The few hours of discomfort we contended with on our trek is nothing in comparison to the situation faced by those who rely on the hospice and the care and support it provides.

Our fundraising pages are still active so if you'd like to donate please visit:  
[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/heathersjurassicjaunt](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/heathersjurassicjaunt)  
[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/naomiclarke2019](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/naomiclarke2019)

*Naomi Clarke & Heather Ponting-Bather*

## *Purton Annual Flower Show-Arts-Craft-Produce*

### **Saturday 31st August 2019 at the Village Hall**

Schedules are now available at various locations around the village, including Andrew Hiscock's Butchers, Toomers Garden Centre, Purton House Farm Shop, Hair by Val & Jodie, the Red House Club, and all committee members: David Herbert, Graham Price, Chris Ruming, Dr John Belt, Lorna Robinson-Wardle, Pat Hughes, Mike Lawrence and Lindsey Hall. Copies can also be emailed by request.

We have a new class in the floral art section Class 56 Arrangement of cut mixed herbs. Most of you will have a variety growing in your garden. So a good one if you're a beginner.

Probably the most popular is the Industrial or bakery section. We have a couple of new classes for you. Class 70 - 6 Cheese Straws and 74 - 8"/20cm Quiche or Savoury Tart. The ever popular Victoria Sponge will be size specified to 8"/20cm. Our Showstopper class can now also be entered on a cake dummy, as it is judged on decoration only and not its contents! However real cakes are still welcome. The challenge for the men this year is a Chocolate Cake. We are all looking forward to sampling this one.

This is an Open Show so please encourage anyone you know who might be interested to take part.

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](mailto:3rwardles@gmail.com)*



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

**A Book I will Always Remember**  
*the copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on Page 4.*

## Master & Commander by Patrick O'Brian

The first time I read this book I disliked it so much that I avoided reading anything else by Patrick O'Brian for the next twenty years!

I borrowed Master & Commander from Canterbury Public Library when I was about fourteen, in the early 1970s. I'd never heard of O'Brian, but from the cover I was expecting another sea story set during the Napoleonic War, like the Ramage books by Dudley Pope, or C S Forester's Hornblower series.

The opening sentence reads: 'The music-room in the Governor's House at Port Mahon, a tall, handsome, pillared octagon, was filled with the triumphant first movement of Locatelli's C major quartet.'

This was not what I was expecting. I skimmed through the rest, with its nautical jargon (cross-catharpings, anyone?) and its curious way of leaving out major parts of the action – the main characters, for example, are observers of what other writers would make the climactic final battle. As I recall, I found the book disjointed and difficult to follow.

Twenty years later, when O'Brian had become a bestseller admired by people as diverse as Charlton Heston and Iris Murdoch, I tried again.

This time I was hooked.

Master and Commander is the first of what became a twenty volume series. It's obvious, reading the first volume, that Patrick O'Brian had no idea he was going to spend the rest of his life writing about Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin and their adventures. If he had known, as he later said himself, he would not have started in 1800, but much earlier, and he would not have poured quite so much into the first volume, which borrows freely from genuine ship actions of the time.

The book begins with one of the great meetings in fiction – on a par with Holmes and Watson, or D'Artagnan and the Three Musketeers.

On 18 April 1800 two strangers sit next to each other at a concert in Port Mahon, Minorca. Jack Aubrey, 'whose big form overflowed his seat,' is an impoverished lieutenant in the Royal Navy, desperate for command of a ship. Stephen Maturin, 'a small, dark, white-faced creature in a rusty black coat,' is a civilian, an Irish-Catalan

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physician with a considerable knowledge of surgery and a passion for natural philosophy. He is also even more impoverished than Aubrey.

Jack cannot help but follow the music with his fist, which annoys Stephen intensely. 'If you really must beat the measure, sir, let me entreat you to do so in time, and not half a beat ahead.'

By the end of the concert the pair are ready to fight a duel.

The next morning everything is different. Aubrey is unexpectedly appointed Commander of His Majesty's Sloop Sophie. Filled with joy, he sees Maturin in the street and apologises to him. They share food and drink, and find a common love of music. Maturin becomes the ship's doctor. The Sophie (14 guns, 54 men) cruises the Med, capturing prize after prize, culminating in a great battle against the Cacafuego (32 guns, 319 men).

But the important action does not lie in the external adventures, exciting though they may be. The important action is internal. It lies in the relationships between the three main characters: Jack Aubrey, his lieutenant James Dillon and Stephen Maturin. Maturin and Dillon knew each other in the past, when they were both members of a society dedicated to Irish home rule, and the balance of the book is Maturin caught between Dillon and Aubrey, for he likes both the naval men when they do not like each other.

And then there are the minor characters, like young David Richards the clerk and his fantasy of being known in the service as Hellfire Davy or Thundering Richards. O'Brian is often very funny indeed in a deadpan fashion, and much of the humour went over my head when I was fourteen. I suppose one could translate Cacafuego as Spitfire, if one were kind, and it's surely no coincidence that Jack's letter of appointment is dated 1st April. Meanwhile Jack himself is incapable of quoting a proverb correctly: 'There's a great deal to be said for making hay while the iron's hot.'

The writing is rich and deep. It isn't prose from Jane Austen's time, but it's as close to it as one can get without writing pastiche. I should warn you that if you go on to read the series, you'll find yourself using certain turns of phrase in daily life: 'you was,' for the second person singular, or 'I should like it of all things,' or, best of all, 'I give you joy with all my heart.'

*Patrick McCormack*

#### DISCLAIMER

Contributions to Purton Magazine are welcome for consideration, the contributor's name and address must be supplied (but may be withheld on request). Copyright issues must be cleared for publication in this magazine - especially those recognisable in photographs. Opinions expressed in the Magazine are solely those of the respective contributors. Contributions are to be written concisely and we reserve the right to edit contributions and advertisements. Advertising is accepted in good faith and does not imply the Magazine's endorsement of the product or service.



## Purton Open Gardens

### **July 6th and 7th - Purton Open Gardens Weekend**

We do hope you can join us for this event. Look out for the signage and yellow balloons around the village. More than 20 private gardens plus other venues are opening. Some have not been open to the public before, and some are old-timers. It's a lovely way to share the joy of gardening, and to raise money for charity. Profits from programme sales will go towards the ongoing costs of Purton's defibrillators, and the Jubilee Gardens Project. Many of our gardeners have stalls and refreshments to raise money for their own favourite causes. Most gardens are open for both days, some are only open for one day. This is indicated on the map in the programme.

Purton Open Gardens is growing into quite a community-based event. The children have joined in. St Mary's School Gardening Club and the Cubs have worked in the Millennium Garden. We are indebted to RWB Shed for making the planters and refurbishing the bench for this great little spot. Marion Hobbs has been working with playgroup children to plant up containers around the Methodist church. While walking about, do take a moment to look at the lovely planters and green spaces maintained by Purton Parish Council all year round. This year Purton Bowls Club are show-casing their lovely borders and hanging baskets. Purton Farm shop invites you to see their flower display and is selling refreshments (including ice-cream!) Pips, our community café, is extending opening hours on Saturday to 4, and The Purton Club will also be open. The Redhouse is selling pies and the Angel welcomes you too. There is a pop-up market at 27 High Street, and Dora's Dairy in the Hyde is running a barbeque from 11.30 till 3 each day. There are also 3 allotments open at Upper Pavenhill (access from Upper Pavenhill via steps.)

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Programmes to enter the gardens are available from Andrew Hiscock, Toomers and Greatfield garden centres or any of the gardens on the day. £5 an adult for the weekend, accompanied children free. Opening times, 10.30 till 4.00.

Thanks to all that have helped with planning, those who have spent months getting their gardens ready, and people that are giving up their time this weekend. Let's hope for sunshine!

*Any queries, please contact Nick Yerbury 770552 or Diana and Adam Meares 770046*

## Millennium Garden

Many thanks to the RWB Shed for collecting and refurbishing the commemorative bench, which was donated 20 years ago in memory of Celia Waldron by her family. The garden is close to where Celia lived, and gives Purtonians the opportunity to 'sit and rest a while.'



The Cubs spent an evening doing a fantastic job of weeding the gravel area. They planted sunflowers they had grown, and some plants donated by people from the village. Many thanks to you all. The garden is looking very pretty and cared for at the moment and will be a lovely spot to stop at on the Open Gardens weekend.



*Diana Meares*

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## White Lodge, Braydon

Tai Chi, Gardening clubs, Walking groups and many more activities at White Lodge in Braydon.

'Our door is always open' says Jessa Avila the General Manager at White Lodge. 'We have coffee mornings, history talks and pamper sessions all of which are free for the local community, we welcome you to come and join us!'

The residents and staff at White Lodge have a busy and fun packed few months ahead!

Join us for Tai Chi! Referred to as "moving meditation" by many health professionals, most practitioners support the use of Tai Chi by elderly individuals to help improve both their physical health and emotional well-being. These free sessions will be held fortnightly at White Lodge and we welcome you to come along and give it a go!

Tai chi is a form of Chinese martial arts that focuses on slow, controlled movements. It's low impact and gives people with limited mobility a chance to improve their balance, relieve pain and ease arthritis discomfort.

Organised by the fabulous activity team at White Lodge, our new gardening club is well underway. The green fingered residents and staff have been upcycling various items for the theme 'Going on an Adventure' with a bicycle and a boat! 'We are always looking for new members to join us from the community' says Charlotte Morley one of the Activity co-ordinators at White Lodge. 'The more the merrier, it is a great opportunity to bring the community into White Lodge and be involved in a great project!'

