



Purton. Magazine

November 2019

Purton High Street will be closed at the War Memorial during the afternoon of Sunday 10th November for the annual Remembrance Sunday Service. See page 29.

50p

Purton Contacts

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

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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

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

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

Distribution & Delivery enquiries: Sandra Horsnall 01793 770157

Email: distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:

The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

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INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

This month we are encouraged to use our imaginations and follow the thought processes of 2nd Purton Brownies. On page 42 we read of their activity called “The Museum of Imagination” which is also enough to get older minds into action. Each Brownie was given a random item and needed to create a story that described why their particular item should be included in a museum. Maybe Purton Magazine could run a series where readers describe a favourite item or idea of theirs and why it should be kept safely in a museum for future generations. Your suggestions are welcomed for future editions.

While considering your own item or idea, spare a thought for the Amondawa tribe deep in the Brazilian jungle. As recently as 1986 they were discovered by anthropologists and on page 63 we learn that the tribe had no concept of time. Imagine that. No words in their language for an hour or week or year. Age is described in groups such as child, youth, adult etc. and, just to confuse matters further, people assumed different names through the different stages of their lives.

If any reader is finding it hard to imagine what the St. Mary’s Church renewal project entails, more details can be found on page 40. There you will find a list of local churches that have already carried out their own renewal projects in the last 20 or so years and visits should help readers to visualise what the plans for our church could look like. The closest example is St. Michael’s Church in Highworth where just last year a major renewal project has resulted in new toilets, a new kitchen/servery, new lighting and new wooden chairs replacing the old pews. Other churches are listed which illustrate ways in which different churches have approached their individual needs to make their buildings more accessible and better able to serve their local communities.

It is easy to imagine that churches are the natural home for angels. Certainly St. Mary’s Church in Purton will be home for angels of all shapes, sizes and materials during Advent this year and there will be an angel quiz. Readers are invited on page 41 to bring their own over the weekend of 30th November and 1st December to share with visitors. Indeed your own angel might even be your entry into “The Museum of Imagination” with your associated story.

38

Years were served on
Purton Parish Council by
the late Sue Matthews –
see page 6

190

Members of Purton
Cricket Club in 1862
including 55 clergymen –
see page 51

2,224

Passengers and crew
set off on the ill-fated
inaugural sailing of the
Titanic – see page 44



The Late Mrs Susan Matthews

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of our Councillor, Mrs Susan Matthews on Thursday, 19th September 2019. The Council and staff paid respects at the funeral and the following eulogy was given to which we would like to share with the residents.

“Susan Matthews was elected to Purton Parish Council as a Councillor on 24th September 1981 making her service to this community just 5 days shy of 38 years.

On joining she chose to serve on the Planning, Burials, Street Lighting and Footpath Committees. We are unaware of what drove Susan to join the Council, but we will be forever eternally grateful for her doing so, giving commitment, dedication and unrivalled passion in her quest to achieve the very best we could for the community given the constraints and confines we were faced with.

Sue, as she requested to be referred to at Council meetings, became an active member of not only the Council but Trustee of three charities and used her knowledge of the community to bring forward change.

She was a firm believer in providing services for all, no segregation, no benefits for some and not others and believed that as a community we should stand tall to achieve the best even in adverse times.

Her knowledge became invaluable, with a memory second to none, far outweighing the written word and mountains of files we keep in our archives.

Her teaching days proved a great resource within the Council with her eagle eye ever poised to correct, amend and aid with documentation and reporting.

Her strong family values shone through with reference to her husband Tony on many an occasion and a willingness to aid others when they had times of personal trouble themselves, ever willing to listen, ever willing to help.

Sue was a firm believer in formality and was never shy on letting her thoughts be known, however there has been the occasion of late, when comments have led to laughter and humour within discussion and these are the memories and moments that will remain embedded in our thoughts and bring a smile whenever her name is mentioned.

The Council introduced Sue to the computer age in 2018 with a comment of “I will never learn and what if I break it”. “Don’t worry,” I said, “you can’t break it...” One broken computer later!!! Her days of frustration became less as she mastered the art of technology with her comment of “Debbie you said I couldn’t break it” still ringing in my ears.

Her final days were spent worrying about her beloved Tony continuing to keep him well and that her wishes on council projects were upheld, which of course they will be. Our last conversation was, as always, worrying about others, sending love

to those she cared about, and ensuring the Council upheld its work with integrity, honesty and not giving in when the going was tough.

As a Council we will miss her knowledge and ability to see matters from all angles, as employees, we will miss her compassionate, caring nature, good humoured approach, always putting others first.

Mrs Susan Matthews, Purton's longest servicing Councillor; a true lady and a real loss to our Council and our community."

We are proud to have served with, and worked for, a Councillor who was loyal, genuine, caring, considerate and passionate about her community and our sympathy at their loss goes to her beloved Tony and her family and friends. RIP Mrs Susan Matthews.

Safety at Pavenhill Shops

The Parish Council is unfortunately receiving many comments about the growing number of drivers who are parking inconsiderately and illegally outside the Pavenhill shop and the surrounding area. There are those few who park directly outside of the One Stop on double yellow lines and others who park in front of dropped kerbs or driveways, which causes difficulties for other residents. The Parish Council has no enforcement powers, but has reported the issues to the traffic wardens at Wiltshire Council and our local Police Community Support Officer. Please can drivers take more care to park safely and legally.

There is also the issue of the safety of pedestrians when walking outside the shops, with the uneven paving causing trip hazards. This has been reported to Wiltshire Council Public Protection Team for them to investigate. They recently provided us with an update and confirmed that each shop has been written to on two separate occasions, requesting that the area outside the shops is made safe for customers. Should any one unfortunately hurt themselves as a direct result of the uneven paving, please report it to the shop and you let us know us so we can give you the contact details for the Wiltshire Council officer who is dealing with this, as they have requested to hear directly from individuals who have been affected by the poor condition of the paving.

Gulley Rescue Project — Can you help?

We are looking at creating a gulley map through Purton to aid the flow and management of water within our beautiful village. If you are walking and notice a gulley is blocked, overgrown or in need of repair, drop us a line, email, phone call, Facebook message, whichever is easiest, giving us the exact location and issue and we can then map and arrange its clearance with the necessary bodies. What we need: Picture and exact location, what you can see if you have no pictures (i.e. mud/grass/broken etc).

This gulley project is a small step towards ensuring our village can manage the changes in weather and subsequent water flow working with the relevant responsible bodies

(Wiltshire Council and Thames Water).

So, put on your walking boots, put the kids in their water proofs, and let us know when you see a gully that might need some help! Thank you.

Next Round of Dementia Friends Sessions

Wednesday, 27th November at 10am at Pips Community Cafe, Station Road, Purton
- ALL WELCOME.

Post Office Times of Operation

The mobile Post Office operates on Tuesdays 13.45-13.45.

Who's your Community Hero?

Purton Parish Council is running an awards scheme to recognise and honour the hard work, dedication and commitment shown by so many through their community work. If you would like to nominate someone please fill in the application form which can be found on our website or through our offices and return for consideration. Closing date is January 2020 with awards being presented at an Awards Ceremony as part of our Annual Parish Meeting held in April. Please Start nominating! www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/News.aspx

Councillor Vacancies

We have one vacancy for a Councillor by co-option. If anyone is interested please contact the office or complete the application form which can be located on our website or sent to you via email.

Please always speak to the Clerk of the Council, Deborah Lawrence with any queries, as there maybe options available. Send an email to deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or call on 01793 771066.

Road Closure

A road closure application has been approved for the Remembrance Sunday service to be held on Sunday 10th November at the Cenotaph from 2.15pm until 3.45pm. Those residents who will be directly affected by the road closure will receive a letter shortly. Please support this event by kindly honouring those that have fallen and being patient during this time. The road will be closed from Purton Vets to the junction of High Street and The Peak.

Donations — Working with the Community

Purton Parish Council is permitted under Section 137 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to provide donations to groups/causes for new projects within Purton and the surrounding areas, that will be of benefit to all or part of the community (not individuals).

This coming financial year (2019/20) the Council has increased its budget to incorporate a larger fund for such grants. A form is available from our website (<https://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Financial-Details.aspx>), 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. The next round of applications will be heard in February 2020.

Grants have been awarded in (June 2019) to:

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

Purton Youth Club for School Years 4-7

Residents only, Wednesdays in the Village Hall from 6.15pm to 7.45pm.

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

Councillors 2019-20

Chairman of Council/Charities	Ray Thomas	01793 951520
Finance & General Purposes/Vice	Chair of Council/Chair of Burials	
	Neil Hooper	01793 771066
Councillor	Helen Hicks	01793 778207
Councillor	Geoff Greenaway	01793 771140
Councillor	Kevin Law	07768 456989
Councillor	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	Emily Seabrook	01793 771066
Councillor	Grant Seabrook	01793 771066
Councillor	Jim Reid	01793 771066
Councillor	Gavin James	01793 771066

Council Meetings in November

All meetings commence at 7pm in Purton Village Hall

Staffing Committee meeting Monday 4th November (not a public meeting)

Finance Committee meeting Monday 4th November

Council meeting Monday 10th November

Village Centre &

Play Close Charity meeting Monday 25th November

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

Planning Permission - Approved Applications with conditions

19/06095/FUL	Tallat Cottage, Stoke Common Lane. Purton Stoke. Erection of a two-storey rear extension.
19/06413/FUL	47 Station Road. Proposed rear extension and detached garage (Part retrospective)
19/05224/VAR	Unit 6 Bagbury Park, Lydiard Green. Lydiard Millicent. Variation of conditions 2,3 and 8 of application 16/07970/FUL – Proposed new industrial unit for storage purposes, access road and associated works.
19/06228/FUL	17 Hoggs Lane. Single storey front extension (Retrospective).
19/07383/FUL	59 Mustang Way. Conservatory extension to rear elevation.
19/07354/FUL	White Lodge Farm. Braydon. Construction of a steel-framed calf rearing building.
19/07943/FUL	Weathercock Stables, Stoke Common Lane. Purton Stoke. Single additional stable on block of existing stables and 4-horse walker.

Charities

Open Letter Regarding the Installation of the Proposed Commemoration Stone to Mark the 75 Year Anniversary of the End of the Second World War

The Trustees have written an open letter to the Chairman of the group as follows and they wish it be shared:

To the Chair of Commemoration stone committee

I have spoken to the Working Party and it is still felt the stone should not carry names and a good compromise would be to have an Information Board outlining the way the Red House Memorial came about and the full history relating to it. The stone was presented to Trustees as a commemoration to 75 years since the end of World War II, there was never any mention of names at the inception. The project seems to have transformed into something different, if there are names it relates to sixteen people, who, whilst obviously very important, this does not reflect the true position of those that subsequently died from experiences or injuries from the war; regrettably it was not just the fallen but their families at home who also suffered.

Trustees are fully supportive of the original idea and have offered to support the Information Board, giving much more detail than could be conveyed on the stone itself, this would ensure the legacy is fully understood by future generations, which, I think, we would all want.

When this suggestion was made at the recent meeting of the groups there appeared to be a general consensus that this would be a realistic and achievable compromise, we are still open to this option and have suggested the group put forward a grant application to Parish Council to help fund the extra costs.

I understand that several donors have said if the names are not on the stone they

will withdraw their support, I find it difficult to understand this as all the names and information could be on a board bringing the whole historical process to life in a meaningful way, which would probably make it easier for understanding in the future, we feel even if the names were on the stone it would not convey the true picture.

If you would like a meeting with the relevant donors I am happy to facilitate this and attend personally to explain our position and discuss any ongoing concerns.

I trust this helps and if you require anything, or I can assist, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Signed by Chairman of Council, Ray Thomas.

