



Purton. Magazine

September 2020

Cricket restarted in July, but Purton CC's 200th anniversary celebration plans are on hold. However, players and spectators enjoyed a cake from Swindon United Churches CC. See page 47.

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Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
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, (10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)		
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
For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.

Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk
Tel: 770077 (773031 emergencies only)
Curate: Revd Judith Wells email: judithwells36@googlegmail.com
Tel: 770627

Wardens Sandra Horsnall: Jane Smith:
770157 772422

Administrator: Rosie Harris administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk Tel: 773035

Methodist Churches *For information about services in Purton, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine. Braydon: Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship*

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 Tel: 852366
Rodrigues

Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm

Catholic Church - St Mary's Church, High St, Cricklade

Priest: Father Michael Robertson Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church
Services: Holy Days 7.00pm, Sundays 9.30am Mass.

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Welcome to the sixth edition of *Purton Magazine* to be published during Covid-19 restrictions. Thank you to all our distributors and retailers for ensuring that village news reaches our residents, some of whom continue to shield from face to face interactions. We welcome submissions for publication in the October issue. Our copy deadline is the 10th September, please email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton. Magazine

Purton Magazine committee: Avril Ainscough,
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The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also online at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk © 2004-2020

INTouch
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From the Editors

For anyone yet to be convinced about just how caring our community is, please show them page 38 where a letter of thanks describes the “blanket that Purton has wrapped my family in.” The letter ends “something that will stay close to my heart and should be shared with you all is the response of my kids who said; ‘we may not be rich but we feel pretty rich from the love shown by the village’; out of the mouths of babes as they say. So, thank you to everyone who has helped us.” We certainly have some high standards to continue maintaining.

Thinking of high standards, we are pleased to announce that the new website for Purton Magazine goes live on Tuesday 15 September – see page 36. The main feature will be a searchable index of advertisements and advertisers. Anyone wanting to find a local product or service supplier, for example, will be able to select the appropriate listed category to reveal the details of the individual advertisers. The benefit to readers, and anyone in the village, is that those “do you know anyone who could” off chance questions to neighbours will no longer be needed. The benefit to advertisers is that they can easily be contacted with a simple click through from their advertisement on our new web site.

That new facility should make a little extra time for readers to exercise their creativity with our new series of Kennings. Yes, a new name to many but it is derived from Anglo Saxon and Old Norse traditions. On page 55 you will see three examples of wrapping up a riddle in a few pairs of words with the answers ‘hidden’ elsewhere in this issue. We look forward to readers making their own kennings and sending into us for the October issue.

With the refurbishment of St. Mary’s church steadily progressing, thoughts are turning to furnishing the inside. On page 27 we learn that some suitable high quality wood and upholstery chairs have been found that will make attending church services, concerts and many other celebrations much more comfortable. With that comes the opportunity for us to ‘put out a chair’ with a special, personal dedication on a discreet metal plate. Each will be displayed on the back of some new chairs and seen by all coming to any of the wide range of activities planned for when the church reopens.

24

Maximum words needed
to compose a new riddle
for the next magazine
– see page 55

94

Species of wild birds
have been spotted so far
whilst farming in Hook
– see page 48

£170

For a personalised
engraved plate on a new
chair in St Mary’s Church
– see page 27



Fibre To The Property

Gigaclear is working with various bodies to install fibre optics to allow greater connectivity to the rural communities within Wiltshire. You should receive written notification from them with any works to your street/address with details of who to contact should there be issues. However, please see basic contact information should you need it: www.gigaclear.com/contact-us 01865 591 100 (head office)

Annual Audited Accounts

The Parish Council accounts are available for viewing through appointment only until 30th September. Please contact the office to arrange an appointment if you wish to view.

Hall Hire

The Millennium Hall is now available for hire with strict COVID-19 guidance. If you need a hall to hire, please call the office direct or email lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk The Village Hall, due to shared facilities, will be reviewed on a month by month basis and will re-open when safe to do so.