We have also started our very own walking group. With such fantastic grounds and even a lake, White Lodge is an ideal base to begin the walk. We are looking for like-minded people in the community to join us, to keep fit, make new friends and of course, tea and cake is available afterwards!

If you would like to come along to any event above please call Tina or Charlotte at White Lodge on 01666 860381 to book your free place or pop in for further details.

### **Annual Summer Fete 17th August 2- 4 pm**

Come and join us at White Lodge for our amazing summer fete, with stalls including home decor, Face painting, and a special visit from Chloe's Mobile Farm. A great afternoon for all the family to enjoy.

### **Afternoon Concert organised by Celebrating Age Wiltshire in conjunction with White Lodge.**

On the 9 September, come and enjoy an afternoon concert with soprano, Claudia Banks and her accompanist. Claudia sings a wonderful variety of songs from light opera classics to musicals and familiar folk songs. An afternoon to remember from this beautiful soprano. The Concert takes place from 2.30-3.30pm, followed by tea and cake and is free with a donations basket.

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Please let Rebecca know you're coming on 07955 249288. To book a seat on Barchester transport to get to the concert call: White Lodge reception on 01666 860381. For a list of all our events please visit our website at Barchester.com and search for White Lodge

## Memories of a happy childhood in Purton Stoke

Finding for the first time, a diary written by a parent soon after they have died must be a lovely surprise and perhaps provide the opportunity to fill in a few of those gaps that might have developed during your own childhood. After that though, there could be mentions of people and places of interest to many others still living locally.

We are pleased to have received a full account of the life of Joan Rowland from her son, Raymond, which begins with details of her very early life found in her diary.

In 1928 Joan was born, Joan Salter, in an isolated farmworker's cottage in Bentham Lane at Purton Stoke. She was the youngest of six children born to Bert and Cass Salter, and had three brothers, George, Bob and Bill, and two sisters Ginny and Bet. Joan told her children many stories about her childhood, and the days she was growing up in Bentham Lane.

Joan remembered her life from the age of three and wrote many of the stories down. The stories all confirm that Joan had a very happy childhood, thanks to the people who lived around her. There would be times when her mother would take her to visit her grandmother who lived close to The Bell at Purton Stoke, and she also regularly saw her uncle and aunt, Bill and Gladys Woolford. Even at the age of three, Joan went to Sunday School with her siblings.

*Editor: Details from Joan's early life, taken from her diaries, will be serialised in the forthcoming issues of Purton Magazine.*

This is a photograph of Mary Packer, who was Joan's grandmother. She lived next door to the Bell Inn at Purton Stoke and the photo shows her in the front garden of her house. If you look closely at the photograph, you can see the Reading Room in the background.



Mary Packer was born Mary Hughes. She married George Townsend and after he died she married William Packer. Mary had five children by George Townsend; Fanny, Arthur, Charles, Gladys and Stanley. Gladys married Bill Woolford and they lived in Station Road at Purton for many years. Stan Townsend lived at Nanny Goat Terrace and two of

his children, Ron and Jean Townsend, still live there. Mary's other children moved to other parts of Wiltshire. Mary died, at Foxham, in 1950.

*Raymond Rowland*

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## Purton Village Diary - July 2019

2	Tu	2.00pm	Paul plays his ukulele at Purton Silver Threads Hall
3	W	10.00am	Purton Age Concern trip to Webb's of Wychbold
4	Th	10.30am	Communion at the Vicarage
5	F	7.30pm	St Mary's School PTA Family Barn Dance at Purton Village Hall
		8.00pm	Homer play live at the Red House
6	Sa	10.30am	until 4.00pm Purton Open Gardens
		1.00pm	Purton Cricket Club 2nd XI v Goatacre 3rd XI
		8.00pm	Since Day Dot play live at the Red House
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7	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Family Service at Play Close Field
		10.30am	until 4.00pm Purton Open Gardens
		11.00am	Wiltshire U13 v Hampshire at Purton Cricket Club
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	M	11.00am	ACT v Worcestershire at Purton Cricket Club
		7.00pm	Purton Parish Council Play Area committee meeting followed by Burials committee at the Village Hall
9	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus Club meet at Red House lounge for a talk on the Arctic Convoys
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
10	W	2.30pm	Purton Methodist Women's Fellowship discuss holiday memories at Play Close Methodist Church
11	Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
12	F	2.00pm	Meet your Parish Councillors at Pips Community Café
		2.00pm	Friendship Club at Silver Threads Hall
13	Sa	10.00am	Age Concern Coffee Morning at Jackie and Dick Scott's in Bentham
		12.30pm	Purton Cricket Club 1st XI v Wootton Bassett
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14	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Ignite Youth Worship at St Mary's Church
15	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet for a tea party at Play Close Methodist Church
		6.00pm	Purton Cricket Club U13 v Sherston Magna
		7.00pm	Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
16	Tu	2.00pm	Bingo with John at Silver Threads Hall
17	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
19	F	7.00pm	Pop Quiz in aid of the Village Hall Charity at Purton Village Hall
20	Sa	10.00am	National Tennis weekend with events taking place at Purton Tennis Club

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	10.30am	Purton Historical Society guided walk around Malmesbury, meet at Malmesbury Town Hall
	1.00pm	Purton Cricket Club 2nd XI v Bathford
21 Su	10.30am	Morning worship at St Mary's Church
	3.00pm	Brass band play at The Red House in aid of Purton Age Concern
23 Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus Club meet at Red House lounge for a talk entitled 'Nine lives – 36 years in the RAF'
	7.30pm	Purton and District Gardeners' Guild meet at Silver Threads Hall
26 F	9.00am	Age Concern shopping trip to Cirencester
	2.00pm	Cricklade Country Market at Jenner Hall
27 Sa	12.30pm	Purton Cricket Club 1st XI v Warminster
28 Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
29 M	7.00pm	Village Hall Charity meeting at the Village Hall
30 Tu	2.00pm	A talk about the work of the Twigs Project at Silver Threads Hall

### **Every week**

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

### **Every month**

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

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## August

7 W	10.00am	Age Concern day trip to Weston-super-Mare
18 Su	3.00pm	Brass band play at the Red house in aid of Purton Age Concern
31 Sa		Purton Flower, Arts, Crafts and Produce Show at Purton Village Hall

If your Club or Organisation's events are not included in the Diary pages, contact Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton, Tel: 772954 or email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

## Moon Phases

- 3rd Quarter: 25 June ● New moon: 2 July ● 1st Quarter: 9 July  
○ Full moon: 17 July ● 3rd Quarter: 25 July

## Exciting news for St Mary's Church

After more than ten years of consultation and planning, approval has just been given to make changes to the most important and imposing building in our village, St Mary's Church. Our vision is for a sensitive enhancement of this beautiful building to help serve and inspire the people of Purton now and into the future. The outside of the building will not change at all but inside...!



The main seating area will be transformed. The pews will be replaced by upholstered wooden chairs and the church heating will be improved. There will be a dais, or platform, added at the front from which worship can be led or cultural events staged. A new servery will be added at the back and new toilets installed, including one that is wheelchair accessible. The whole building will be redecorated using traditional materials and the lighting upgraded to show off the magnificent medieval architecture better. (Of course the wall paintings will not be touched.) Some of the arches will be glazed to create separate spaces that can be heated and used as separate rooms. Some will be sad to see the Victorian interior changed and examples of the pews will be retained as a record of this part of the church's history. One should remember that the church building has always changed over time to adapt to the changing needs of the village. In medieval times there was probably no seating, the Georgians added box pews and galleries and then these were removed by the Victorians who installed the pews we see today. But throughout the awe-inspiring lofty architecture has remained.

Why the change now? Quality worship, which we should remember is the primary purpose for the building, requires those leading the worship to be seen and heard and those worshipping to be comfortable and warm. If you have attended worship at St Mary's recently you probably found the entrance doors unwelcoming, the seating hard and in winter the church, cold. One should not have to go outside to use a toilet and one should expect to find somewhere to take refreshments afterwards and talk with friends. The church also needs to be a suitable place for children who

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often worship in new ways. For example the church now runs two Messy Churches for young families but the old building is not suitable for these and so they meet in school halls. Unless these challenges are faced we risk the church building being used less and less until it ends up like churches in so many other villages, holding a service just once a month.

Once the building is enhanced we look forward to it being used more widely by the community for social and cultural events as it was in the past. A leaflet explaining in more detail what is planned can be found in the church.

The enhancement of the building is expected to cost over half a million pounds. But amazingly the church family has already pledged £260,000 and together with tax recovery and reserves we have promises for about 90% of the cost. We will raise the remaining 10% through fundraising including applying for grants. If you would like to make a contribution toward this historic development you can make donations through our website ([www.stmaryspurton.org.uk](http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk)) or directly to our JustGiving page: [www.justgiving.com/stmaryspurton](http://www.justgiving.com/stmaryspurton).

## Forthcoming events for the All Saints Church Lydiard Millicent Roof Appeal

### **Quiz Night**

Lydiard Millicent Village Hall, 7:00pm for 7:30pm, Saturday 13th July 2019.

Get a team together (6 to 8 people maximum), come along and enjoy an evening's fun and challenge at this quiz run by hugely experienced Quiz Setters, David and Pauline Cain.