Advertising - Village Hall Railings/Village Centre Fencing

If you wish to advertise or promote an event being held in Purton please ensure you apply for prior approval from the Trustees to place banners and advertising. Unauthorised banners will be removed. There have been a few instances where approval has not been sought. These areas are on private land in a conservation area and therefore tight restrictions are adhered to.

Village Hall Car Park

Thank you to all those using the facilities for your patience and understanding during the renovation works at the Co-op and when the Village Hall is in use. A reminder to residents, this is NOT a public car park. The charity kindly agrees to short term parking whilst visiting the dentists or local shops and when taking children to and from school. However it is not a car park facility for residents who do not have their own spaces. Please respect the charity and the users who pay for the use of the Village Hall.

Charity Fundraising

Do you shop with Amazon? Sign in to Amazon Smile and help raise much-needed funds for the Purton Institute and Village Hall charity.

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/

How to contact the Parish Council

Tel: 01793 771066, Email: deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website 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 or call 771066. Find us on: Facebook – Purton Parish Council Twitter - @PurtonPC

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

Scout Christmas Post

1st Purton and Lydiard Scouts participate in the Swindon Scout Christmas Card Delivery Service.

Stamps cost 30p each for delivery in the Swindon area (including Highworth and Royal Wootton Bassett) and are on sale from the 1st November.

Stamps are for sale from Shear Success Hairdressing, Toomers (Stone Lane), and Flawless Floors; many thanks to these retailers for selling the stamps. Stamps will also be available at St Mary's Church Christmas Market in the Village Hall on 23rd November.

Special Scout Post Collection boxes will be in place from 23rd November, with the last collection on Wednesday 11th December at 4:00pm.

Church Floodlighting

- | | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Oct 15 | The Church was floodlit in loving memory of Graham Henry Bellinger . Cherished for ever by his dear family. |  |
| Nov 10 | The church will be floodlit in memory of Pete Holland on the anniversary of his wedding day and his birthday. From all the Holland family. | |
| Nov 14 | The church will be floodlit in loving memory of Monica Sue Kinnett who passed away 14 years ago today. Missed every day. All our love Pete, Mandy, Paul, Jenny, Jerilyn and family. | |
| Nov 16 | St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of Trev Bird . Always in our thoughts. Love Jean, Amanda and Paul Xx | |
| Nov 28 | St Mary's will be floodlit in memory and celebration of Mary Wightman's birthday . Dearly loved and sadly missed by Roderick, Mark, Ben, Daughters-in-law, 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.

Events

Minibus Shopping Trips - Hazel is organising a shopping trip on Friday November 8th to Abingdon and will have her normal trip to Cirencester on the 29th November, both of which will leave the village at 9am. For more details and to book your place on the minibus, please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

October Mystery Tour with Pub Lunch - Well we managed to find the pub with only one minor excursion! We stopped at the Bell Inn in Weyhill after a lovely drive, on a lovely day, catching the last of the summer colours in fields and gardens with the sun shining, just as I'd ordered. We had a very nice carvery lunch and then came back by a different route which included the ridgeway at Hackpen, which is a favourite spot for everybody. Thanks to Martin our driver from Ellisons, we were driven effortlessly around the county.

3Bs Evening - On 4th October we had our second 3Bs evening of the year which was a resounding success, and thanks to all of the committee who worked so hard that evening to ensure that everybody enjoyed themselves. Thanks also to John Lilley our bingo caller, who organises all of the money allocation to the winners and makes the evening work with humour and fun.

Christmas Shopping Trip - On Wednesday 4th December we have booked a coach to go to Evesham Garden Centre which has a lot of shops on site as well as the garden centre. These places really go to extraordinary lengths to present their Christmas stock and are great places to get ideas, as well as presents, for Christmas. They have a very nice restaurant if you want lunch (not included in the price). We will leave the village around 10am and the cost will be £8 for Purton pensioners and £10 for non-pensioners or visitors. Please contact your Street Warden to book your tickets.

Attention all quizzers!

We will be holding a Quiz Evening with a Fish & Chip Supper on 1st November at the Silver Threads Hall. We would like teams consisting of six people maximum and we will be offering prizes for the winners. There will also be a raffle. Tickets are £9 per person. Contact Andrew Capewell on 956095 to book your place.

Latest News



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



Purton & District Age Concern is looking for new committee members to join us. We need people who are willing to help out at events, attend monthly meetings and contribute to the continued

success of the charity. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Peter on 778119.



I know it may be too early to start thinking about Christmas for some, but we have started to plan the Age Concern Christmas events. Keep an eye out for more details in next month's magazine.

Saturday 30th November - Party at Silver Threads Hall

Wednesday 4th December - Christmas Shopping trip to Evesham

Saturday 7th December - Party at Village Hall

Information

Luncheon Club - This is held at the Silver Threads Hall. Please give Pat Suddaby a call on 771331 for information. They are looking for more people to join them on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week for a two course lunch with tea/coffee starting at 12 noon.

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

Swindon West, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service offer a dedicated & 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/) or by calling 0800 038 2323.

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

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

Cold Callers - We have had several reports of cold callers moving around the village, be aware of people knocking on your door and offering to do garden work for cash, or any other jobs if you don't know who they are or where they have come from. We are lucky that we have local tradesmen in the village; look in the Purton Magazine for details. Always be vigilant and be wary of strangers. Contact your Street Warden if you need a 'no cold calls' sticker for your door.

Website - Visit our dedicated website - www.purtonageconcern.com — to find all the details you need about our contacts, events, news and links to other websites in the area. We also have Facebook and Twitter accounts, which can be found at: Facebook - [purtonageconcern](https://www.facebook.com/purtonageconcern) and Twitter: [@Purton_AC](https://twitter.com/Purton_AC). Please visit our social media sites and let us know what you think.

We still have a couple of wheelchairs, so if you think you might need these at any time then ring Tony Price on 770696 or Peter Berry on 778119.

Don't forget the minibus service we offer residents living in the Purton Age Concern catchment area. Surgery runs, coffee mornings, day trips or general get-togethers, for those aged 60 and over who have disability or mobility issues. Both minibuses have hydraulic lifts and wheelchair security. Call Hazel to book your place 01793 770862.



Peter Berry

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

The focus of our September meeting was our annual Mini Show when members are invited to exhibit in any of the 23 classes within the 4 main categories — Flowers, Vegetables, Fruit and Domestic.



The voting process required those present to vote for their favourite in each of the 23 classes. As ever, members needed little encouragement for the task, particularly when it came to the domestic category where they were required to sample the cakes. Courgette, beetroot and carrot featured in the cakes exhibited in a new class for this year, 'A cake made with a vegetable', whilst old favourites cheese scones and lemon drizzle cake proved ever popular with those tasting.

Voting over, the committee began the count whilst members happily chatted over tea and biscuits.

First, second and third prizes were awarded in each of the 4 categories:

'Flowers': 1st Mary Read, 2nd Maureen Griffin, 3rd Marjorie Shales

'Vegetables': 1st Mary Read, Joint 2nd Sue Berry and Jill Herbert

'Fruit': 1st Peter Berry, 2nd Mary Jones, 3rd Mary Read

'Domestic': 1st Moira White, 2nd Sue Berry, Joint 3rd Delia Walters and Margaret Goodall

Congratulations to Mary Read who received the cup for the 'Overall Winner' having received the most points from all 23 classes.

It finally came to the presentation of the cup for the final class, 'Best in Show', chosen from all the exhibits entered. Congratulations to Thelma Venn who was the worthy winner for the second year running with another stunning flower arrangement.

Congratulations to all our winners and to all those who exhibited for without them we would not have a show.

In a change to our 2019 programme Nathalie Mignotte will now be joining us on 26 November to present a talk entitled 'Islamic Gardens'. The American Supper will now follow the AGM on Tuesday, 28 January 2020 at 7.30pm in Silver Threads Hall.

More details about the 2020 programme will be in the December issue of the magazine, so watch this space.

Margaret Goodall, Secretary Tel 770906

'Flu Clinic - Saturday 5 October

What a busy morning - a total of 653 patients came to the 'flu clinic. The Raffle for two Christmas hampers, which this year was fundraising for the automated door for Purton Surgery, raised almost £600. Thank you to all who supported it.

Evening with Village Voices – Friday 15 November, 7.30pm

More fundraising for an automated door for Purton Surgery... We will be holding an evening of entertainment with Village Voices on Friday 15 November at 7.30pm in Silver Threads Hall, Purton. Also entertaining will be Katy as Beatrix Potter. Tickets are £10, to include light refreshments and there will also be a raffle, and are available from Purton Surgery or from committee members. Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

Christmas Coffee Morning, 35 High Street, 7 December, 10am-12noon

Another fundraiser for the automated door, many thanks to Sylvia Freemantle who will be holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 7 December from 10am to 12 noon. Coffees, teas, mince pies plus a variety of stalls. Sylvia's coffee mornings are well known in Purton; do come and support it.

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 our email address: groupforpatients@gmail.com

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

Temporary Closure of The Street and Holborn, Lydiard Millicent

Notice is hereby given that the Wiltshire Council has made an Order to close temporarily to all traffic: The Street (Part), Lydiard Millicent; from its junction with Chestnut Springs to its junction with Holborn; Holborn (Part), Lydiard Millicent; from its junction with The Street for a distance of approximately 170 metres in a south easterly direction. To enable: Wales and West Utilities to carry out gas mains replacement. Alternative route: via Holborn (unaffected length) – Washpool Road – Washpool – Common Platt – Stone Lane – Church Place – The Street (unaffected length) and vice versa. The closure and diversion route will be clearly indicated by traffic signs.

This Order will come into operation on 14 October 2019 and the closure will be required until 15 November 2019. It is anticipated that the works will take the stated duration to complete depending upon weather conditions. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works. For further information please contact Steve Wilshire (Wales and West Utilities) on 0117 301 3359.

Ten Years Ago...

With one exception, articles in the November 2009 magazine had left summer behind and were looking forward to the coming months' events. The editorial linked the upcoming Remembrance Service with the cortèges passing through (then plain) Wootton Bassett and gloomily noted that both the Americans and British were contemplating sending more troops to Afghanistan. Thankfully, that no longer occurs but it is sad that that beautiful and friendly country is still not at peace.

The front cover boasted an invitation for the Scouts' bonfire party earlier in the month. Inside, Cricklade Fire Station – then regular contributors to the magazine – gave many tips on safety with fireworks. Most are common sense, but one had never occurred to me – “do not wear open-necked shirts”.

Into December, and there were one or two unusual suggestions for Christmas gifts. A charity was offering “a pig costing £30” to be given to someone in a developing country. The charity would then send the donor a card to pass on “to a friend or family member so they know why they have not received a present”. Not very tactful to be passed over for a pig. Another unexciting idea was energy-efficient light bulbs.

Purton Placard ran to four pages, most of the nineteen notices containing the word Christmas. With so many fayres and bazaars, the village seemed determined to buy more conventional gifts.

The exceptional glimpse of summer came from a report about the guide camp. The young ladies who wrote the article made particular point that they had hot chocolate every night before going to bed. They also diligently reported that they were woken at 7.30am each morning. On the first two they “washed, dressed and had breakfast” But on the last two mornings only breakfast was mentioned. Were they going native?

We Record ...

Funeral at St Mary's Church

16 Sept 2019 Jean Shirley Carter (81)

Funeral at North Wiltshire Crematorium

18 Sept 2019 Elisha Pauline Ross (21)

Baptisms at St Mary's Church

22 Sept 2019 Kaylen Tori Lynne Pearl Hillsdon

22 Sept 2019 Malique McCalla

29 Sept 2019 Levi William Loveridge

29 Sept 2019 Teddy Peter Gessey



St Mary's Primary School

We have come to the end of a busy term with all our children settling in well. Clubs are up and running and children can enjoy gardening, netball, football and ECO warriors to name but a few, which all add to the overall enrichment programme.