Council Meetings

The council is meeting remotely on a monthly basis. Delegated powers are available for those matters that cannot wait until the next meeting for conclusion. If you have any question or queries that you wish to address to the council please email the Clerk on deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Vacancy

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

Planning Updates - Permission Granted

20/02435/FUL 2 Reids Piece, Purton SN5 4AX. Proposed two storey extension.
20/04226/TCA Setter House, Church Street. Purton SN5 4DS. Reduce Beech hedge back to boundary and reduce height by 3 metres

Refused Application

20/04360/FUL Dudgetmoor Farm, Hayes Knoll SN5 4JJ. Replacement dwelling and associated works.

Appeal

Land to the south of Bridge Paddock, Braydon Road Leigh SN6 6RQ. Appeal A - APP/Y3940/C/20/3245770, Appeal B - APP/Y3940/C/20/3245890. Appeal dismissed, and the enforcement notice upheld.

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Do you have friends or family who lived in the village but have moved away?

Purton Magazine is available online!

Each issue is uploaded around the middle of the month, and all previous editions of Purton Magazine, from 2004 onwards,

are available to view and download from our website.

So wherever you are in the world, keep up to date with all the village news!

www.purtonmagazine.co.uk



Pips has re-opened!

For the latest information visit our Facebook page [facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/](https://www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/)

Join us at the Purton Club function room, Station Road for; freshly prepared paninis and sandwiches, homemade cakes, hot and cold seasonal dishes, barista-style coffee and a range of hot and cold drinks.

email: marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk
Tel Mary: 01793 772298,
Duty team: 07498 526872

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

We also hold Facebook and Twitter accounts

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

Ten Years Ago...

The September 2010 edition of Purton Magazine marked the start of a new feature, to wit the “A-Z of Purton”. Naturally, it began at the beginning with notes on Age Concern, the Angel Hotel, After 8 and the editor’s Apple Tree. Something for all tastes then, but one can foresee orthographic difficulties along the way.

The editorial was particularly upbeat, describing the generosity of Purtonians as “munificent”. Indeed it was with the annual Christian Aid Week and the one-off (we assume) Back-to-Back bike ride raising a combined total of almost £15,000. The riders left John o’Groats expecting to take 10 days to reach Land’s End. They didn’t report a following wind but got so far ahead of schedule that they had to ease up to ensure that the welcoming party was in place for their arrival.

Another article detailed the part St. Mary’s Church played in village life, not only for the congregation but for the community as a whole. For instance, much was done involving young people and a variety of events for all were held within its walls. The piece ended with a gentle suggestion that folk might like to subscribe to the Friends of St. Mary’s – with the cost of the current works to the structure, maybe it’s a good idea to repeat this.

The summer was marked by a 10th anniversary visit from our twin, Héric. Many activities were laid on but special mention must be made of two highlights. First, a murder mystery play which was intended to be performed in both English and French. However, it was considered that our French accents weren’t good enough so a written translation was provided instead. As the plot revolved around peanut butter one wonders if our visitors were any the wiser as they don’t eat it in France. Second, a trip to the cricket field resulted “in explaining the rules of the game to some bemused French people”.

Unknowingly, Purton Historical Society was forward-looking rather than dealing with the past. It proposed having a register for each meeting so that “for health and safety reasons we will know who is on the premises should there be an emergency”. Little did they realise that, ten years later, the rest of the country would be following their lead.

A Message from Kai Howard, Practice Manager, about this year's 'flu vaccinations

You may have heard the news about this year's flu vaccine campaign. This year will be very different for all practices delivering flu vaccines.

Clinicians will be doing vaccinations in PPE and changing between patients so everything will take much longer. We need to maintain social distancing between patients, so may need to hold some clinics in the car park to avoid crowded waiting rooms.

NHS/Public Health England have informed us to vaccinate over 65 year olds and 'at risk' patients first, before obtaining extra stock from central NHS supplies for the new cohort of 50-65 year olds who will be offered the flu vaccination at the end of the vaccination programme when it is clearer how many vaccines there are available.