Price: £8 per head to include a light supper, with prizes for the best teams and a consolation for the least successful. The quiz will start promptly at 7:30. A Licensed Bar will be available and only drink purchased on the premises can be consumed.

Contact Pauline Cain on 07772 473308 or [vennfarmcottages@msn.com](mailto:vennfarmcottages@msn.com) for tickets.

*David Cain*

### **Swindon Male Voice Choir**

On Saturday 6th July, there will be a concert by the wonderful Swindon Male Voice Choir. The concert will be held in All Saints Church, with refreshments in the interval. Starting at 7.30pm, tickets are £7.50.

In 1919, the Great Western Railway Running Sheds Male Voice Choir was formed from workers of the traditional Swindon Steam Railway Works. Subsequently the Choir has become known as the Swindon Male Voice Choir and celebrates its centenary this year.

Through the years, Swindon's longest established choir has maintained its high standard of both singing professionalism and competition acclaim. In March this year, adding to the many prizes it has won over the years, the choir won 'Best Male Voice

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Choir' at the Mid Somerset Festival. It has produced a pedigree from high profile concert performances and regular local events. It performs annually in a Christmas concert at Christchurch, Swindon and also performs each Christmas at the Steam Museum.

It has performed widely across the South West of England and Wales including, in 2018, concerts in Swansea with the Duvant Male Voice Choir and the Neath Male Voice Choir, a concert with the Band of the Household Cavalry in the Great Western Hall at Steam and a concert at All Hallows, South Cerney to raise money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Its aim began as 'to present music from the most varied and widest range possible in a versatile and progressive manner, and in so doing to raise funds for charitable causes' and it remains the unchanged aim of the Swindon Male Voice Choir...'hearing is believing'. Contact Pauline Cain on 07772 473308 or [vennfarmcottages@msn.com](mailto:vennfarmcottages@msn.com) for tickets

### ***Jazz Concert – Fretless and Friends***

Will be held at 7.30pm 19th October, in the Parish Hall. Ticket price of £12 includes Ploughman's supper. A licenced bar will be provided and only alcohol sold on the premises can be consumed.

Everyone loves the sound of swinging jazz and even more so when the music is performed by Fretless and Friends. They have been entertaining audiences with their eclectic and exciting style since the early 1990s, performing at venues throughout the UK, including many festivals.

Fretless and Friends will be performing swinging jazz music including many of your favourite evergreen tunes from the American Songbook (Gershwin, Miller, Ellington, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and Carlos Jobim, to name a few) and any others that take their fancy on the evening.

Paul Burch on behalf of Swindon Vehicle Solutions in Lydiard Millicent has very kindly and most generously agreed to sponsor Fretless and Friends to perform at this very worthwhile fund-raising event. If you miss it, you'll regret it!! So put the date in your diary NOW!! Tickets are available from Julian Wright 01793 770986

### ***Beetle Drive in Aid of All Saints Sponsor a Tile***

A fund-raising Beetle Drive will be held on Friday 29th November. It will be held in the Lydiard Millicent Parish hall, starting sharp at 7pm, breaking at 8.15pm for a Puddings and will resume half an hour later. We hope to finish by 10pm. There will be a prize for the highest and lowest score of the evening.

'Beetle' is quite a simple game of rolling dice and drawing a beetle, but when you run it as a Beetle 'Drive' you add in the element of moving tables after each game. It makes for a lively and sociable event! As it will be held close to Christmas it might be 'Snowmen' and not Beetles.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £2.50 for children under 13. You are welcome to bring

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your own drink, although tea and coffee will be available with the supper. There will also be a raffle.

Tickets available from Pam Bennett, pamjbennett26@virginmedia.com, 01793 330017 or Tina Wheeler, tina.w.asc@gmail.com, 01793771989.

Pam Bennett

**Murder Mystery Evening – ‘The Munich Mystery’**

The Murder Mystery Play ‘The Munich Mystery’ is written by Len Page. It is set against the background of the 1938 Munich Crisis. This was provoked by German demands that Czechoslovakia allowed the German speaking parts of its country to be absorbed into Germany. The first half will set the scene; ‘The lounge of The Old Manor Hotel outside Heston Aerodrome, West London, 30th September 1938, early evening’, when the murder will be committed.

A hot supper will be served during the interval. A licenced bar will be provided and only alcohol purchased on the premises can be consumed.

The second half consists of questions which will give clues to the murderer. Teams will put their findings in writing and the winner will be judged by PADS.

Lydiard Millicent, Parish Hall, 28th September 7.30pm start. Tickets £10 from; Lynda 770986 or Tina 771989. Please get your tickets early in order to help with the catering.



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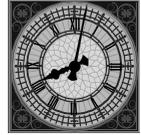
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## After 8



May's meeting of the After 8 group was at Cathy's house.

The meeting was inspired by the Susan Sontag quote "I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list".

We might not have been everywhere, but the 10 of us who managed to attend the meeting, certainly gave it our best shot and those that were organised enough brought photographs of their travels.

From holidays close to home in Eire to further afield in Malaysia, we all had interesting stories to tell.

Not just the sights of the Grand Canyon, but a trip to China and a pilgrimage to Israel. And, from the cold of the Arctic Circle to the monsoon season in Vietnam. Also, an unwelcome, extended stay in Madeira due to ill health.

Inevitably, the different diets of the various countries was discussed. One member had just returned from Peru where cooked guinea pigs are considered a delicacy (she assured me she did not try one) to snake wine in Vietnam, which I must admit, I did try. However, give me a good old Chardonnay any day.

Thanks to Cathy for her hospitality and to everyone for all their interesting stories.

*Yvonne Redfern*

## Summer Activity Days

This year Purton Churches Together are running Activity Days at St Mary's School Hall from Monday 12th - Wednesday 14th August (10am - 3pm). Activities will include crafts, sports, story-telling, a farm visit and other fun activities for children (School Years 2-6); there is something for everyone! It is a great way to keep your children busy in the summer. It will be great to see as many of you as possible. Registration forms are available from the school or can be collected and filled in on the day. For more information (and to offer help as volunteers); contact Marie Dempsey 01793 770826 email: [marie.dempsey@live.co.uk](mailto:marie.dempsey@live.co.uk)

## New! Cricklade Revealed Extra, Index Book Four (CRE4)

Cricklade Revealed Extra Four is the final book to feature the war years as remembered by local inhabitants of that time. It contains a comprehensive index of every local personal name and place mentioned in Parts 4-7 – the four wartime books of the main series. CRE4 is now available from Cricklade Town Council Office and Cricklade Museum at £3.60 each. N.B. Sets of 5 or more books are occasionally on offer at reduced prices due to surplus stock. Please ring 01793 750542 for more information. Proceeds from all books to Cricklade Open Door.

*Marion Parsons*

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# 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.



## **Thanks to Bernice's friends and neighbours**

We would like to send another huge THANK YOU to all of Mum's friends and neighbours for all their help and support. It's hard too believe that's it's been 3 years since Dad died but knowing that Mum is so well cared for is a great support to all of us.

*Love From Penni, Elena, Joey and Myles*



## **From the family of Susan Eleanor Pagett**

Richard, Stuart and Tracey, and Duncan and Tracey would like to thank everyone for their cards, letters, kind words and messages of support during the recent weeks and days. We would also like to thank all those who were able to come to the service, and to those who we know could not make it, due to prior commitments, and sent warm messages. All very much appreciated.

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## The Purton Directory

In recent months I've had a number of enquiries from local people about an update to the The Purton Directory, the listing of all Purton's clubs, societies and organisations, along with contact details. The last version of this document I have is from some years ago, and our village has seen many changes!

If you belong to a local church, youth group (uniformed or otherwise), hobby or interest group, sports club, or anything else which is open to new local members, and would like it listed in the directory, please let me know using the email address below. The Directory will also be published on the Purton Magazine website.

Details required are:

- Organisation name and purpose (if relevant)
- Contact names and their position (chair, secretary etc)
- Contact telephone number, email address, website, Facebook page etc.

Hulbert & Woodall, who print Purton Magazine in Royal Wootton Bassett have agreed to stitch the Directory as a centre pull-out section in the August issue, so please send me information about your organisation by the usual magazine copy date of 10th July 2019. Thank you.

*Heather Ponting-Bather, In Touch Design & Print*  
Email: [heather@intouchpurton.co.uk](mailto:heather@intouchpurton.co.uk) Tel: 772954

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# Bradon Forest School

## **Premier League Girls Football Festival**

We entered two teams into the end of season Premier League Girls Key Stage 3 Football Festival at the County Ground. The Year 7 team was captained by Gracie Dick and the Year 8 team captained by Alana Hunt. Three Year 10 students (Katie Miles, Lauren Davis-Mathis and Maria Slade) supported the Swindon Town Football Club coaching team all day, officiating, taking photos and coaching the girls and did a great job! All the girls had a fantastic afternoon and were honoured to play on the Swindon Town pitch. The Year 7 team finished joint third and Player of the Day was Sophie Buss (who scored 4 goals!) The Year 8 team won! An amazing achievement as they were playing against Year 9s and only conceded one goal in the whole tournament! Mrs Evans said the whole team deserved Players of the Day!