New Staff

We welcome Mrs Taylor to the MDSA team and Mrs Oakley to our cleaning team.

Harvest Festival - Monday 7 October

We had an abundance of food and produce in this year's harvest collection, so thanks must go to our parents, carers and children who have all been so generous! The whole school gathered in the church to deliver our harvest gifts, sing hymns and join in with the harvest celebrations. We hope our donated food will spread as much enjoyment and sustenance as possible for the Swindon Food Collective, which we regularly support.

Children from St Mary's attended the Sports Awards Ceremony at Royal Wootton Bassett Academy this month. Jack and Tillie who attended to represent us, received the award given to St Mary's for 'working hard to bring multiple teams to events and therefore preparing future competitors'.

For National Libraries Week we had a team of staff busily improving our libraries to support our children's reading: Thanks to Mr Stokes, our caretaker, who has put all the shelves together, and to Mrs Southern and Mrs Winter, who have been busy ordering and cataloguing our books.

We were very pleased to have received a lovely letter and certificate from the 'Make a Wish Foundation' for the donation of £151.83 made by last year's Year 6 children which they collected at their end of year production.

Date for your Diary:

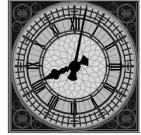
Friday 13 December - PTA Christmas Fayre from 3.30pm-5pm at school. Please do come along with friends and family to support this event if you can.

Please note that the Primary School Admissions application process for Sept 2020 is now underway. Applications can be made on line via www.wiltshire.gov.uk or by obtaining a paper copy from the School Admissions Team in County Hall Trowbridge. Deadline for all applications is 15 January 2020.

I would be delighted to show you around our school should you be considering St Mary's. We do not hold open events, as we prefer to show parents/carers around individually. We warmly welcome visits should you wish, prior to submitting the application. Visits can be arranged through the school office (admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk) or by phoning us on (01793) 770239. For more information about our wonderful school and all the exciting learning opportunities that take place, visit our school website www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk.

Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher

After 8



Our September meeting was led by Eve and was entitled 'My Sonic Screwdriver'. We were all asked to bring along our favourite gadgets and some that could be adapted for other uses. It was a very informative evening and many of the ideas shown will be put to good use. A mug made at school, having only a slight leak, became a good holder of kitchen utensils. Potato peelers, new and old – some 48 years old, still being used. Secateurs – a must for gardeners, the screw pull and a champagne cork remover – bought after a nasty eye injury. A Belfast sink, milk churn and chimney pot, now all found in the garden making beautiful plant holders. The humble wire coat hanger that can be crafted into many useful gadgets; a drain cover remover, hooks for various uses and even a water diviner!

A printer's colour swatch is ideal for colour co-ordination when decorating and fashion wear. And why not use an old hat as a tea cosy at picnics, or fashion a tool for removing toast from a toaster without burning your fingers?

A yoghurt maker – one good tip was to use a slow cooker lined with foil – making a much larger quantity. Found once in a French kitchen, a bottle-come-tin opener. A very small implement which after much study was rendered useless. Only when French friends came to the rescue and gave a demonstration was it simple when you know how!

After we were shown how easy it was to use a needle threader, we all decided it was the gadget we must have – how many times have we wet the cotton and cut the end off to try to get it through the eye? Finally, a shopping bag! It was like a lucky dip, out came a boiled egg piercer, cherry stone remover, pickled onion spoon, ring pull remover, lid opener and many other implements.

It was a great evening enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Sandra for hosting.

Eileen

Millennium Garden

Situated on the corner of The Peak and High Street, the Millennium Garden is a nice spot for a rest and reflection. However, the shrubs need a severe prune and the usual volunteers (mainly residents who organise the Purton Open Gardens event) would appreciate some help. Unfortunately, the garden is abused by some local teenagers who leave litter for others to clear up (not respectful), and perform illegal deeds, hiding behind the shrubs.

To this end, we have set a date of Sat 30th Nov, 10am for an hour or so, followed by coffee and biscuits. Please bring gloves and suitable garden tools, and make a note in your diary now.

Any questions, contact Nick Yerbury 770552

Royal British Legion Purton Branch

The Purton Branch members would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Purton and the surrounding area for their generosity over the years towards the Poppy Appeal, and the support of everyone is very much appreciated.

The financial year to the end of September 2019 was very successful, resulting in a total for the Branch of £9476.31p which is less than last year, but that was an exceptionally good year, so thank you all very much for another very good year.

We are fortunate in having Shirley and Mike Lawrence as Poppy Appeal Organizers, and all the many other wonderful people who give their time to help to collect for the Poppy Appeal. To all of them we extend our grateful thanks.

In addition we would also like to thank all the customers of ASDA who gave so generously.

Remembrance Service

The Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 10th November at 2.30pm at the Cenotaph.

Regardless of the weather it will be held outside, so come dressed accordingly but, in the event of inclement weather, for those who don't wish to stand outside, the Silver Threads Hall will be available and a speaker will relay the service indoors.

We hope that, as now has become the custom, the road will be closed for approximately one and a half hours, and diversions put in place, but the police will not be on traffic duty and this will be carried out by volunteers, so please have a little patience and understanding as the task is quite difficult enough without adding to the problem.

The Branch would again like to extend a warm welcome to any serving or ex-service members of the civil or military uniform branches who would like to join us in the parade, regardless of whether or not you are British Legion members.

This year, and in future, the Legion will be placing the wooden crosses in the Field of Remembrance only for those whose lives were lost as a result of conflict, but of course, anyone can place a cross in the Field of Remembrance for someone to whom they wish to pay their respects. This has been done because of the increasing numbers and to avoid offence to the loved ones of people we miss, we hope you will understand.

We will also be holding a short service on the morning of the 11th at 11.00am at the Cenotaph in order to join with the rest of the country in holding a two minute silence to commemorate the Armistice on the 11,11,1918. This will include the "Last Post" and "Reveille", so please come and join us.

Thank you very much, Colin Pearson, Honorary Secretary

The Red House Club

We at the Red House, have been a busy as ever over the summer months and are planning in readiness for Christmas and New Year celebrations. We really hope that you have enjoyed some of the events, please follow us on Facebook. We are really keen to be the hub of the village going forward for all to enjoy.

Past History of the Beak Bequest

Charles Miles Beak was a native of Purton who emigrated to Mexico, whilst there, he made a sufficient fortune to enable him to return to Purton in 1892 and to buy the Purton Manor House which he had known as a boy. The Beak family lived there until 1900 when the house was sold following Mr Beak's death.

Miss Sarah H M Beak had married a Mr Nicholas F H Proud and had left the village. She never forgot her days in Purton however, and in her will left over £60,000 to the Parish Council. Some of this money was used to improve the Purton Village Centre and War Memorial known as the Red House, and part was used to build the Village Hall.

The Red House was obtained from Miss Alice Stanton Russell in 1946 by the Parish Council, who became its trustees. The Village Hall was opened in 1969 by Charles Humphrey Beak, the nephew of Sarah Proud, in memory of Mr Beak.

The above extract was taken from a book compiled by Alec Robins entitled "Purton's Past" page 44/45 ISBN 0 9517142 0 1 original photographs of the Red House are held by Purton Museum.

Current and Past Memories

Purtonians are spread far and wide across the world, but never forget their home village. We at the Red House, village centre, invite you to send in your memories about times gone by of events situated at the Red House.

There will be some fantastic history spread around the world, and we would like to display them on the memory wall situated in the function room for all to see.

There have been so many events over the years held in the grounds that it will be hard to make the selection but let's give it a go. So, if you have a picture and some accompanying words that will fit in an A4 frame, please email the information to Neil Saunders in the first instance. The closing date for this information will be January 31st 2020.

Contact: neiljsaunders24@gmail.com

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

Scouts 

Firework & Bonfire Spectacular

Sat **2**nd November
at Lydiard Park

£8 Adult £4 Child

**Gates open 5.30pm / Cars via Hook St
Bonfire lit 6pm / Live Music / Entertainment**

plscouts.org.uk

Organised by 1st Purton & Lydiard Scout Group

Purton Evening W.I.

I know you have all missed us, due to lack of articles over the last couple of months. Apologies for that; life got in the way.



The WI have been busy with a good old sing song with music from the musicals and a very interesting talk by a local copper about why he joined up and county drug lines; an absolutely fascinating evening. I could have listened to him talk all night.

Did you see our scarecrow entry for the Horticultural Show? What an elegant lady she was! Many of our members had entries and received placements in various categories. Well done to you all.

Our November and December meetings will see us celebrating our birthday and Christmas.

As the winter nights are drawing in, we are also busy planning next year's programme. It is taking shape and looking good with something for everyone.

So why not come along and see for yourself what the WI have to offer? Don't want to come on your own? Why not come with a group of friends.

Keep a look out for one of our flyers which will entitle you to free entry to one of our meetings.

Don't forget you can find us on Facebook or our website www.purtoneveningwi.com. Until next time.

Lynn Mayneord, President

Defibrillator Awareness Session

To be held on Thursday 28th November 2019 At The Royal George, Pavenhill, Purton SN5 4BZ 6-7pm.

Come along to find out how to use a defibrillator. A trainer will be on hand to show us how it works and to give us a chance to look at and to handle the equipment.

We will be shown how simple the defibrillator is to use in an emergency situation.

The session will also include some advice and training on basic cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) which is a very useful first aid skill to have. You don't need to book; just turn up.

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.



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.

Russian Disco by Wladimir Kaminer Translation into English by Michael Hulse (Ebury Press, 2002).

On November the 9th, it will be 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. For those of us who remember what it was like to live under the shadow of the Iron Curtain, it can seem surprising, not to say unnerving, that so much time has passed since the momentous events that took place that autumn Thursday, but it is this pivotal event that provides the background for Wladimir Kaminer's Russian Disco.

Things were not supposed to happen the way that they did. The East German government was desperately trying to cling to power in a world that they no longer recognised. The Peaceful Revolution that began in Leipzig had spread to all parts of the republic, and waves of East Germans were leaving the country via Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

The ruling Socialist Unity Party (SED) had cleared out the old guard and tried to emulate Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov's policies of glasnost and perestroika. As part of this new openness, the government had started to hold daily press conferences to explain how it was dealing with the growing crisis.

At one press conference, Günter Schabowski, a member of the Politburo, announced that the government had drafted a new law to allow East Germans to legally emigrate to West Germany directly from the GDR, and that everyone would be entitled to apply for a visa and a passport without restrictions or qualifications. The press core was in shock. A journalist asked when the new regulations would take effect; Schabowski, unprepared and unsure of the answer, shuffled his papers before confirming that, as far as he was aware, the new regulations were to come into effect immediately. Then another question: Would the new rules also apply to the checkpoints with West Berlin? Schabowski flicked through his papers again, but confirmed that, yes, people would be able to travel both to West Germany and to West Berlin. Unwittingly, Schabowski had made history.

The news quickly spread via West German television, and people from both sides of the Wall started making their way to the gates between the two parts of the city. The border guards were unsure what to do to. They hadn't been briefed on the new travel regulations, and when they called for instructions from their superiors,

they were not given clear orders on how to manage the crowds demanding to be let through. Faced with an uncertain political situation, vastly outnumbered, and unwilling to use lethal force, the commander of the Bornholmer Straße border crossing ordered the guards to open the gates. The people surged through with shouts of delight and were greeted with champagne and flowers by West Berliners. The other checkpoints soon followed, and by the end of the night, the Wall, though largely still standing, had been reduced to an irrelevance. The people of Berlin partied long and hard. What has seemed impossible had suddenly become reality.