We are waiting for delivery schedules from our suppliers, but suspect they will not be delivered until October/November and arriving in batches.

Please don't call just yet to ask to book in for a flu vaccination; the phones are currently still incredibly busy.

We will let you know by text, Facebook, website or letter what the plan is. We will do our best as we always do. We are grateful for your continued support.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

As you will appreciate, all surgery staff need to wear PPE – and when patients attend for an appointment they will need a face mask to wear during their consultation. The PPG has supplied a number of hand-sewn face masks which can be purchased at the Surgery for the cost price of £5.

Greeting Cards for sale

Our committee chair, Marietta Crockford, is an artist and has greeting cards made using her paintings. She is putting a number of these in the Surgery for sale at £2 each with the money going to raise funds for our PPG.

Sale of plants for PPG funds

Many thanks to Christine Rawlings, a member of our committee, who raised £105 for the PPG from the plants sold outside the home of Mr & Mrs Frost, Park House, on Cricklade Road. Our thanks also to Mr & Mrs Frost.

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

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Events

It would be nice to have something to look forward to, and when I look at our calendar there are so many events normally at this time of the year, and yet it is sad to think that we have so little to enjoy at this time. We must be positive and look beyond this pandemic when we can return to normal.

The committee has decided that we will not be able to run any of our events now until after Christmas, and that seems such a long time to wait, but we have to be so careful. Everything that we do involves contact with other people and that is a no-no at the moment.

The most exciting event to look forward to is the flu jab! Having said that I would encourage everybody who is eligible to make sure they have it, especially this year, as flu symptoms are very similar to covid symptoms and it could help diagnosis if you have had the jab. There you go, not all news is sad!

If you have a problem or need to speak to anyone about prescriptions, food shopping or any other topic then the contact numbers you should use, after you have talked to your street warden, are Peter Berry from Age Concern on 778119, Heather Ponting-Bather from Purton Outreach on 772954 or Debbie Lawrence, Clerk of the Parish Council, on 771066. Remember that Purton is a very special village and there is always somebody that can help and will help.

And Now...

We had a wonderful story from Tony Price about the Horse Show that used to be held in Purton and his memories of that in the July edition of the magazine. Now we have a continuation of that story by our own Hazel Woodbridge who is the coordinator for our minibuses and also a top carriage driver and instructor who earned a BEM for her services to this discipline.

She writes: After reading Tony Price's memories of Purton Horse Show, I decided to look out from my archive the Show schedule and found one I had kept from 1997, to be precise June 28th. The Show commenced at 9.30am and besides the horse classes there was a Car Boot sale at 10 and a Dog Show starting at 1pm. There were a number of adverts throughout and free range eggs from Purton House were £1.60 for a dozen!

In all there were 4 rings for the horse showing, jumping and gymkhana and 4 for the carriage driving and in hand classes, of these 3 were showing classes and then class 8 was in conjunction with the White Horse Harness Club and was called 'A One Day event' and was a grass roots version of the kind of driving done by HRH Prince Phillip. This included presentation, driven dressage, a 7 mile drive followed by an obstacle course, the first two sections and the last were set up at The Fox, although we borrowed an extra field from Mr Cook in the Hyde, as Derek Evans and friends

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03/21



took on the challenge of building them with gusto and the 'Purton Arch' became quite famous, but took a team to put it up and dismantle.

The real organising challenge was the 7 mile timed drive away from the showground but starting and finishing there. The course had to be marked out the day before with directional markers dotted around the village – I am afraid these were too much of a temptation to some, so there had to be an early morning check to ensure the markers were still facing the right way round, and matched up with the map and written directions that were given to all competitors. Depending on the size of the horse or pony an optimum time was given, for Shetlands it was 10 km per hour and increased to 14 km for horses over 14 hands.