## **Farm Trip 2019**

Mr Morris, Mrs Clark, Mrs Jones and Mrs Miles took 10 students to live and work on a farm for a whole week. They visited Abbey Home Farm near Cirencester. Whilst



there the students were fully immersed in farm life. They were up every day at 7am and were set to work straight away. Their jobs included planting potatoes and strawberries. They also had to feed the pigs every day, collect the chicken eggs, grade them, pack them and take them to the farm shop. They also learnt how to light a fire with a flint and steel; good survival skills. The students also had to prepare and cook all of their own meals. Mr Morris said: "The students were a credit to themselves and the school!"

## **The Great Bradon Forest 'Make Off' Competition**

In the first ever Great Bradon Forest Make Off Competition, 22 keen Year 8 Design and Technology students were challenged to design and make their own ball bearing game. Students paired up to use innovative design and a variety of techniques for their entries. CAD, laser cutting, bandsaws, hand tools, metalwork, plastic, pen and paper... I think every creative option was used!

It was a very tough decision to pick a winner with four contenders for the top prize. The students demonstrated excellent skills, many at GCSE standard. There was evidence of good research, prototypes plus reflection on prototypes and then the final product.



Congratulations to the winners Evie Scott and Amelie Belsher with their handmade wooden Sponge Bob Square Pants pineapple design. Runners up were Scarlett Gregory and Emily Goddard who used metalwork for their Avengers themed design. All participants should be proud of their efforts - what a great competition! Thank you to Mr Sturla for hosting the event.

## Purton FC

With the season 2018/2019 now ended we held our presentation night at the Red House Club on Friday 31st May with the following winners:

Training Award - Luke Kuczynski

Chairman's Trophy - Peter Coles

Good Conduct Award - Raymond Lovell

Clubman Award - Andy Cowan.

Player of the Year - Mark Chadwin

Supporters' and Players' Player of the Year - Will Backhouse

With the 2019/20 season in mind we have plenty in work to do on the pitch especially in the goalmouths. The damage is mainly due to unauthorised use by many youths who I believe are not local as they arrive in 4/5 cars each evening and weekends .

With this in mind and unfortunately unavoidable (although we pay £4k plus in annual rent) we are fund raising to purchase portable goals and need to raise £2k + VAT. We run various fund raising activities, such as our £1 a point scheme and weekly pontoon plus the occasional race night.

Should anybody wish to join any of the above schemes or contribute by sponsoring a game or placing a business advert in our football programmes please contact me on 07855 406662 or by email on [terry.crumbie@gmail.com](mailto:terry.crumbie@gmail.com)

*Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC*

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## Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



Still on Rustle, Bustle and Squeak, 1st Purton Rainbows have made bat fliers from a cardboard tube and bird fat balls. Mucky fingers are great fun!

The two Brownie units are working on Skills builders. 2nd Purton have picked Explore: they started with their feet by finding out how to look after them and keep themselves dry when out and about; they also looked at suitable footwear for a walk. 1st Purton are developing their first aid skills. Most of the unit is working on stage 2, but those with pre-existing knowledge are being challenged with stage 3. So far, topics covered have included assessing responsiveness, how to stay calm when confronted with an emergency situation, the recovery position and treating burns.

The two Brownie units joined forces at the end of May for their Brownie Holiday. Thirtover Place near Thatcham was the venue for 22 Brownies to immerse themselves in Paddington-themed activities. They had to safely transport Paddington across a low ropes course, decorated and planted wellies, made marmalade buns and did some Peruvian weaving. They also made the most of the facilities on site by orienteering and tackling the traverse wall.

If you were at Coate Water on 12 May you might have heard squeals of excitement from Purton Guides. They went canoeing and as well as learning how to power the canoes using the oars, they also had fun bouncing on the edges of a canoe and stepping across a bank of canoes parked as a raft. Plenty of splashing but no dunking! Still on a watery theme, four Guides attended a county 'Wet and Wild Weekend'. They rowed and sailed at Bristol Docks and kayaked at Corsham Lake. It was an amazing opportunity for them to gain new skills and forge friendships with other Guides from across our Wiltshire North County.

Back in the village you may have seen the Guides out and about one sunny evening, delivering Christian Aid envelopes to homes on and off the High Street, fulfilling part of the Guide promise to be of service to the community.

Parrot Patrol took centre stage the following week as they led the evening's activities on the theme of Take Action. The younger Guides did a fantastic job of planning 'Packaging Puzzle' and 'K is for Kindness' with the older girls happy to take the lead from the younger girls and follow their direction. The Parrots demonstrated great teamwork: every girl took an equal share and showed great respect for the differences in characters across the large unit. A proud moment for the leaders.

What do you get if you combine a small hardback book, a ruler, origami skills, mystified Guides, patience and concentration whilst following leader instructions? The Guides didn't discover the answer until the end of the evening, but it turned out to be a papercraft gift, with the folded pages of the book forming a heart, ideal for Father's Day.

For more information about guiding locally, please contact district commissioner

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Janet Abbott by phone on 07454 384763 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. More volunteers to join our team are always welcome. Register interest in joining at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/).

## Purton Cricket Club

After an encouraging start the 1st XI has not performed well largely owing to non-availability of players and has lost four out of five matches. However, the win was a very satisfying demolition of Wootton Bassett, the hosts being dismissed for just 83 with Conor Cleary claiming the incredible figures of 10 overs, 5 maidens, 5 wickets for 10 runs. Purton then knocked the runs off for the loss of just 1 wicket in 17.4 overs.

The 2nd XI has made a much better start winning four out of six matches. Many different players have chipped in with handy performances meaning it has been very much a team effort. This was highlighted in the game on the 1st June when they beat Westbury 2nd XI by 5 wickets. Purton bowled first and restricted the opposition to 227 for 7 with wickets shared between 4 bowlers and then helped by good contributions from Thisara Gedara (52), Mark Wilson (49) and Ali Al Hassan (43) they reached their target with 10 balls to spare.

The Junior teams are benefiting from the many coaching sessions and have produced some excellent results. Izaak Sheppard deserves special mention with his performances against Sherston Magna and Swindon where he took the brilliant figures of 5 wickets for 2 runs and scored 63 respectively!

### **Fixtures for July at Purton are:**

Saturday 6th 2nd XI v Goatacre 3rd XI	1.00pm
Sunday 7th Wiltshire U13 v Hampshire	11.00am
Monday 8th ACT v Worcestershire	11.00am
Saturday 13th 1st XI v Wootton Bassett	12.30pm
Monday 15th U13 v Sherston Magna	6.00pm
Saturday 20th 2nd XI v Bathford	1.00pm
Saturday 27th 1st XI v Warminster	12.30pm

Evening matches every Tuesday and Thursday

### **From the Archives - 1919**

Christ Church 38, Purton 79

Team: G. Smith, W.Adams, A.J.Woolford, C.Woolford, S.Shaw, A.Barnes, W.Tidmarsh, E.Ovens, H. Bull and J.Haskins

*Joe Gardner 770681*

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## Purton Tennis Club

When you read this, Wimbledon will be in full swing. Hopefully the weather will be good and the British players will do well this year.

Here at Purton, we continue to play tennis at grass roots level – our A teams have had some excellent results so far, the mixed B are also doing well, whereas the other teams are mid table at the moment.

The 'Khalique Cup', (sponsored by the Maharajah), in May, was a lovely event. Players from Purton and the surrounding area took part. We had good weather, good tennis and plenty of food. The Trophy was won by Tracey & Ben so well done to them, and Neil & Janet won the plate.

Coming up on 7th July, we have our Captain's Cup. (Team Sass v Team Bob.) This is a fun event where evenly matched players try to win points for their team. We hope that some of our juniors will play in the Captain's Cup alongside the adults players.

Nature Valley Tennis Weekend- Saturday 20th July: Purton is pleased to be taking part in this nationwide scheme. Nature Valley are sponsoring events across the country, encouraging people of all ages and abilities to try tennis for free. Everyone is welcome to join us at the Red House courts. We are starting at 10am with a coaching session, led by Ben, followed by a cardio session. Cardio is a fun introduction to tennis and a very good way to get fit. If this interest you, then please sign up, using the LTA's 'Clubspark' page. We look forward to seeing you, and joining us for a chat over coffee afterwards in the pavilion.

Saturday morning sessions for our junior members, led by Nicola and Teresa are continuing throughout the summer, and the date for the end of season tournament is 7th September.

Recent high winds caused damage to the changing room door but hopefully it will be fixed very soon. We would like to thank the football club, for the use of their facilities, whilst ours were out of action.

If you would like to try tennis, return to tennis or attend the cardio sessions, please get in touch, we would be pleased to hear from you.

*Janet Saunders (01793 772146) [www.purtontennisclub.com](http://www.purtontennisclub.com)*

### We Record ...

#### **Baptisms at St Mary's Church**

12 May 2019     Leo Tasker

12 May 2019     Arlo John Hillis

#### **Funeral at St Mary's Church**

3 June 2019     A Service to Celebrate the Life of Susan Eleanor Pagett (68)



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## Purton Historical Society



On 23rd May the Purton Historical Society enjoyed an illustrated lecture by Campbell Ritchie about Malmesbury - a nearby hilltop Middle Age town, a centre for learning, around the Abbey, which unusually survived Henry VIII's Dissolution of the monasteries.

Originally an Iron Age Fort it was one of Alfred the Greats "Burhs" - a defence against the attacks of the Vikings. Athelstan, the First King of England, is buried in the Abbey. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book. It was one of the most important towns in England well before the Norman Conquest and benefitted from the Cotswold wool trade even after the Abbey was closed by Henry VIII.