Wladimir Kaminer, a Russian of Jewish extraction, had taken advantage of the relaxation of the rules in the Soviet Union to move to East Berlin in 1990, before the reunification of Germany had taken place. He arrived at the start of a period of transition and transformation for Berlin; the period now nostalgically known as the “Wild ‘90s”. Berlin was a magnet for people from all over the world. The nineteenth century apartment blocks of the former Eastern boroughs of Mitte, Prenzlauer Berg and Friedrichshain were run-down and crumbling, but the apartments were spacious and the rents were cheap. Artists, writers and academics from all over the world flocked to the city bringing their different outlooks and cultures with them.

In *Russian Disco*, Kaminer captures this world of a city in flux in a series of short stories and vignettes. There is no overarching plot; each chapter is a self-contained slice of life; sketches of a city full of people and possibilities. The reader is treated to tales of Russian brides coercing their German husbands into successful careers, frustrated sculptors schlepping their works around Germany, Russian entrepreneurs making their first million, Bulgarians running Turkish kebab shops, Greeks running Italian restaurants and a detailed treatise on the gambling systems of the assembled nationalities.

A native speaker of Russian, Kaminer chooses to write in German, and although Hulse’s English translation is sometimes a little awkward, it does successfully capture Kaminer’s efficiency of language; a wonderful side-effect of writing in a second language. The stories are short, but colourful. The characters are presented simply, but the observation is razor-sharp. The book is a short read, but a highly enjoyable one.

My own time as a student in Berlin began at the end of the ‘Wild ‘90s’, but the places and the people that Kaminer describes are instantly recognisable and familiar. The apartment blocks were being renovated, but the rents were still cheap, and a monthly rent of £200 could get you a spacious and light-filled flat in increasingly trendy Prenzlauer Berg. The first signs of gentrification were already visible, but the budget airlines had yet to discover Berlin, and tourists and stag parties were mercifully rare. It was a thrilling time. The Federal Government was in the process of moving to the newly restored capital, and building work was going on everywhere, but there were still nightclubs and artists’ communes in the cellars and crumbling ruins of bombed-out, pre-war department stores and factories.

This book is special to me because Wladimir Kaminer so succinctly captures the mood of the city during the time I lived there. The book seeps with the sense of opportunity and freedom that was so prevalent in Berlin back then. With the peaceful end of the Cold War, Berlin was a place of seemingly infinite possibilities, where people from all over the world came to enjoy the freedom to conduct their own experiments in living. It was an optimistic time. New business were created, new books and plays were written, new music was composed, new art was created and new friendships and connections were made. The barriers between states, political systems and people felt like they belonged in the past; the walls had truly fallen.

Oh, and the Russian Disco of the book's title? It refers to a weekly event that used to take place in Kaffee Burger on Torstraße, organised by Wladimir Kaminer and his friend Yuriy Gurzhy. I'm very happy to confirm that it was an excellent night out.

Richard McCarthy

Purton Annual Flower, Arts, Craft & Produce Show

For those of you who like to plan ahead – Next year's show is Saturday 22nd August 2020. A long way off I know, but put the date in your new diaries when you get them, or for the tech savvy on your phone!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 25th February 2020 when the Schedule will be set. Please contact us with any suggestions for next year's Show or the Group Challenge. More hands for the show, would be a great help, even if you can only offer a couple of hours.

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

Cricklade Revealed

As the Cricklade Revealed books draw nearer to an end – there is only one more to publish, hopefully next year - people frequently tell me they want to catch up on missing parts, so I hope the following brief colour guide might be useful in identifying them.

Pre WW2: Part 1 (Orange cover), Part 2 (Sky blue cover), Part 3 (Green cover).

WW2: Part 4 (Grey / red label), Part 5 (Grey / blue label), Part 6 (Grey / green label), Part Seven (Lilac cover).

Post-war: Part Eight (Gold cover), Part Nine (Navy cover) Part Ten (Red cover).

CR Extra Index Books: CRE 1: (Black cover), CRE 2: (Dark grey cover), CRE 3: (Red cover), CRE 4: (Purple cover).

Please contact me, Marion Parsons, on 01793 750542, or email mfp Parsons071@btinternet.com if you wish to buy any missing parts. All books are £3.60 each, and profits from their sales are donated to Cricklade Open Door. Thank you.

Purton Village Diary - November 2019

Fr 1	2.00pm	Friendship group at Silver Threads Hall
	TBC	Age Concern quiz with fish and chip supper
Sa 2	5.30pm	Purton & Lydiard Scout Group Firework Display at Lydiard Park
	7.30pm	An evening with John Hegley at Brinkworth Village Hall
Su 3	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
	6.00pm	All Soul's Service at St Mary's Church
Tu 5	2.00pm	Jenny talks about Bonfire Night at Silver Threads Hall
W 6	7.30pm	Purton Tennis Club AGM at the Red House
Th 7	10.30am	Communion at The Vicarage
Sa 9	10.00am	Angel making workshop at Pips
	10.00am	Coffee morning and table top sale at Silver Threads Hall
	9.00pm	Rough Diamond play live at the Red House
Su 10	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Remembrance Sunday Communion at St Mary's Church
	2.30pm	Remembrance Service at village War Memorial
	4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Primary School
Tu 12	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at the Red House Lounge for a talk about the Royal International Air Tattoo
	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
	8.00pm	After 8 Planning meeting- followed by quiz at Barbara G's
Th 14	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
F 15	7.30pm	An evening with Purton Village Voices at the Silver Threads Hall
Su 17	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
M 18	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk entitled 'The American Dust Bowl' from David Sweet
Tu 19	2.00pm	Exercise with Mandy at Silver Threads Hall
W 20	2.30pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
Sa 23	12 noon	St Mary's Church Christmas Market at Purton Village Hall
	9.00pm	Connection play live at the Red House
Su 24	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church

	3.00pm	Purton Village Voices with Wiltshire Saxophone Choir perform at St Mary's Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm School
Tu 26	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at the Red House Lounge for a talk about the Gloucestershire Railways
W 27	10.00am	Dementia Friends Training at Pips Community Cafe
	7.30pm	Whist drive in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance at Silver Threads Hall
Th 28	6.00pm	Defibrillator awareness session at The Royal George, Pavenhill
	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at the Village Hall for a talk on 'Wiltshire through the eyes of a moonraker'
F 29	7.00pm	All Saint's Lydiard Millicent Church roof appeal fundraising Beetle Drive at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall
Sa 30	10.00am	Millennium Garden autumn tidy-up
	TBC	Silver Threads Christmas Party

Every week

M	7.00pm	to 8.00pm Purton Village Voices choir practice at the Red House Skittle Alley (term time)
Tu	9.00am	to 11am: Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
	1.45pm	to 3.45pm Post Office van stops at Purton Village Hall car park
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	to 12 noon: Coffee and chat at Silver Threads Hall
	2.00pm	to 5.00pm: Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)
	6.15pm	Purton Youth Club for school years 4-7 at Purton Village Hall
Th	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
	2.00pm	to 3pm: Age Concern Tai 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	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church
2nd & 4th Tuesday		Purton Probus meet in the Red House lounge
2nd & 4th Tuesday		Purton Silver Threads meet at the Silver Threads Hall
3rd Monday		St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church
3rd Tuesday		Royal British Legion meet at the Red House
3rd Wednesday	2.15pm	Rhyme Time at Purton Library for babies, toddlers and their carers

December

Su 1	7.00pm	St Mary's Church Renewal information evening with refreshments, at St Mary's Church
	7.30pm	Chedworth Silver Band play at Village Hall
W 4		Age Concern Christmas Shopping trip
F 6	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society Christmas Social at Silver Threads Hall
Sa 7	10.00am	Christmas Coffee Morning at 35 High Street for Purton Surgery automatic doors Age Concern Christmas Party at the Village Hall
W 11	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church

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

Moon Phases

☾ 3rd Quarter: 21 Oct ● New moon: 28 Oct ☽ 1st Quarter: 4 Nov
☽ Full moon: 12 Nov ☾ 3rd Quarter: 19 Nov

Forthcoming events for the All Saints Church Lydiard Millicent Roof Appeal

Beetle Drive in Aid of All Saints Sponsor a Tile

A fund-raising Beetle Drive will be held on Friday 29th November. This event is being run to help raise the money needed to repair the Chancel roof at All Saints Church.

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 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

Purton Tennis Club

At Purton we are fortunate to have, four all - weather outdoor courts (two with flood lights) and with the change of season, we are now playing Winter League Tennis. The format for winter is slightly different to the summer – two sets of mixed doubles, followed by two sets of Men's and ladies'. It is early days, but we hope to have some competitive games and some good results!

At the moment, the committee is actively seeking to appoint a new coach. We hope to have some good news very soon. (Watch this space!)

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Race Night at the Red House Club on the 5th October. We had a very successful evening, thanks mainly to the kind people who donated prizes, and to the people who bought 'horses'.

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 6th November in the Red House Function Room at 7.30pm. It would be great to see as many as possible at the meeting – and it is also a chance to 'have your say' so please come along.

*Janet Saunders, Secretary (01793 772146), email: janetsaunders@gmail.com
www.purtontennisclub.com*

Guide Dogs for the Blind Purton Support Group

It is with deep sadness that I have to open this months report to say that Sue Matthews, one of our committee members, has passed away. Sue, Doreen Freegard and Jenny Barnes were part of the original group of volunteers who came forward to help Diana form 'Purton Guide Dogs'. This was to raise funds, so that other blind people could have the same benefits she found after getting her guide dog Quella. This was back in October 1982; that's 37 years service. She will be missed. It's just three of us left now.

This month I will be doing a stall with Swindon Branch at Christ Church in Old Town, and at the 'Table Top Sale' in the Silver Threads Hall. Many thanks for your continued support.

Brian Davies. On behalf of Purton Support Group

Parkinson's UK Cricklade Café goes from strength to strength.

On Wednesday 16th October we had twenty four visitors drop by for chat, coffee and cake. Our catchment area is surprising, stretching as far as Shrivenham, Ogbourne St George and Ampney St Peter. More locally, Cricklade, Purton, Royal Wootton Bassett, Minety and Swindon.

Our Cricklade Café meets on the third Wednesday of each month, 10.30-11.30 at The Club, High Street, Cricklade.

We wanted to say thank you to all of your local magazines, newsletters and Parish Councils for your valued support to those who live with PD and their carers.

St Mary's Church Renewal

You may be wondering if there are other local churches that have carried out renewal projects recently - somewhere you could visit to see examples of the type of changes planned for St Mary's Church in Purton. Well, there certainly are! Probably the best example is St Michael's Church in Highworth where, last year, the pews were replaced with wooden chairs and new lighting installed to greatly enhance the interior. New toilets and a new kitchen/servery were also built.



Another example is St Mary's in Marlborough where most of the renewal work was done 20-40 years ago, including the change from pews to wooden chairs. This church renewal provides a good illustration of a two-step dais at the front of the Nave and the addition of glazing to a Victorian screen – both features designed to improve visibility. The dais incorporates a ramp to allow wheelchair access.

Not far from Marlborough is St John's in Pewsey. This church changed to wooden chairs about 20 years ago and has a one-step dais in the Nave. A number of arches have been closed with glass screens to create a separate room along the north aisle.

Other examples, further afield, include:

- St Mary's, Stoke Bishop, Bristol. Dais, chairs, kitchenette and excellent lighting
- St Mary's, Wallingford. Renewed 10 years ago. Good example of small kitchenette/servery. Also a dais with ramp and excellent lighting.
- St Pauls, Slough. Renewal in progress, expected completion November 2019. Good example of large glass screens.
- Greyfriars, Reading. Re-ordered in 2000. Dais, ramp, lighting, chairs.

All of the examples given here are different (including the particular chair designs chosen!). But they all illustrate ways in which churches have approached the need to make their church buildings more accessible and more able to serve their local communities now and in years to come. Here are the addresses of the churches mentioned which may help if you are planning a visit:

St Michael's, Vicarage Lane, Highworth SN6 7AD

St Mary's, Kingsbury Street, Marlborough, SN8 1JQ

St John's, Church Street, Pewsey SN9 5DW

St Mary's Stoke Bishop, Mariners Drive, Bristol, BS9 1QJ

St Mary's, Castle Street, Wallingford, OX10 8DW

St Paul's, Stoke Road, Slough SL2 5AS

Greyfriars, Friar Street, Reading RG1 1EH

St Mary's Church Renewal – Information and refreshments

On Sunday 1st December 7pm-8.30pm, there will be an opportunity to find out more about the Church Renewal project with an update on progress and future programme.

This coincides with the second day of the Angel Festival at Church, so why not combine both events in your visit. Refreshments will be served.

Angel Festival In Purton

We are sure that you know by now there is going to be an Angel Festival in St Mary's on Advent Sunday, December 1st.

We do hope that people in Purton of all ages will make an angel and bring it to St Mary's for the festival.

So far we have been offered some drawings by children, some stone angel ornaments and a beautiful fabric angel sewn as a gift.

To follow on from the Fabric Angel Workshop on Oct 26, there will be a glass Angel making workshop at PIPS Café from 10am to 1.30 on Saturday, November 9th. This is recommended for adults as there will be soldering and sanding involved. The cost will be £15 for the materials and bring money for your lunch and drinks. Places are limited, so contact Mary Nettleton or Libbie Sheppard for further details and to book a place. marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk libbie@sheppard.org Tel: 71018

Angel Festival Quiz

As part of the Angel Festival in St Mary's on Advent Sunday (December 1st) there will be an Angel Quiz available during November. Please do have a go. It is fun and challenging and will make you look at St Mary's Church in a new way!

Quiz sheets will be available around the village. All funds raised will go towards the St Mary's Renewal Fund.

More details from Libbie (771018) or Jane (janersmith1@gmail.com).

Changes in Christian Aid globally, and how it affects volunteers in Purton.

On October 29th there's a meeting in the Methodist Church at Play Close, Purton at 7.30pm. Anyone and everyone who is involved with Christian Aid events, activities and volunteering is warmly invited to come and join us.

We hope to be brought up to date with fundamental changes within the Christian Aid charity and how it works globally.

There is to be a new strategy called 'Standing Together', which will introduce changing priorities caused by climate change, changes in political and social intolerance and a more competitive fundraising environment. Christian Aid is pledged to work with the very poorest. Please come and join us and find out more.

Libbie: 771018, Mary: 770505



Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



Brownies are continuing to enjoy the new range of interest badges they can work towards at home. Aubrianna, Eva and Summer from 2nd Purton have completed Baking, Collecting and Archaeology, whilst Izzy from 1st Purton has completed Local History.

2nd Purton Brownies completed an activity called 'The Museum of Imagination' which certainly lived up to its name. Each Brownie was given a random item and had to create a story of why that item should be included in a museum. Their imaginations came up with some great stories. They have also made 'Bottle Mansions' for hibernating minibeasts from recycled plastic bottles, newspapers and straws.

1st Purton Brownies thought about recycling too, getting involved with a nationwide Girlguiding planet protectors challenge. They brought in a couple of weeks' worth of waste plastic and were staggered by the amount amassed. After discussing plastic alternatives, they then got creative, using it to represent some of the creatures they want to protect and they also made plastic promises to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Innovate is the Skills Builder topic chosen by 1st Purton Brownies for this term and challenges so far have included creating works of art, miming using props, exploring the importance of solid foundations for building (using fruit and vegetables) and experimenting with different types of ball to find the best for various uses.

Guides, who welcomed 10 new members this term, are completing the Guiding Girls into Engineering badge developed by engineering firm Amey. This focuses on STEM topics (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) so they kicked off with a visit to the Cricklade and Swindon Railway. A team of volunteers generously opened the railway so the Guides could hear stories of engineering from the past, look around the amazing collections in the museum sheds and some also tried their hand at changing the points. A big thank you goes to Swindon and Cricklade Railway and their volunteers for making this visit possible.

The following week, the Guides were challenged to design a railway. Using a map, they had to plan a route for a railway line to a school. The Guides used knowledge gained from the railway visit the previous week to plan their routes, considering the challenges of both man-made and natural environments, and using tunnels and bridges where necessary. They had to calculate budgets for their routes which proved very interesting. As well as having some thrifty railway engineers, who came in with a budget of £185,000, they also found they had some high-end engineers, whose cost would have been £420,000! Which would the railway companies have gone with we wonder...

If you're interested in volunteering with Girlguiding, please have a chat with one of our existing volunteers, or contact district commissioner Janet Abbott by phone on 07454 384763 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest in joining at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/>.

Purton Rangers trip to Gibraltar

My name is Rianna. In March 2018, I took part in a selection weekend for an international trip to Gibraltar. I was lucky to be selected, along with Rhea from 1st Purton Rangers, and 10 other Rangers from North Wiltshire.

The road trip to Gibraltar 2019 began on the 29th July 2019 at 6.00am from Swindon bus station. We arrived at London Victoria at 9.15am and then we got a tube to St Pancras to catch a Eurostar train to Paris, Gare du Nord. We walked with our backpacks to our hostel. We then walked to around Paris and took a selfie by the Eiffel Tower and ate out in a restaurant.

The next morning we left Paris by train for the long journey to Barcelona. We were delayed because there was a problem with the track. We arrived in Barcelona at Amistat beach hostel where we were staying for two nights. We went and had our tea at the Hard Rock Café and I bought myself a t-shirt from their shop.

The next morning we set off from the hostel and we went on a hop-on, hop-off bus tour and looked at the sights in Barcelona it was very hot. We visited the football stadium and looked at some of the shops.

On Thursday morning we got on our final train to Algeciras then we crossed the border to Gibraltar by taxi, and finally a minibus to our hostel. The next morning we went on the rock to see the monkeys. One monkey jumped on to my bag because it wasn't zipped up properly. I ran and screamed! After that we went into the cave which was much cooler. We had to walk down the rock to get back into town, it took a while. And then there was time for some souvenir shopping. Ronnie's (our leader) Mum invited us for pizza.

The next day we went to the beach to go paddle boarding. I fell in to the sea multiple times and then sunbathed on the sand. After that we watched an international hockey match by the airport.

The final day, we got on a boat to go dolphin watching. The sea was very choppy. And we were lucky enough to see dolphins. Later on we visited the cinema to watch the Lion King. After that we went back to the hostel and packed our bags ready to come home.

We flew home to Gatwick airport, then got a minibus from Gatwick to Swindon. I had a great time and have met new Rangers from other units. I would recommend this to other Guides. I just like to thank everyone who donated money towards my trip fund.

Rianna Wardle, age 15

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Church Path, Church Street, Hyde Lane, The Hyde, Parkside, Church End, Manor Hill, (and from Moulden View) Criollo Place and Oldenburg Close*

Purton Historical Society



Lt. Commander Geoffrey Carr RN(Retd) gave a fascinating talk to a full hall on the sinking of the Titanic and a tragic Wiltshire family.

The ship left Southampton on 10th April, 1912 on her maiden voyage with 2,224 passengers and crew, from the richest banker, to the poorest immigrant hoping for a new life in America. Our local family of Frederick Goodwin, his wife and six children from Melksham had borrowed the money for their tickets from his brother, already working in America. Well on its way, the ship struck an iceberg, at night and soon broke in half and sank. They had received a warning morse message, but could see nothing so went on.

Of the 2224 passengers and crew only 705 persons survived the freezing water — mostly first class passengers, women and crew, as the rule at the time was "women & children first". There were no survivors from second and third class, as they were below & furthest from the boats. Most did not speak English, so did not know the drill. Although there were not enough lifeboats even those were not full.

Captain Edward Smith went down with his ship as did the Naval Architect who had helped design her, from Harland & Wolff in Belfast where she was built with a revolutionary double hull and waterproof bulwarks. The nearest boat was SS Carpathia, 50 miles away which took three & half hours to reach the disaster. Many new safety rules and improvements in shipbuilding followed, but too late for the Goodwin family, who all perished. The remains of baby Sidney Goodwin are buried in the churchyard in Halifax, Nova Scotia. A beautifully presented but sad talk was followed by a vote of thanks and refreshments.

Jill Watts

Purton Historical Society

Future Meetings

Thursday 28th November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Purton Village Hall, Michael Gamble – Wiltshire through the eyes of a Moonraker. Michael's summary of this presentation follows:

"Wiltshire through the Eyes of a Moonraker" is an hour-long film looking at various aspects of life in Wiltshire. The Moonraker is me – having been born many moons ago in Bradford on Avon, and most of the photographs are mine taken over many years of living in the county. The film is set to music and is broken down into various segments including buildings, gardens, people, wildlife, ancient Wiltshire, the military, towns, villages, the quirky side and through the seasons.

Friday 6th December 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall
Christmas Social Evening

The Historical Society's Christmas Social is always a very friendly festive evening.

This year, back by popular request, we have booked The Whitehorse Folk Group to provide our entertainment. In addition there will be a buffet supper, a quiz, a raffle and a lucky ticket number. We supply the food and the glasses - you are welcome to bring your own choice of drinks. Ticket price remains the same as last year at £12.50 and these are available at monthly meetings, in the museum and from the following people:

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

Jim Mosley: Tel: 01793 778395 Email: j.mosley1@btinternet.com

Thursday 23rd January 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Purton Village Hall - Sarah Finch Crisp – St Mary’s Church Lydiard, Conservation Project

Thursday 27th February 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Purton Village Hall - Nick Baxter – St Dunstan and the miracle of Calne

New Members and visitors always welcome

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

Museum Update - some current displays and activities

- World War I “One man’s war” Joe Ricketts artefacts
- World War II Commemorating 3rd September, 1939 the start of the war
- “Signs of Times Past” the history of Purton street names
- Photograph albums representing half a century of Purton events
- “A quiz for curious minds”
- Find the mice

Museum open: Wednesday 2.00pm to 5.00pm and Saturday 10.00am to 12.30pm

Museum closes for the winter months on 23rd November, 2019. Watch this space for details of the 2020 very special exhibition.

Visit: www.purtonmuseumandhistorysociety.com

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

What’s On With The Cricklade Band

The band continues to fund all it does in a not-for-profit sort of way – so, to help pay our way, please visit us at the Autumn Table-Top Sale on Saturday 2nd November, it’s going to be at Cricklade Town Hall, the main hall, with plenty of space, from 11am to 1pm – a really friendly event and not just terrific tea and cake but bacon rolls too – breakfast or brunch... you choose!!

If you’re a Table-Top seller, get in quick and give Val a call on 01793 750516 to book your table at just £6. Setting up is from 10am. If you’re a Table-Top browser, who knows what you might find? Although the band itself will definitely have our now famous home-made cake array, tea, coffee, brunch rolls, games of chance and, of course, a raffle.

Another date for the diary too... we have our Christmas Present at Cricklade Town Hall on Sunday 22 December at 7.30pm – watch out for the posters and make sure of your tickets!

Bradon Forest School

Doing it for Dan 2019

Bradon Forest students supported Bridlewood Primary School with their annual Doing it for Dan race yesterday. The entire school race in memory of Dan Climance, a Year 6 Bridlewood pupil who was tragically killed in Purton in 2015. Bradon Forest students, many ex-pupils from Bridlewood, ran with the primary pupils encouraging and inspiring them to do their best.