Its lovely Market Cross, originally built as a "rain shelter" for the poor of the town still graces

the centre and is one of the best preserved in England. The Abbey grounds are now open to the public.

An excellent illustrated talk. In addition, the speakers wife - dressed in Medieval costume - demonstrated relics, games and coins found at sites in the town.

The lecture was followed by questions and refreshments were served. An excellent taster session for our guided walk round Malmesbury that we have organised on 20th July, all welcome.

*Jill Watts*

### **Saturday 20th July 2019 - Morning Guided Walk around Malmesbury**

Campbell Ritchie will lead a guided walk around Malmesbury which will complement the presentation given on 23rd May 2019. Arrangements are as follows:

Meet in front of Malmesbury Town Hall at 10.30 a.m. The walk will take approximately one and a half to one and three quarter hours and will cover just over one mile. Cost of walk £5.00 per person. Please let Marion Hobbs or Tony and Janet Neate know if you would like to come and also if you would like transport from Purton.

Parking - The car park in front of the Town Hall can be very busy and has a 2 hour restriction on it. The Station Car Park is approximately 10 minutes walk to the Town Hall and does involve some steps. We can give you further details if required.

### **Future Meetings**

Following our outing in June and walk around Malmesbury in July, we will have a Summer break and resume our monthly meetings in September as below.

Thursday 26th September 2019 at 7.30 in Purton Village Hall

Lieutenant Commander Geoffrey Carr - The loss of the Titanic and a Wiltshire family - mysteries and myths. Further details in future magazines.

*Janet and Tony Neate, Tel: 01793 770117 email: tjneate57@gmail.com*

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## The other side of the gate

It seems my rain dance is working well; the weather report on the radio predicts more rain tomorrow (11th June) than we normally get for the whole month! Hopefully it'll penetrate deep enough to hydrate the subsoil and close up the cracks in the ground. The grass is continuing to grow well and the cows have just started their third trip across Berkfield.

We have taken a good silage cut from Restrop over the last week. We only cut one or two fields at a time to allow us to clear the fields quickly. We have a lot of vultures that, when landing on the plastic, pierce them with their talons. It costs just short of £8 to put plastic on a bale and we don't want any punctured if we can help it. I am happy to report that the path across the field doesn't seem to be getting much use and I have noticed that there is a decline in the amount of dog mess. Thank you to all of you that now walk on the official footpath and pick up after your dogs.

Whilst mowing the second field in from the road, I noticed a hen pheasant acting strangely around an area I was about to mow. I knew she had a brood somewhere so I stopped the tractor to investigate. The chirping noises from pheasant chicks are distinct and their mother was running around concerned about the tractor running them over. I tried to walk them away, but they kept hiding in the grass so I gave up and left that area until they were comfortable to leave. I did manage to pick one up and have a quick interaction before putting it down near its siblings. Their camouflage abilities are remarkable and no sooner had I put the chick down it had disappeared into the grass!



We have been busy filling in our slurry pit with the massive amount of hardcore I have been collecting over the last year. It's not enough so I need to source more! It took us four days with a big digger, mainly driven by Tristan and myself, and a hired trailer, towed by Michael and Aaron, to move it all. We don't know for sure but I think it must have been over 2000 tonnes.

Last week, Michael, Sarah and I attended a raw milk workshop at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire. Organised by the Raw Milk Producers Association its aims were to promote clean raw milk production. We listened to two of the best known experts in this field covering topics such as the history and health benefits of raw milk and the impact of feed and environment on raw milk. One of the most striking things we learnt was the decrease in asthma, atopy and hay fever in those children that

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consumed raw milk as opposed to boiled milk. It was a long day with six individual sessions and I must admit to nodding off during the last morning session and Sarah did too! In our defence, there were a lot of slides packed with numbers, it was warm and we were sat still so sleep was almost inevitable!

Last Sunday was a day I never want to experience again. Sarah was getting the cows in, Laura was milking and I was due for a lie in. Sarah found 881 (called Shaky - because she always hangs one leg off the step whilst milking) with what I thought, after Sarah had sent me a picture, was a prolapsed uterus. Lie in abandoned, I rushed out to the field. Luckily it wasn't a prolapse, but the head of the calf in its placenta which was very thick. Sarah had managed to rip it open by the time I got there but found the calf was dead. Only its head, and not the legs, was coming. The vet, Emily, had already been called by this time and was on her way. I managed to push the calf back in and pull both front legs up. That's no easy task when the cow is trying to push it out so it was quite a fight! The calf was big, but came out no problem. If she'd have presented properly there would have been no issue. We left the dead calf with Shaky and got back to the farm as Emily arrived. So as to not waste a weekend call out charge we got her to look at Button, a five month old Brown Swiss heifer calf. I had treated Button two days before after noticing she was off colour. I took her temperature and it was 40.8°C - normal cow temperature is 38.6°C with the calves being slightly higher. I gave Button some Betamax (long acting first generation penicillin) and Metacam (non steroidal anti-inflammatory drug NSAID). Her temperature had only dropped to 40.1°C and she still looked very listless. Emily examined her and said her lungs were badly damaged. Button had been treated for pneumonia a few months before and it had clearly done more than damage than thought. After a brief chat, we decided that her prognosis was poor at best. Mrs Brown, Button's mother, had been visiting her often in between feeding. She knew something was wrong with her as her visits increased. We decided to let her be with her once more before I put her down.

Late afternoon I let Mrs Brown in to be with Button and noticed that 881, Shaky, was trying to push another calf out! This one was backwards. I quickly grabbed some ropes and pulled him out. Dead. He was massive. How on earth she had carried two big calves around is incredible. It didn't even occur to me to check for another one earlier that day. That was not a good feeling standing there over another dead calf with Shaky licking him dry knowing that if I'd have checked in the morning there was a good chance he'd have been alive.

The following morning Mrs Brown stood at the gate to come in. She didn't call, just stood there. Sarah let her in and she just lay down next to Button. She knew she had gone. She stayed with her for a few hours before being milked and has not called for her since. Days like these remind you of how fragile life can be and how we take normal for granted. We will carry on and hopefully not get too many more like it!

*Jonathan Cook*

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## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Whilst researching speakers for our 2019 programme I came across John Negus, described as a 'renowned speaker, who lives in Farnham, who will entertain and enlighten you on all things horticultural, his passion for his subject plus his superb slides will open your eyes to the wonder of gardens as well as amuse and entertain'. Just what we're looking for, I thought, and having negotiated a booking, so it proved to be when John presented his talk to members at our May meeting. We had decided on the topic, 'Wisley. – A right Royal Palace', coincidentally Wisley turning out to be the destination of our first club outing for 2019 just two weeks prior to the talk.

Wisley was founded by Victorian businessman and RHS member George Ferguson Wilson, who purchased a 60-acre site in 1878. He died in 1902 and the following year Sir Thomas Hanbury presented the Wisley estate in trust to the Royal Horticultural Society for its perpetual use. At that time only a small part of the 60 acres estate was actually cultivated as a garden, the remainder being wooded farmland. Those lucky enough to have visited Wisley now know it as a large and diverse garden covering 240 acres including numerous formal and informal decorative gardens, a glass house and an extensive arboretum, as well as trials field where new cultivars are assessed.

As a brief introduction we learned that John's passion for Wisley started in 1959 when he began a two year course to achieve the RHS Wisley Diploma. He particularly remembered the frame yard where 'sick' plants were deposited. John would take them home to nurture them eventually returning them to rude health.

50 years on the ardent students from his course still meet for an annual get together to reminisce and catch up on their current gardening exploits.

At this point my usual note taking stopped as John's particular style of presentation began in earnest, pitting members against each other in a competition to name the amazing array of flora and fauna as, supported by his fabulous slides, he led us through the glass house at Wisley.

Having divided the room in half, there ensued much rivalry between 'Team A' and 'Team B'. However, on occasions, despite John's many clues, including providing as many as the first 6 syllables of the Latin name of a plant, we still failed miserably to come up with their names. I will always remember John's words of encouragement - 'I know you know this' - as we looked blankly on!

A slide of the showy 'Medinilla Magnifica', aka Rose grape, drew me back to pen and paper.

A tropical plant it bears 18" long pink hanging flower panicles with canopies of large leaves. John described seeing one such specimen magnificently displayed at the centre of a 15 feet diameter table in the Queens's Palace in Holland.

He gave particular mention to Brunfelsia pauciflora, aka 'Yesterday-today and tomorrow', a spreading, bushy evergreen shrub about 3m in height. It bears such a

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profusion of purple fading to white flowers, 4-5cms across, that the glossy foliage all but disappears!

The attributes of so many plants were highlighted but the overwhelming memory of the talk was John's humorous delivery and his interaction with members. A most entertaining talk.

Congratulations to the winners of the competition, 'A Spring arrangement': 1st Janice Simpkins, Joint 2nd Moira White and Mary Read, 3rd Delia Walters.

At the moment of writing I am in the process of trying to book an alternative speaker for the July meeting following a late cancellation. The meeting will be held as usual in Silver Threads Hall at 7.30pm on 23 July 2019. The competition will be 'A garden in a seed tray'.

Last but not least, a huge 'thank you' to all those who donated plants, cakes and raffle prizes etc. for our 'Plant and Cake sale on the bank holiday weekend and to all those who came along and hopefully snapped up a bargain. The sale was a great success achieving a profit of £503.

*Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)*

## Purton Amateur Dramatic Society News

### **Murder Mystery**

Our new Murder Mystery Play for 2019, The Munich Mystery, written by Len Page, has already had an airing, being performed in April for two local organisations – St Mary's Church, Purton and Cricklade Twinning Association – to help them raise much needed funds. Watch out for further performances in the autumn. Currently we have confirmed bookings for the following dates:

All Saints Church at Lydiard Parish Hall	28 September 2019
St Margaret's Church, Stratton	5 October 2019
Hook WI at Hook Village Hall	10 December 2019

Please do look out for ticket sales later in the year from each of these organisations (tickets not available through PADS).

### **PADS AGM**

Our AGM will be held at 8 pm, at The Red House, Purton on Wednesday 17 July 2019. Members and non-members welcome.

### **2020 Pantomime**

Next year PADS will perform another traditional pantomime - Sleeping Beauty. Performances will be on Thurs 6, Fri 7 and Sat 8 February 2020. Readings for parts will be held on 22 & 24 October and rehearsals will start early November.

Please save these dates in your diary, and come along and support us. You can contact us via the Purton Amateur Dramatics Facebook page, for further details.

*Kate Bath Tel: 771442*

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# The Great War Project

Part 72: Echoes that live on

## **Concluding the series run in Purton Magazine since 2013.**

It is said of the Great War that five great empires entered the war, but only one emerged intact:

Austria-Hungary was dissected by the victorious powers and ceased to be in its former imperial sense. The successor states of Austria and Hungary were created as democracies.

The immediate enthusiasms of the liberated Austro-Hungarian Slav provinces that formed Czechoslovakia in the north and Yugoslavia in the south had already seen divergences of politics before the end of the Second World War but were constrained during the Communist post-war era. Once that hold was released, Czechoslovakia split in two comparatively amicably while Yugoslavia ceased to be during a series of acrimonious wars in the 1990s.

The Ottoman Empire was also split up with the successor state of Turkey to be a democracy. Other potential democracies were created in their wake: Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Palestine. The Hejaz in the south of Arabia was never going to be a democracy but it was owed a debt for the raising of the Arab Revolt.

Palestine, created after the war, was under British control as a League of Nations Mandate. Its foundation however was at odds with the Balfour Declaration of 1917 which sought to create a Jewish homeland within its borders. As early as 1920, conflict began in Mandatory Palestine between the Arab population and the minority Jewish community which had lived there for many generations. The situation was further exacerbated by the migration of European Jews to Palestine in several waves during the inter-war years and after WW2. By 1945 the Jewish population had increased to 33% of the total of Palestine. The creation of the state of Israel and the Arab-Israeli War that occurred at the end of the British Mandate period widened the issue into the regional Arab-Israeli and Sunni-Shi'a conflicts that we still see today.

Much of today's terrorism can be laid at the door of the creation of new states after the Great War without consideration of the local issues and with boundaries that bore little resemblance to communities.

Germany was ambushed and tied up, to prevent it "ever going to war again". Any dissection was minimal in terms of land area, but major in terms of reparations and rules under which it was to operate. In fact, that only raised resentment and was a leading cause of the Second World War.

Russia had been a strict autocracy for so long before the war that it effectively self-destructed. The pressure relief from partial democratisation in the 1900s

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wasn't enough to prevent revolution and civil war. After the civil war, harsh autocracy returned under state dictatorship until the end of the Soviet era. Wars for independence erupted in Georgia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and the Caucasus in the 1990s even until the brief Russo-Georgian War of August 2008. Russia annexed the Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and the entire length of the border between Russia and Ukraine is still disputed.

The British Empire was the only empire of the five that survived the war. It was unique among the other empires in being a democracy though still with a long way to go in the development of universal suffrage and civil liberties. George V was only King-Emperor in name as the prime minister ran the country with powers limited by parliament. The Empire itself referred mainly to India. The five dominions were self-governing - Canada, Newfoundland, Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa - and each found increased national pride from its experience of the war.

Apart from the sheer cost of war, the main changes in the short term in Britain had been on the cards even before the war: the home rule of Southern Ireland and votes for women. Being a democracy, a general election was held as soon as the war was over: the war government was re-elected by a landslide.

The United States had a policy of neutrality or "isolationism" before its entry into the Great War but in its involvement in Europe the country showed itself a strong new player on the world stage. However, once the war was over, the US returned to isolationist policies until going to war again in WW2, again forced by enemy attacks.

### ***The League of Nations***

When the League was set up in 1920, its primary aim was to prevent wars through collective security and disarmament and settling international disputes through negotiation and arbitration. Other fields covered by its Covenant concerned labour conditions, rights of native inhabitants, human and drug trafficking, the arms trade, global health, prisoners of war, and protection of minorities in Europe. The League lacked its own armed force and depended on the victorious Great Powers of the Great War to enforce its resolutions, which they were often reluctant to do.

The credibility of the organisation was weakened since the United States did not ratify the treaty and so never joined the League. The Soviet Union joined late and by the time of the Second World War had left again as had Japan, Italy and Spain among others. The League lasted for 26 years and was replaced by the United Nations after the Second World War.

### ***The Geneva Convention and The Geneva Protocol***

A Swiss businessman, Henry Dunant had visited wounded soldiers after the Battle of Solferino (1859), in the Second Italian War of Independence, and wrote of the horrors of war and the lack of facilities, trained medics, and medical aid available. He proposed the setting up of a permanent relief agency for humanitarian aid in

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times of war and a treaty to recognise the agency's neutrality to allow it to work in a war zone. The agency became the International Red Cross in Geneva. In 1864 an international conference agreed the Geneva Convention to cover the rights and treatment of sick and wounded soldiers in the battlefield. Henry Dunant won the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901 for these achievements.

The Geneva Convention was updated in 1907, when Britain signed it for the first time, and a new conference was established in 1927 in light of the Great War experiences and provided additional rights for Prisoners of War in addition to those provided by the 1907 Hague Convention.

As the Geneva Convention did not deal with the conduct of war itself, a conference in Geneva in 1925 was held under the terms of the 1907 Hague Convention for the Supervision of the International Trade in Arms and Ammunition and in Implements of War. The 1925 "Geneva Protocol" for the "Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare" was added to the Hague Convention. This covered the use of chemical and biological weapons in international armed conflicts, but did not cover their production, storage or transfer in the 1925 version. The Protocol came into effect in 1928 under the oversight of the League of Nations.

Violations of the Geneva Protocol have occurred. Japan used chemical weapons against Taiwan in 1930; Italy used mustard gas against Abyssinia in 1935; and Japan used chemical weapons against China from 1938 to 1941. Saddam Hussein used several different chemical agents against Iran during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War and against Iraqi rebels in instances such as the Halabja chemical attack.

Since production and stockpiling of chemical weapons was not against the terms of the Protocol, Britain, the United States and Germany all produced huge quantities of chemical weapons ready for use. Neither side used them fearing the terrible retaliation that would have resulted. An American ship carrying chemical weapons was sunk in an air raid at Bari, in Italy, in 1943. The resultant release of mustard gas caused many deaths. After the Second World War, thousands of tons of shells and containers with chemical weapons were dumped at sea by the Allies.

During the Syrian Civil War and associated conflicts, both sides have accused each other of using chemical weapons. Although the United Nations has confirmed the use of chemical weapons, they did not investigate which side had used them. However, because the weapons were used within Syria's own borders, rather than between separate countries, nasty as it was it fell outside the scope of the Geneva Protocol.

### ***The Wiltshire Regiment***

The Regiment lost so many men by April 1918, that the 2nd Battalion was amalgamated into one command with the 2nd Berks. The Commands were eventually restored but it was a forerunner of the two regiments' being amalgamated in 1959 into the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire). This too was amalgamated

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in 1994 with the Gloucester Regiment to form the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment (RGBWR) renamed the RGBW Light Infantry in July 2005. Further changes amalgamated the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, the Royal Green Jackets and The Light Infantry into a new large regiment - The Rifles - formed in 2007 with 5 regular and 3 reserve battalions.

The 1st Battalion The Rifles memorialises the Wiltshire Regiment link as it was formed from the 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry, and 1st Battalion The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry.

### **“Great War” or “First World War”**

From time to time during the writing of this series in Purton Magazine, I have been asked ‘what is the difference between the Great War and the First World War’. The answer lies in the chronology.

When the present Queen came to the throne, she had the name and regnal number Elizabeth II. Queen Elizabeth of Tudor times gained the number “I”. Similarly, during the Great War the conflict was simply known as “the War” in Britain as it was a European war when it started. By the time the United States joined in, the War had already spread far and was known there as “the World War”.

At the end of the war, when it came to remembrance and commemoration of the dead, the term “The Great War” came into usage to give expression to the scale of the sacrifice made.

However, as early as 18 February 1919, the Oxford English Dictionary attributes “World War No. 2” to the Manchester Guardian in an article considering a “future war arising out of the social upheaval ... from the First World War”. OED gives another citation for “World War II” from the 11 September 1939 issue of Time Magazine. In the German language, Count Tisza had prophesied the term Weltkrieg in July 1914 - see Part 13.

It is perhaps most telling that, on the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919, Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France stated “this [treaty] is not peace. It is an Armistice for twenty years.” He was correct, the Second World War started on 3 September 1939, 20 years, 2 months and 5 days after his prophecy.