Shakespeare Workshop at the Wyvern

Bradon Forest Drama teachers, Miss Noone and Miss Reynolds, took the 30 strong cast of Year 7 to 11 Bradon Forest students to the Wyvern Theatre for their first Shakespeare workshop in preparation for their production of Romeo and Juliet on the 5th of November. The group worked with actors from the National Theatre and the Shakespeare Schools Festival in readiness for the event.

Harvest Festival, 2019

Mrs Davies, Head of Key Stage 3, reports: "The 2019 Harvest Festival was the best collection yet! A massive thank you to everyone who donated. The Swindon Food Collective were very appreciative and said it was one of the biggest donations they



had collected.” Congratulations to Battlewell House who donated the most goods!

U14 Netball team through to County Finals!

Our U14 team came runners up in the Swindon School's Tournament so are through to represent Swindon in the County Finals at Marlborough College in November.

Our student reporter said, ‘We came second in our pool matches only losing one game against Nova Hreod which was a close game. We played Highworth who were the favourites and narrowly beat them 6-7 in the semis. We then qualified for the finals and played Dorcan but unfortunately lost. We will now play in the County Finals at Marlborough College in November’.

Mrs Evans, Head of PE, said: ‘The girls played great netball, especially against Highworth in the semis. A great team effort, especially Lucie Miles, Player of the Tournament.’

Mrs Evans, Head of PE, said: ‘The girls played great netball, especially against Highworth in the semis. A great team effort, especially Lucie Miles, Player of the Tournament.’

U16 Swindon School Netball Champions!

Mrs Evans reports: ‘I am pleased to announce that our U16 girls won on the Swindon Schools Netball Tournament on Tuesday 8 November, very convincingly, beating Warneford, Royal Wootton Bassett Academy, Kingsdown, Lydiard Park Academy and Commonweal! They scored 90 goals and only conceded 12! County Finals now await the team along with the U14s on November 17th. Well played girls!’



The other side of the gate

Weather again seems to dominate my every thought. The rain is hammering on the window, my thoughts are drifting to the cows still in the fields and I'm dreading the morning milking when they come in caked in mud. Washing cows is one of the most soul destroying jobs I do. It's times like these I wish we didn't sell milk directly to the consumer; it's much easier selling the milk to a dairy company as a bit of mud in the milk doesn't matter to them!

The team I had booked in to lay concrete for the winter housing are a month behind due to the incessant rain, so I've been looking to find someone else to come in and do it. It's annoying as they should already be up by now. Having underestimated how much hardcore I was going to need, and then trying to get it delivered, has delayed the job even more. I think both cows and us farmers will breathe a huge sigh of relief when they go up!

Another subject that has hit the headlines in the last few days is farmer suicide rates. The scale of UK farmer suicide was brought in to visual reality with a poignant photograph displaying 52 pairs of empty wellington boots, each representing a farmer who has taken their own life in the last 12 months. That's one life a week.

One of the fields at Restrop was getting tired so we decided to reseed it. A contractor came in to spray the grass off and then we started to make a tilth. This involves disturbing a few inches of topsoil. We used an old rotavator to do this. It was quite small on the back of my big tractor, but did a good job up to the point it broke. Maintenance on a farm should not be an after thought... Oil, it seems, is a vital component when bearings and chains are turning! Perhaps if I'd have checked, it may not have



52 PAIRS OF WELLIES SWAY EERILY IN THE BREEZE



died! I managed to borrow another one to finish the field. Since then, nothing has happened. The weather has thwarted every effort to get the seed in. If it gets too late then we risk the young grass getting killed off with frost. I have no idea what is going to happen.

Weather is also meaning that the grass I have standing in the fields is not getting made into silage. We desperately need a few dry days to get it off. It's going to be needed later in the winter. Some of the ground I've rented from Simon and Stephen Wells is probably swimming now... The heavier clay land doesn't dry downwards like our light brash. It may already be too late! That'll be costly as I'll need to buy more in.

Autumn also brings hedge cutting. Neil Webb cuts our hedges for us. I've noticed over the last few years that our cows are suffering from the heat in summer. One of the ways to help them is shade. So this year we've not cut the tops off of some



of the hedges. We'll let them grow tall so the cows can get out of the midday sun. I always liked seeing the neatly cut hedges and it looks like half a job has been done (a lot like those strange haircuts with floppy tops!), but the cows need to come first. We will also be planting some trees at a later date to add to the sun shading.

I'm sure many will have seen Sarah in the Evening Advertiser talking about milk bottles. It's impressive how quick the change back to bottles has been. We have over a thousand bottles out with customers on rotation. I think the milk tastes better from glass, but I'm not sure how much of that is in my mind. I remember Coca-Cola always did!

Lilac has given birth to Lily. She will be a nice addition to our A2 Brown, a Swiss herd. Queenie has had a good sized British Blue boy, Jersey Girl has had a small, but very pretty Jersey bull, and Tammy a big Blue boy. Three more are due to calve in the next few weeks.

I'm going out now to get the cows in for milking. I think I'll leave the quad in the shed and get the kayak...

Jonathan Cook

Purton Cricket Club



Dad said there was nothing to put in the magazine this month, but he is being modest so I thought I would write this month's report in order to tell you about the award he received at the Wiltshire Cricket Awards recently!

Ian Bailey, current Chair at Purton Cricket Club, nominated Dad for the Lifetime Achievement Award with the following commendation:

“Joe Gardner.... Joe has been a part of Purton Cricket Club for over fifty years... In that time, he has been a player, groundsman, secretary, vice chairman and chairman and more importantly a friend to all at the club. Joe's contribution cannot be covered in words... Purton Cricket Club is celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2020 and Joe, over the last 50 years, has been a part of that history... making sure the club has survived the bad times and grown in stature in that time.

Joe is in his 80th year and is still an active member of our committee. He looks after the history records of the club (he will not mind me saying, he is a big part of that history), together with still helping out his son with the ground and wicket. Joe is Purton Cricket Club and Purton Cricket Club

owes a debt of gratitude to Joe and this is why as chairman, I have pleasure in nominating him for this award”.

This nomination was accepted and he was shortlisted together with two other nominees from Calne and Dinton. At the ceremony at the Ceres Hall, Devizes, each of the nominees received a glass trophy and a certificate but Dad was announced as the winner and was told that he had been invited to attend the national OSCAs (Outstanding Service to Cricket Awards) at Lord's Pavilion on Monday 14th October! As well as the award ceremony there will be a guided tour of Lords, pre-dinner drinks followed by a three-course meal.

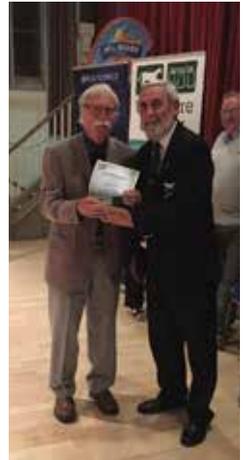
He is thrilled at this honour and is very much looking forward to the day at Lord's. In order to make the day extra special Mark, Sarah and I have arranged for a chauffeur driven car to take him and his guest. Mum, who has also played a big part in Purton Cricket Club being a staunch supporter of both Dad and Mark over the years, helping Dad with the Race Nights plus her role as tea lady for many seasons, is accompanying him.

Dad has done and still does everything he does, after 56 years, because of his love for Purton Cricket Club, but it is a bonus to get such a recognition.

From the Archives

3rd June 1968

Purton 290 – 8



Joe Gardner 144, Norman Mills 46, Mike Crouch 43
Cheltenham Harlequins 249 – 8
Pat Hussey 3 for 66

Nicola Gardner

200 years old

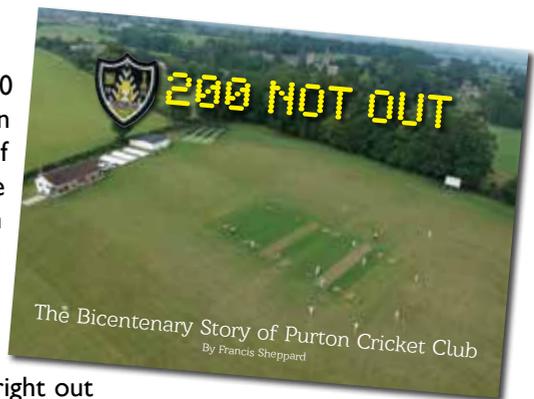
Purton Cricket Club was formed in 1820 and by all accounts was a very well known club. The Ben Stokes or Ian Botham of his time moved out of London where he regularly played at Lord's to join Purton Cricket Club in 1825. Edward Hayward Budd was always known as E H Budd and he scored the first ever 100 (105 in 1816) at the current Lord's ground. Before that he was also the first man to hit the ball right out

of the first Lord's ground at Dorset Square for an all-run nine and that without any overthrows – surely Messrs Stokes and Botham would have been proud of that feat.

Just like his latter day heroes he was also a bowler. Although his full career details are a little uncertain from all those years ago, it seems that he made 73 first class appearances scoring 2728 runs and taking 173 wickets. Unlike his latter day heroes he was also a wicket-keeper with 27 stumpings in addition to 51 catches although perhaps not all were from behind the wicket. In the 1819 Gentlemen versus Players match at Lord's he even managed 4 stumpings – maybe there were many “Players” (professional cricketers) who were pleased that “E H” moved away to North Wiltshire!

The arrival of E H Budd would have added no amount of prestige to the young Purton Cricket Club. Our records show that the club was a well-known and rather high class club in those early days. For example the 1862 list of club members was 190 strong and included 55 clergymen alongside 5 MPs, 2 Viscounts, an Earl and over 20 military Captains, Majors and Colonels. However, the after match refreshments in the 1850s cost a shilling – about £70.00 in today's money.

A book celebrating the bicentenary story of Purton Cricket Club written by Francis Sheppard is currently in production with much more information about our very own village club, the oldest in Wiltshire and probably among the first 20 cricket clubs in the country. A current MCC member at Lord's has read an early draft of the book and reported that “it flows nicely and there is a good balance of straight history and amusing illustrative tales.” Consisting of 100 pages with numerous photographs and other illustrations, it will be available for sale towards the end of November with all surpluses being donated to Ainslie's Pavilion fund, details of which are also in the book. Please contact francis@sheppard.org (771018) to reserve your copy.

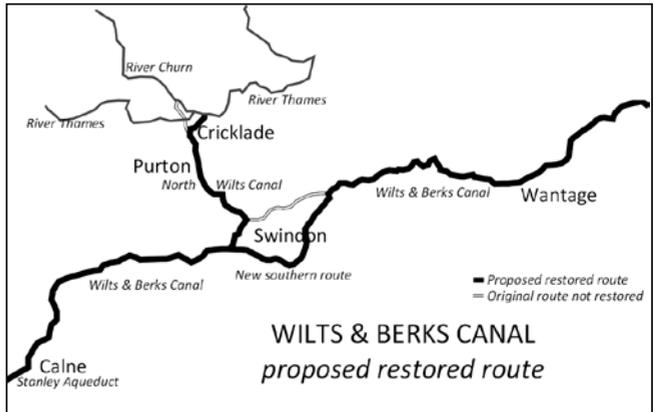


Purton in the time of Victoria

Part 5: Canals and Railways

Some river improvement schemes had started in England as early as the 16th and 17th centuries to improve transport of goods, but the main canal building era started with the early industrial revolution of the mid-17th century. The new industries relied on water, so canals and their water supplies were an obvious answer for transporting both raw materials and product. Even barges on narrow canals were far more efficient than road transport which weren't up to heavy goods transport though fine for passenger traffic.

The Wilts & Berks Canal was constructed between 1796 and 1810, connecting the Kennet and Avon Canal near Melksham, via Swindon, to the River Thames at Abingdon. Pictured below right is the section which opened in 2018 between Bincknoll Lane, Royal Wootton Bassett and Studley Grange, Hay Lane. The North Wilts Canal branch came off the Wilts & Berks in Swindon, next to where Fleming Road now is by the Central Bus Station. The branch ran up through Moulden Hill (where the country park now is) and up along The Pry and Hayes Knoll in Purton parish, through Cricklade to join the Thames and Severn Canal at Latton.



But the canals saw a new threat. In 1825 a railway was constructed between Stockton and Darlington near Newcastle-on-Tyne. It used old mine railway tracks with a steam-pulled goods service until eventually allowing a passenger service on

its lines – but only horse-pulled. No one was sure of the safety of steam power yet! 1829 was a defining point in time. The Liverpool and Manchester Railway Company (L&MR) had determined to build a connection between the two cities and had built a line. The most technologically challenging bit of the route was the crossing of Risley Moss, a boggy area east of Warrington. With much piling, cursing and causeway building they achieved a stable line. But they hadn't decided how the trains would be hauled.

A competition was declared at Rainhill east of Liverpool on 6 October 1829 and entrants were cut down to a Bake-Off list of finalists. To our minds today, one of the contenders would seem odd being a horse walking a treadmill that powered the wheels. The finalists were Cycloped (the horse, which dropped out of its frame and of the competition); Novelty (a steam locomotive, achieving 28 mph, but kept breaking down); Perseverance (a vertical boilered locomotive damaged getting to the trials); Sans Pareil (which was slightly over the competition rules weight, but nearly completed eight of the ten trips before cracking a cylinder; Stephenson's Rocket which averaged 12 mph (achieving 30 mph maximum) and hauling 13 tons. Rocket was declared the winner of the £500 prize (some £54,000 today). George and (his son) Robert Stephenson were given the contract to produce locomotives for the L&MR.

My father, Ken Dixon, was British Rail's Divisional Manager, Liverpool and project managed the 150th Anniversary re-enactment of the trials at Rainhill - 'Rocket 150' in 1980. Replicas had been built for the 3-day event including Novelty, Sans Pareil and Rocket with an attendant coach. My Mum, my sisters and I were very saddened not to have tickets to the Opening Day. When he got home that evening, he said there had been a disaster. Rocket, the main attraction, had come off the rails at its pre-event sidings and had buckled its two large drive wheels. But overnight a local road transport company built replacement parts and British Rail straightened the rails in the sidings. We visited on the second day and saw Rocket run!

More recently on a trip to Durham in July, we visited Beamish museum and saw a replica of Rocket running there! (pictured overleaf.)

Railways came to Purton in two waves. The first was the Cheltenham and Great Western Union Railway, completed from Swindon, through Purton Station, to Cheltenham in 1841. The construction bankrupted the company and they sold to the Great Western Railway (GWR) in 1842. The Midland and South Western Junction Railway Company (M&SWJR) was a late comer to the railway age. They had planned to be a major part of a north-south link from Birmingham, via Cheltenham, Cirencester, Swindon, and Marlborough to Southampton. After much planning and replanning, battles with the GWR, economic challenges and disasters, they opened the line though Purton (Blunsdon Station) and Cricklade between 1884 and 1891. After the Railway Grouping Act of 1921 (in force 1922), the M&SWJR was incorporated into the GWR.



The route to Cheltenham and Gloucester still exists, but Purton station was closed in 1964 and the line singled. It was reinstated as a double track in a £45m project completed in 2014. Much of the old M&SWJR track was ripped up on closure and has been built on: the Malmesbury Road (B4040) in Cricklade; the West Swindon housing development; and the River Ray Parkway. However, the section centred on Blunsdon Station, within the Parish of Purton, has been restored as the Swindon & Cricklade Railway and extended to Hays Knoll in the north and Taw Valley Halt at Mouldon Hill in the south. Future plans include a new station in Cricklade, east of the Purton Road and completion of a full station at Mouldon Hill. The M&SWJR is the only Standard Gauge Heritage Railway in Wiltshire.

By the late 1800s, many canals had been bought by railway companies, often alongside each, and in competition. The key factor was the “mile-ton” or in modern economics the “price per mile per ton”. The narrow-gauged canals, with a boat capacity of 30 tons had no chance against a railway which carried many dozens of 7-ton wagon loads. Such canals failed quickly.

Against this competition, the Wilts & Berks was doomed to failure, but its sentence was declared when the Stanley Viaduct over the River Marden collapsed in 1901. The repair bill was unaffordable and the canal closed, together with the North Wilts Branch through Purton. If you’ve ever driven along The Pry and Hayes Knoll Lane, or along Hay Lane and Wharf Road from the M4 to Wroughton and wondered why there are long thin fields beside the road, they are probably remnants of the old canal now grassed over. In the centre of Swindon is Canal Walk built on top of the old cut. The bridge across from the Railway Village is remembered in ‘Bridge Street’. Perhaps appropriately, there was a pub on one corner called ‘The Golden Lion’ (now Vodafone) and diagonally opposite over the canal was a urinal. There is now

a sculpture called 'The Fountain' on that junction. A sculpture of The Golden Lion was installed in Canal Walk in 1978 to celebrate the 1977 Silver Jubilee. It was later moved to Bridge Street, near its junction with Canal Walk, Regent Street and The Parade, close to where the pub stood.

The end of the canal in 1914 isn't necessarily the end of the canal idea. In 1977, The Wilts & Berks Canal Amenity Group was formed to re-establish the canal. It later changed its name to The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust with HRH The Duchess of Cornwall becoming Patron of the Trust in 2006. Several sections of the canal have been restored with many more to come, including diversion sections around parts over-built in the intervening century. The Trust was awarded The Queens Award for Voluntary Service, in recognition of its outstanding voluntary work in the community. A canal-side pub, "The Peterborough Arms" adjacent to Dauntsey Lock, was bought by the Trust from Wadsworth Brewery in 2014, and in 2015 the Studley Grange restoration project was started.

As well as under-cutting canal transport costs, the railways also put the turnpike toll system under great financial pressure. Their reduced revenues meant they couldn't afford the maintenance that was required and the roads became worse. The Local Government Act of 1888, created elected County Councils and Metropolitan Boroughs, of which I will say more in a later part. However, the Act abolished the toll roads and placed them under the care of the new Councils. Many of the former pike houses were later demolished, while others were sold off and converted into private dwellings.

The first postal service was created in the time of Oliver Cromwell who granted a monopoly to the General Post Office (GPO) in 1654. This provided a service for the collection and transport of letters between post towns. There was no delivery system except for the London Penny Post created in 1680, within the City of London, Westminster and Southwark. The delivery system was expanded in 1765 when delivery was allowed within any town in the country that wanted to set one up.

In 1835, Rowland Hill had convinced Parliament that reform of the postal service was urgent. Although a Uniform Fourpenny Post had been introduced in 1839, it only lasted 36 days before the new Uniform Penny Post replaced it, operating a collection and delivery service throughout the UK, which included Ireland. The Penny Black postage stamp was born and the red post boxes we know and love today were introduced in High Streets and convenient 'holes in the wall'. The monarch's monogram was included in the design to show the service's significance. Purton's Victorian post box (pictured in its wall setting) was replaced by one with the EIR monogram in the 1980s and can be seen in Purton Museum.

Next month: Reform, Coronation & Empire

Rick Dixon

Hello from The Cedars Care Home



Season of mists

First thing to say is a well done to residents, activity leaders and Cedar's head chef, who all helped us return from our OSJCT autumn craft fair with several rosettes. We were winners in the crafts, runners up in the needlework and highly commended in the baking and mosaic lettering. It really was a great team effort.

And Mellow fruitfulness

September was a full month of trips, music and craft activities. Our Cotswold Wildlife Park trip was thoroughly enjoyed by those able to go. And I've already mentioned our success at the autumn craft fair. We also enjoyed a harvest singing session combined with Kim's game of autumnal pieces, which was challenging and brought back harvest and autumn memories for us all.

Unfortunately, some plans had to change; our French theme day was postponed. However, our October plans for a chocolate day, garden centre trip, Halloween crafts and autumn baking should be going ahead even though the weather may blight some of the trips. I'll let you know next month.

Close bosom friend of the maturing sun

Some of us look forward to warm apple pies, open fires and woolly jumpers. Others lament the approaching clock change and darker evenings. For our residents, we try hard to make each season special and bring back as many happy memories as we can. Hence a bit of poetry to take us into winter. Our residents love a bit of Pam Ayers and Joyce Grenfell; hopefully some of you reading this will remember Joyce! I am in awe of one of our residents who can still recite poems she learnt at school! Poetry therapy has been found to be effective in helping with dementia, so we are keen to explore this as an activity with residents. We plan to get residents and carers sharing their favourite poems and, hopefully, even writing a few of their own. Do email us your favourite poems if you think they would be enjoyed by our residents.

I'll sign off this month and leave you to turn up the heating, make a hot toddy and Google the rest of John Keats poem; To Autumn. And maybe next month we will have some original poems from The Cedars to share.

By the way...

We hope to have a table sale at our craft fayre on Friday, 11 November. If you want to know more please contact Chris Deriu; details below. Or pop in to speak to the Activities team between 10-4pm Monday to Friday.

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.

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.



Macmillan Cancer Support

It was a full house in Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall on Friday 27th September enjoying the Macmillan Coffee Morning. We very much appreciate the support of so many who helped make the morning a success, from Coffee drinkers, cake bakers, helpers on the day and those who made donations. Together you raised £638.26 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Vilma Munro



Laminated notices

A local shopkeeper has requested that notices being displayed inside a shop window are not laminated. These cannot be recycled and have to go to landfill.

It got me thinking, how many notices are printed in this village and end up in landfill? Unless your poster or notice is being displayed on one of our outdoor village notice boards, please let's just use good old-fashioned paper so we can recycle them afterwards!

Bernice Seviour



A lucky escape!

I wanted to thank everyone who sent me their best wishes, flowers, cards and offers of help after my bovine encounter

on the afternoon of Thursday 17 October.

I'd especially like to thank: Mrs Evans and the PE team, and student, Ethan from Bradon Forest School for coming to my rescue when I was trampled by the cows in the field behind the school, and calling 999; Jon Cook and Sarah Brooks for responding to my call so quickly and alerting Tim Handy who also arrived within minutes; The Critical Care Rapid Response team from Helimed 22 (who came by car as the helicopter is currently grounded for repair), and paramedics from South West Ambulance Service NHS Trust; finally all the doctors, nurses and radiographers at Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. After a few hours in A&E, my scans and x-rays were all ok, I'm just feeling very fragile with lots of bruises and a black eye. But without the quick thinking of those who came to help, it could have been much worse. I am truly grateful for everything you all did.

I'd also like to apologise to the readers of Purton Magazine, my glasses were smashed in the incident and I've been struggling to work on my computer to finish this issue of the magazine. Normal service will be resumed next month!

Heather Ponting-Bather

Purton Placard

St Mary's Church

Christmas Market

Sat 23 November

in the

Village Hall

12.00am – 2.30pm

Lunches served – Hot meat baps

- Locally grown and homemade produce
- Activities for children
- St Mary's School Choir will be singing
- Mince pies, teas and coffees

Not to be missed – come and join us...