### **“Shell Shock” and Combat Stress**

Shell shock was a term coined in World War I to describe the type of post-traumatic stress disorder many soldiers suffered during the war (before PTSD itself was a term). It is a reaction to the intensity of the bombardment and fighting that produced a helplessness appearing variously as panic and being scared, or flight, an inability to reason, sleep, walk or talk. The term has entered into popular imagination and memory and is often identified as the signature injury of the War.

In 1915, the British Army in France categorised patients depending on the perceived cause of shell shock and shell concussion. If the cause was seen as being from action by the enemy, the patient would rank as “wounded” and was allowed to wear a

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“wound stripe” on his arm and received a pension on demobilisation. But if the man’s breakdown did not follow a shell explosion, it was not thought to be “due to the enemy”. His file would be labelled “Sick” and he would not be entitled to a wound stripe or a pension.

By June 1917, all British cases of shell shock were evacuated to a nearby neurological centre and were labelled as NYDN - “not yet diagnosed nervous”. It appeared that between 4-10% of shell-shock cases were due to physical causes (‘commotional’), and the rest were ‘emotional’. Shell shock was therefore not to be seen as a valid disease: it was banned as a diagnosis and mention of it was censored, even in medical journals.

Alternatively, the effects of shell shock could be interpreted on the front line as cowardice or “lack of moral fibre”. During the war, 306 British soldiers were executed for cowardice; many of whom were victims of shell shock. On 7 November 2006, the Government of the United Kingdom gave them all a posthumous conditional pardon and they are commemorated at the Shot at Dawn Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

In World War II and thereafter, diagnosis of “shell shock” was replaced by that of Combat Stress Reaction, a similar but not identical response to the trauma of warfare and bombardment.

Combat Stress was formed in 1919, as the Ex-Servicemen’s Welfare Society, and is a registered charity in the United Kingdom offering therapeutic and clinical community and residential treatment to former members of the British Armed Forces who are suffering from a range of mental health conditions; including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Combat Stress makes treatment available free of charge for all ex-servicemen who are suffering with mental illness.

Today, the organisation is helping almost 6,000 people who are ex-servicemen aged from 19 to 97. Combat Stress are treating 971 ex-servicemen who served in Afghanistan and 1,185 who served in Iraq (Gulf War I and Gulf War II). On average, it takes 13 years for an ex-serviceman to make first contact with Combat Stress for advice, help, and treatment; however, those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan are approaching the charity more speedily.

Support is currently being given to those who suffer from clinical depression, raised anxiety states, substance abuse (drug and alcohol) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This support is delivered throughout the United Kingdom through three treatment centres at Ayr (Hollybush House), Newport in Shropshire and Leatherhead (Tyrwhitt House), along with community outreach teams.

### ***Kohima Epitaph - written in 1916***

When you go home, tell them of us and say,  
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.

The words are attributed to John Maxwell Edmonds (1875-1958), inspired by

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Simonides (c 480BCE). Edmonds had put them into a collection of 12 epitaphs for the First World War in 1916.

*Rick Dixon*



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

## D-Day Landings

It is the 5th of June as I write. HM the Queen and US President Donald Trump have commemorated the re-invasion fleet sailing from Portsmouth on D-minus 1. Portsmouth was one of the major departure points for the main Allied army invasion force from Britain to the Normandy coast under the control of Nazi German forces. D-Day itself was 6 June 1944, delayed from the previous day due to poor weather conditions.

Much has been told of the 6th June landings but little of the build-up. My father, Ken Dixon, had enrolled with the Royal Navy in August 1942. It was going to be his 18th birthday on 24 August and he knew he could volunteer to the Navy instead of almost certain conscription into the army, the air force or the coalmines. He made the decision to enlist with the Navy, as he told me some 40 years later, because wherever you were sent your commanding officer went with you and so did the hotel!

In 1943, he was attached to the Murmansk Russian Convoys as an Able Seaman. Painting the bulwarks outside the Galley kitchen vents in a storm was a trial of stomach! After that he was enrolled for Officer Training at HMS King Alfred shore station at Portsmouth. As a Sub-Lieutenant he was assigned to Coastal Forces: initially in minesweepers later in motor gunboats and motor launches. By the time of the Normandy Landings, now aged 19, he was Sub-Lieutenant in a Motor Gunboat Flotilla.

His unit was sent in on D-minus 1 to try to wipe out the German e-boat fleet in the eastern Normandy area in advance of the main invasion fleet.

They achieved that task and motored back towards the incoming fleet, reporting for further duties. The Fleet Commander said, 'Oh, we didn't expect you'd still be around. Ah, er, um ... see what you can do to keep the Jerries off.' A suicide mission survived then!

I have another story to relate closer to the 75th anniversary of VE Day which I hope to tell you in the May 2020 issue.

*Rick Dixon*

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## 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landings

We have a family note to add to the recent ceremonies in Normandy that were so prominent across both the print and broadcast media. We are proud to mention that our 12 year old grandson, Toby, took part in several of the events as a chorister with Hereford Cathedral Choir particularly in Caen Abbey and Bayeux Cathedral as well as at the Bayeux War Cemetery and on the beach at Arromanches. In the years to come it will be really interesting to find out what he remembers about all of the commemorations and if those memories are influencing his later thoughts about life.

Although Toby never met either of them, two of his Great Grandfathers were actively involved in D-Day itself. One was a Major with REME, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers who was in charge of building bridges for the Allied Forces in Normandy and his widow celebrated her 100th birthday in the week of the D-Day celebrations. The other Great Grandfather was a 19 year old Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Navy who was in charge of a flotilla of landing craft full of Canadian soldiers landing them on Juno beach.

Like so many others involved, both usually avoided talking about all the horrors they must have seen.

*Francis and Libbie Sheppard*

## Beneath the Wool

This month has been slightly quieter than previous months but there has still been quite a bit going on. The sheep have been moving around the fields at Rogers Farm eating through most of the grass available for them. Since they have lambed, they've been over 5 different patches of ground. For those of you who haven't seen the sheep with their lambs in the field the grazing rotation I do is the field is split up into equally sized areas and the sheep get to graze that area for a certain time usually a week but this depends on the amount of grass available. By using this technique, it gives the area of field where the sheep have just come off a resting period of ideally 21 days. This gives the grass a chance to regrow to a similar level to what it was before. Also, any worm eggs in the sheep dung from the previous graze have a chance to get rid of the worms from that pasture. The time for this to work is the length of time the sheep have been on that specific area plus 4 days. After this length of time the pasture is worm free. By using this technique, it helps to reduce the use of wormers which has an economical benefit but also helps the insects in the soils.

On 29th May I had Sid Vincent from Ogbourne St George come to shear all the sheep. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't entirely on our side as it was raining for most of the





# Purton Placard

THE GUILD OF WILTSHIRE ARTISTS

## Summer Exhibition

Sunday 14th to Saturday, 20th July  
at St. Peter's Church, High Street,  
Marlborough SN8 1HQ

Opening times: Sunday 14th, 12.30 to  
3pm, Monday 15th to Saturday 20th,  
10am to 4.30pm. Free admission.

## The Merchant's House is coming to life!



17th century costumed characters • Live Music • Displays

## Living History 27th & 28th July

11am - 4pm

FREE entry Donations Welcome

The Merchant's House (Marlborough) Trust

Charity No. 1010902

ST. MARYS SCHOOL PTA PRESENTS

## 'Blazing Saddles'

# HOEDOWN BARN DANCE

WITH A CALLER

FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 7PM TILL 11PM

FAMILY EVENT - FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL - RAFFLE - HOTDOGS

TICKETS  
£7 ADULT & £4 CHILD

TICKETS ON SALE FROM ST. MARYS SCHOOL RECEPTION OR FROM  
LISA ROBERTS - AMANDA LEWIS - TERRI WARD - LEANNE EGAN - TARA KING

VILLAGE HALL CHARITY

## Pop Quiz

Friday 19th July 2019 at 7pm for a  
7.30pm start. All proceeds will go  
to the Village Hall Charity towards  
running costs and also the extensive  
works that are required. Tables of 6  
people at £12.00 are available.