PURTON METHODIST
CHURCH
present

Chedworth Silver Band

Sunday 1st December, 7.30 pm.
at the Village Hall

Tickets £6, include light
refreshments and are available
from Sylvia Freemantle 770686



PURTON AGE CONCERN

**Quiz Night with
Fish & Chip Supper**

Friday, 1st November

Silver Threads Party

Saturday 30th November

Christmas Shopping Trip

Wednesday, 4th December

Village Hall Party

Saturday, 7th December



and



Invite you to an afternoon
of Musical entertainment

Come along and enjoy music from both the
Wiltshire Saxophone Choir and Purton Village
Voices.

Free Entry—donations for refreshments

Where: St Mary's Church
Purton, Wiltshire

Time: 3pm

Date: Sunday 24th November 2019

No tickets required.



Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th December

at 35 High Street,
10.00am - 12 noon

Christmas Table Sale,
Tombola, Raffle, Cake Stall

Entrance £1 for Tea/Coffee and
Mince Pies

Proceeds towards Automatic
Doors at Purton Surgery

JUBILEE GARDENS PROJECT
at PURTON STOKE

Christmas Open Day

Saturday 7th December, 10am - 2pm

Pickled Shallots & Onions, Pickled
Eggs, Pickled Cabbage, Chutney,
Cakes, Bulbs, Cyclamen, Christmas
Wreaths, Refreshments, Raffle &
Tombola

Free Admission

Whist Drive

Wednesday 27th November,
7.30pm at the Silver Threads Hall
Entry £2.50
In aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT
CHORAL SOCIETY

Christmas Concert

Monday 9th December, at the
Methodist Church, High Street,
Royal Wootton Bassett. Starts at 7:30pm

Selection of carols,
choral music, readings
and audience
participation!

Free Admission &
Refreshments

2nd NOVEMBER
NEW & SELECTED POTATOES

John Hegley

An evening with the
comedian, performance poet,
musician and songwriter.

'Marvellous, joyful fun'
The Telegraph

'An incurable entertainer'
The Guardian

BRINKWORTH VILLAGE HALL



Bar 7.30pm Show 8pm.

01666 510545 or 01666

510045 Tickets £12, £10 conc

& £5 Child (Age 9 +)

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



Time and Islands on the Edge

At the Probus meeting on 10th September, Peter Petrie, a Historian from Cheltenham gave a talk entitled; - The Organisation of Time.

In 1986, anthropologists discovered the Amondawa tribe, deep in the Brazilian Jungle, which has no concept of time. There are no words in the language for hour, week, month or year. Age is described in groups; - child, youth, adult etc. and people take different names through the stages of their lives. We, on the other hand, use time technology to rule our lives with timetables, clocks, watches, phones and the internet. Two to Three hours at A&E we find nauseating, but the same period taking coffee with friends passes all too quickly.

Over the years, periods of time have been fixed by reference to cycles observed within the solar system. The Earth spins on its axis once in a period of a day and a night. One circuit of the Moon, from new moon to new moon, is approximately a period of one month. The length of the year has been established by counting the days from season to season, i.e. one revolution of the Earth around the Sun. Fragments of an Egyptian Calendar, 6000 years old, indicates feast days during a year of $365\frac{1}{4}$ days. This may have been achieved by counting the days between the annular and regular flooding of the Nile on the 15th August each year. Egyptian civilisation was totally dependent on this. The length of week is accepted as coming from the Old Testament; six days of Creation plus a day of rest. The hour is known to have existed in the Babylon civilisation. The division of the day into 12 equal parts may have been adopted by reference to the number of joints in the fingers of two hands, but mathematicians would prefer this number because it can be divided by 1,2,3,4 and 6. Roman culture gave us names for minutes (*Pars minuta prima*) and Seconds (*Pars minuta secunda*), but there is evidence of divisions of the hour much earlier.

The revision of our present-day calendar, in order to synchronize accurately with one revolution of the earth around the sun, was only achieved in 1582, and even this is not 100 percent accurate. In early Roman times, Julius Caesar realised that the Egyptian calendar, then in use, was not in tune with the seasons and, with the help of Sosigenes of Alexandria, he issued the Julian calendar in 45BC. This included an extra day in February every fourth year, but this was way too often, because soon the calendar date 22nd March had moved ahead of the spring equinox (equal hours of light and dark). Consequently leap days were added every three years, instead of four, with other correction at random times.

In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII issued, by papal edict, the Gregorian Calendar. Based on a proposal by Aloysius Lilius, an Astronomer and Chronologist, It is a variation to the Julian leap year in that, in addition to an extra day in March in years divisible by 4, it also specifies that any year also divisible by 100, is not a leap year. However years divisible by 400 should include a leap day. In 1752 the Nottingham Goose Fair was moved

back from St. Matthew's day, 21st September, to the first week in October, because of a revision in the British calendar. That year, eleven days (3rd - 13th September), were omitted from the calendar, so that Britain could finally adopt the Gregorian Calendar to align with the rest of Europe. The Goose Fair is now held annually on 2nd of October. Early in the 18th century clock mechanisms, which had previously been controlled by pendulums, moved into a new era with the invention of the balance wheel. Today we have the caesium (atomic) clock, the accuracy of which, scientists tell us, will not vary more than 1 second in 30 billion years. This is governed by the caesium-beam frequency standard and accuracy is essential for the mathematics of movement in space and the positioning of satellites. These atomic clocks deliver synchronised timing for many devices: computers, smart phones, the Global Positioning System, the Apple watch and the internet. Peter's talk made us well aware that computer software programmes can now keep us ticking well into the future, and we need never be late.

The meeting on the 24th, was addressed by Bob Rogers, from the Trowbridge Probus Club. His talk "Islands on the Edge" took us for a picture-book tour of the Outer Hebrides.

From Ullapool on the Scottish mainland, the ferry takes about 1¼ hours to arrive at Stornoway, historically an important fishing town. Today the heyday past is remembered by bronze statues of the fishing girls on the quay. The girls worked in teams of three, 2 gutters and a coiler. A gutter could gut 60 herrings in a minute; the coiler packed the fish into barrels with salt. Stornoway still has a much reduced fishing industry, a life-boat and a Coastguard Rescue sub-centre. It is the administrative centre for the Western Isles. Our scenic tour starts at the most northerly point of the Hebrides. Here the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse stands, 170 Ft high, unusually of red-brick rather than painted white. It sits above 60 to 80 Ft cliffs and is recorded as the windiest place in the UK, with nothing between it and America but the sea. One of the attractions of these islands are the Black Houses, primitive dwellings which once housed the crofters who made their living from the land. The last inhabitants were rehoused in 1974, but resettlement was not a happy move. Black Houses have double dry stone walls filled between the inner and outer with earth or peat and roofed with timber frames. A layer of straw or reed thatch is held in place by a horizontal ring of rope weighted with large stones. A central hearth, which continually blackened the underside of the roof, may have given rise to the name. Today whole villages of these dwellings have been restored as holiday accommodation. Moving down the west coast, with views of pristine white beaches and pictures of famous fabulous sunsets, we come to Callanish, the site of standing stones in the shape of a Celtic cross. Set up in the Neolithic Age and used for ritualistic purposes in the Bronze Age, it has a circle of stones at the centre with avenues extending in four directions. A burial chamber within the circle was added some time later than the original stones. Skirting the sea-lochs of Roag, we turn northwest to Uig, where a wooden 'Giant King' signifies the discovery of the Lewis Chessmen which were uncovered in the sands of Camas Uig in 1831. 93 figurines were found, 78 of them Chess pieces, carved mostly from Walrus ivory, dating

from the late 12th century and now considered priceless.

We now travel through Harris, the home of Harris Tweed, where north and south islands are separated by a narrow isthmus at Tarbert. Tarbert is the ferry terminal from Skye and the administrative centre. An Act of Parliament, in 1993, ensured the quality of Harris Tweed by defining each stage in the production, which tied the cloth forever to the islands. Back in the 90s, when production levels were falling, Donald J MacKay received an unexpected call for samples from Nike in the USA, which was followed by an order for 20,000 yards. He supplied the order, over 3 months, by spreading it across the Western Isles. 80 crofter's looms, which operated then, became 200 today.

Bob's tour continued with further gems from some of the smaller, southern islands including Barra. The most exciting visit he made was when he flew up the coast of Scotland from Glasgow. Logan-Air operate a service, using the De Havilland Otter, a 20-seater twin-engine small aircraft, which lands at Barra on the beach when the tide is out. To conclude, I think the Western Isles must be a notable entry for our members' bucket lists!

The Probus club meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in the Red House lounge at 10am. New members welcome. November programme: 12th RIAT at Fairford, 26th Gloucestershire Railways.

Bob Stevens

Prospect Hospice

Sunday 9th February, 3pm

The new Kids Starlight Walk event will see families taking part in a sponsored 5km circular walk through Swindon, finishing at the town gardens, which will be decorated with illuminated surprises. The event takes place on Sunday 9 February 2020 and begins at 4pm. Book now to take advantage of the early bird rate of just £8 per child. Accompanying adults are priced at £5 each. Minimum suggested sponsorship is £50 per child.

Monday 4th November, 7pm - Overseas Challenge Open Evening, Cotswold Outdoor Mannington Retail Park, Telford Way, Swindon SN5 8WA

Why not tick an item off your bucket list and raise money for your local hospice – find out about the Great Wall of China, Transylvania Winter Wilderness Trek, Snow and Sand Trek in Morocco and a cycle ride around the base of Kilimanjaro. For more details email fundraisingandevents@prospect-hospice.net.

Saturday 9th November - Climb for Prospect: Rockstar Climbing, Stratton.

Calling all fear-conquerors, adrenalin junkies and climbers alike! Take part in an exhilarating fundraising climb, which will see likeminded people come together to climb the equivalent height of Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, in just one day. For more details email fundraisingandevents@prospect-hospice.net

Beneath the Wool

Last month I said that the sheep will be going to College Farm imminently and I can say that after three attempts they are finally there.

The first time I went to get them in they misbehaved badly. They broke out of the pen and I was unable to get them back in. Thankfully the third time I was lucky and they got them all loaded up onto the trailer and on their way to College Farm. The 27 ewes that went up there are very happy and are enjoying eating the grass there.

Three ewes stayed behind; two because they are a pain to get into a pen and are a bit wild, and the third is Big Face which is my pet sheep and she doesn't leave the farm. The other reason to leave them at home was so they can help lead the lambs when they are getting moved.

On the 20th September I had a day away from the farm. but not a day off as I was doing my car B +E trailer training at Greenway Training just outside Lyneham. The 20th was spent driving round Swindon with a trailer on, including the Magic Roundabout, and then I had my test on the Monday, 23rd September. I'm pleased to say I passed. This helps moving sheep around different locations by being able to put them in the trailer behind my truck as well as being able to take the lambs to slaughter myself.

On the 27th September I went away on holiday and a massive thanks to Aaron who looked after all the sheep while I was away. It's good to see a young person taking on the responsibility and interest in this field of work.

Over the weekend away I went to Yorkshire, not far from Silsden. While I was there I managed to see a large sheep farm and was fortunate to see a shepherd using his pack of working dogs. It was very interesting to see how he managed to use three dogs to rotate the sheep and grab the Ewe that he wanted which had a bad foot. I was also amazed at the dry stone walling that is around the fields there, which make my poxy bit of fencing look pathetic!

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton

Race is on to find future sporting superstars

Funding now available through Wiltshire Council to any Wiltshire athlete aged between 8-18 years old who is competing at either a regional or national level. Successful applicants will receive a grant of £500 to help them towards further sporting success. The funding can be used to access training, purchase equipment or cover transport costs for attending competition events.

Full grant criteria and guidelines as well as the application form is available to download from www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure-supporting-athletes

Deadline for applications is 5pm on Monday 18 November 2019. If you have any questions please email ffopgrants@wiltshire.gov.uk