There will be a bar, nibbles and a  
guaranteed fun night. Contact the  
office on 01793 771066 or email  
deborah.lawrence@  
purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

## **Purton Stoke Charity Ball**

Saturday 7th September, 7pm for 7.30pm  
at "Greenacres" Purton Stoke

Black Tie, 18 yrs and over only

Champagne Reception. Three course dinner,  
Live band and disco, Licensed bar

Tickets £65 each or tables of up to 10  
Available from Lindsey 07811 294108 or  
lindseyhall642@gmail.com

Bookings now being taken

Carriages at 1.00am. Coach running from  
Purton and home again

In aid of Mind & Prospect Hospice

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT  
CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENT

## **The Rio Grande**

Monday 8 July, 7.30pm at Royal  
Wootton Bassett Academy

PURTON AGE CONCERN

## **Coach trip to Webbs of Wychbold**

Wednesday 3 July, 10am

## **Purton Museum**

above library

Wednesday 2.00 – 5.00 pm

Saturday 10.00 am -12.30 pm

New displays -  
Signs of the Past



## **Joseph Ricketts WW1 Memorabilia**



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

**PURTON CHURCHES TOGETHER**

# **SUMMER ACTIVITY DAYS!**

12TH-14TH AUGUST 10AM-3PM  
FOR YEARS 2-6  
ST MARYS SCHOOL HALL

REGISTRATION FORMS FROM SCHOOL OR ON  
THE DAY. SUGGESTED DONATION £5 A DAY PER  
CHILD. WEAR OLD CLOTHES, BRING A PACKED  
LUNCH & 50P FOR TUCK.  
ALL LEADER DBS CHECKED  
FOR FUTURE INFORMATION  
MARIE.DEMPSEY@LIVE.CO.UK

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## Purton and District Probus Club



At the Probus meeting on Tuesday 14 May, John Slaght, Associate Professor and Fellow of Reading University, delivered a lecture on “English as a Global Language”. John began teaching in 1969, initially in the subjects of French and History, but in 1980 began a full-time involvement in EAP, (English for Academic Purposes), aimed at providing a working knowledge of English for foreign language students who wish to train for other vocational disciplines such as Law, Engineering and Medicine, etc. While working in Zambia (1972-86), John’s responsibility was heading regional marking teams for English language testing in the Copper Belt region, which happens to have four ethnic language variations. He followed with similar work in Saudi Arabia and Malaysia. John’s career culminated with his becoming Course Director of the “International Study and Language Institute” at Reading University, developing Testing and Assessment papers which are currently in use by many other universities.

English is currently one of the most widely spoken and written languages worldwide, with more than 360 million native speakers. Only Mandarin/Chinese has more speakers. Because a working knowledge of English is also required in many academic fields and occupations, ministries around the world mandate the teaching of English to at least a basic level. Approximately 495 million people speak English as an additional language. 1.4 billion live in countries where ‘English’ has official status.

John used the “Kachruvian Model of World English” to illustrate the distribution and development of Global English. Consisting of three concentric circles, and named after its Indian inventor, Braj Kachru, it classifies three groups. “The Inner circle encloses countries where English is the mother-tongue; The United Kingdom, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The Outer/Intermediate Circle consists of the earlier phases of the spread of English, where the language has become established in the country’s institutions, and plays an important role as a second language. Former colonies of the UK such as Malaysia, Singapore, India, Ghana, Kenya and others are in this group. The third, Expanding Circle refers to the territories where English is learnt as a foreign language and is the most useful vehicle for international communication. These include: China, Japan, Greece, Poland and Korea. Difficult to classify are South Africa, which has English and Afrikaans plus nine other languages, and Jamaica which is influenced by American English and Creole Patois.

How does a language become global? Maritime activity, trade and broadcasting have been and are major influences. It has been said that ‘English’ is the Language on which the Sun never sets. However, Spanish has become the lingua franca of much of Central and South America, while Portuguese is official in Brazil. In commenting on the future of Global English, John suggested that one of its strengths is its evolving nature; texting and social networking are already modifying its presentation. It is impossible to predict its future; although many elements of Greek and Latin have come down from 2000 years ago. They are still essential in academic research, yet

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they are spoken of as dead languages. The lecture was enlightening, and certainly gave us food for thought.

On May 21st, five of our members and their wives attended, at the invitation of the Highworth Probus Club, a Lady's-Day lunch at the Sudbury House Hotel. The meal was followed by a talk from Kevan Leach, a food scientist, on the mysteries and methods of Biscuit production.

The speaker on the 4th Tuesday (May 28th) was a retired Meteorological Office weather forecaster, Ken Ingamells; his subject; The Search for the North West Passage.

As long ago as 1497, when Henry VII instructed John Cabot to seek a route to the Orient which would shorten the distance around the Cape, explorers have sought a sea route through the arctic ice flows of northern Canada. Columbus was not the first European to set foot on the North American continent. The Icelandic Sagas tell of a Norwegian Viking, Eric the Red, whose father in 760AD, when Eric was 10 years old, was banished from Norway to Iceland. Equally as violent as his father, Eric was banished to Greenland, where he established a colony of settlers. His three sons and a daughter are reported to have explored the East Coast of North America, a land unknown to us at that time. During the reign of Elizabeth 1st, many Sea Captains joined the search :- John Davis, Frobisher, Henry Hudson and Willem Barentsz to name but a few. None were successful.

The attempt of John Franklin of the Royal Navy to find the Northwest Passage created a disturbing episode in history. After two previous expeditions in the 1820's, Franklin set off in May 1845 with 132 Officers and men in two ships, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror. Having called at a port on the west coast of Greenland for supplies and where 4 of the crew disembarked, the ships were last seen by whalers north of Baffin Island as they entered Lancaster Sound. From there they were totally lost. After two years, when nothing had been heard, the Admiralty sent out a search party but without success. In 1848, three expeditions tried, led by James Clark Ross, Rae/ Richardson and Francis McClintock. In all, a total of 39 missions were sent to the Arctic, but it wasn't until 1850 that three graves were found on Beechey Island bearing names of men from Franklin's crew. The whereabouts of the two ships was still a total mystery.

A young Scottish doctor, John Rae, who had joined the Hudson Bay Company in 1835 and then served as the Company Surgeon for ten years, had taught himself Survival in Arctic conditions and undertook several expeditions in the area, one as 2nd in command to Sir John Richardson. In 1851, still employed by the Hudson Bay Co., he travelled 5300 miles mapping the coast line of Canada. While exploring the Boothia Peninsula in 1854, Rae made contact with the local Inuit from whom he obtained information about the fate of Franklin's men. The Inuits spoke of 35-40 sailors, walking overland, who had died of starvation near the mouth of the Black River. Cut marks on some of the human bones identified by Dr Rae suggested

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cannibalism; news of which was totally unacceptable to polite society in England. Exhumation of the 3 bodies on Beechey Island in 1984, detected 10 times the amount of lead, that would have been expected, in the bones and hair, but they probably died of Scurvy.

In 1903, Roald Amundsen led the first successful traverse of Canada's North West Passage, hugging the coast with a crew of six in a small partially motorised boat. Ranulph Fiennes traversed, partially overland, taking 6 weeks, using a small dinghy in 1981. The speaker delivered a very comprehensive account.

Purton Probus Club meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the Red House Lounge. Visitors and New Members welcome. July programme: 9th The Arctic Convoys, 23rd 9 Lives - 36 years in the RAF.

*Bob Stevens*

## *News from The Pear Tree*

The Pear Tree will soon be reopening its doors as a breathtaking exclusive-use wedding venue following a spectacular transformation and we can't wait to show you everything that lies in store.

The utmost care and attention is being taken to ensure that the venue will be of the highest standard by adding stunning contemporary features while embracing the house's past. The Pear Tree's beautiful gardens and private vineyard remain, while a brand-new orangery, sweeping staircase and light-filled atrium will help to create a venue like no other.

We are now taking bookings for weddings from 2020 onwards and we're delighted to start welcoming new and booked couples to come and see the Pear Tree. We hope that this picturesque setting in the charming village of Purton will be the starting place for plenty of happy marriages in the years to come.

We would love to show our village neighbours around during the wedding events that are due to take place each month. However, due to the current state of the building, we won't really be able to do this safely until the venue nears completion and to be able to show it off to the best effect. We expect that will be towards the latter end of the year.

Once we are nearing completion, we look forward to giving Purton Magazine readers an opportunity to explore the venue and come and see the transformation of The Pear Tree for yourselves. We are planning to host a full open day before too long, so please keep an eye out in your magazine for any updates so you can come and say hello to us soon.

*All the best, The Pear Tree*

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## Hello from The Cedars Care Home



### **Between the showers!**

Our raised wooden planters are looking brilliant and we've enjoyed a few sunny periods out in the garden. Its just been judged for the OSJCT best garden competition so cross your green fingers for us.

### **Quizzes and Bingo going down well**

We have a core of residents who enjoy taxing the brain with a quiz and our weekly bingo sessions are going well. As it's a weekly bingo session the prizes are small, usually a bar of chocolate or sweets, however if you have any unwanted small items tucked away in a draw i.e. hand cream, perfume, hankies, then please do pop them into us. We can certainly make use of such things as prizes.

### **Music, movement and new friends!**

The Swing event was a huge success and those who attended enjoyed the food, music and dancing immensely. Our Line-dancing continues to be enjoyed and spontaneous singing happens all the time!

Our new friends turned out to be beautiful alpacas which came to visit and charmed everyone as they were led around the home. The day delighted everyone so well done to Chris for arranging another successful event. Our open day event on Friday June 28 ay have taken place by the time you read this, with various 'friends' sharing their skills and knowledge with us creating lots of opportunities for learning about dementia, caring and what it all entails along with entertainment and refreshments.



### **Summer sun for future trips please?**

We will have had a canal trip, in hopefully good weather, but whatever it will have been a tranquil meander along the waterways enjoyed by all. Confirmation on that, next month! We also have plans for various outings and events in July along with our usual trip to Weston-Super-Mare so let's hope the sun shines that day!

### **Major Fundraising Plans**

As activity coordinators we are always looking for fun ways to stimulate residents with dementia and hopefully our monthly articles reflect that we strive to achieve this. In todays world technology must start to play a part in this, and we have been very excited by a piece of equipment developed for people with moderate to severe stages of dementia. However, this little box of tricks costs over £11,000! Chris and I will be looking further into this and other technologies over the next few months but in the meantime, we want to appeal to any businesses, philanthropists or benefactors out there who might be interested in helping us to raise funds for such equipment. If this is you, then do please contact us to arrange an informal chat. .

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