The route would wander round the village and local landowners were kind in letting us cross their fields and often moved cattle out for the day. However, the last show we did – can't exactly remember the year – was the most interesting as by that time various parcels of land were being sold for building, and so I had to trace all the owners of a 'new route' and ended up at the end of the day with a huge bunch of keys, as I had to go round and lock all the gates. It had been quite difficult to get a suitable route without crossing the railway. Starting from The Fox it crossed land now part of the Ridgeway Estate down to Moredon and through land owned by the

Electricity Board, and then along the Canal towards the new lake that had just been completed and through to the Pry. To get to the Pry from the lake we needed to cross a sleeper bridge, having found out the landowner I then contacted him to find that the land had been sold and the completion due the Friday before the Show. I was given the contact details of the new owner who was not prepared to let us use the bridge so back to the first gentleman who very kindly arranged for the land sale to be completed on the Monday after the Show. What a lovely man!

Competitors travelled for miles, especially the carriage drivers, who came from all over the south, even one from the Isle of Wight, also Devon and Hertfordshire. They all enjoyed the lovely relaxed atmosphere and were always eager to come again.

At this time, I was competing with my beloved pony Mackintosh (pictured left) so once the show started, I became a competitor except when someone needed to know something, or I could see something was not quite going to plan! All Happy memories and great fun.

When the Horse Show run by Age Concern finished, I kept Carriage Driving going at The Fox, sadly this year it was cancelled with all the other events. Each year a donation has been sent to the minibus fund which kind of keeps the connection going.

Hazel Woodbridge

Thanks Hazel, what a great follow on from Tony's piece.

If You Need It...

Bobby Van - If you need the Bobby Van to replace batteries or the smoke alarms if they are not working properly please call them on 01380 861155. Please be aware that there might be restrictions in place at this time. If you are self-isolating and letting nobody enter your house then you will need to replace your smoke alarm yourself as they won't leave one on the doorway. If they are called to replace one, then they have to do it. Please be aware.

Bradies - Each month we will mention Bradies, now known as Phoenix, as they will continue to cover the Purton area. This is a free transport service on your bus pass. You need to ring 01249 890794 to book with them. Remember if we don't use it, we lose it!

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

We still have a couple of wheelchairs and some walkers, so if you think you might need these at any time then ring Peter Berry on 778119.

Peter Berry

Pips Community Café



If you haven't heard yet, Pips is open again! We are now open Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to last orders at 4 p.m. (1 p.m. on Saturday). We are opening a little later than before as we had few customers before 10 a.m., and we are not yet open on a Tuesday because we do not have enough volunteers for that. If you would like to discuss becoming a volunteer at Pips, (doesn't have to be on a Tuesday), please speak to Mary, contact details at the end of the article.

We have made some changes to keep our customers safe. All our tables are at least 2 metres apart and if being inside worries you, there are also tables outside too. We have moved the till out of the kitchen, so you place your order through a Perspex screen; you can pay with cash or card. Your food and drink is then delivered to your table by one of our volunteers wearing a mask to protect you. Our disabled access toilet is open and regularly sanitised if you want to wash your hands.

After you have left, everything is wiped down with disinfectant to be safe for the next customer. We also ask all our customers to leave contact details so that if another customer tests positive, we can let you know.

Our customers tell us that they feel safe using the café, even those who have been shielding, and, although numbers are down a bit from before, enough come to make opening worthwhile. Our customers range in age from under 2 to over 80, and although we are no longer able to provide toys and games, you are welcome to bring yours with you. We also have free broadband working, important for some.

If you are fed up with being stuck at home, why not give us a try, even if it is just for a nice cup of coffee, although we might tempt you to stop for the lunch menu and there is always cake! You might invite a friend to join you too who can sit at an adjacent table so you can chat, or just come and be sociable with our volunteers.

We hope to see you soon in your Community Café, Pips.

Contact us: marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk 01793 772298 or look for updates on the Pips Facebook page - ([Facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe](https://www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe)). Call 07498 526872 to place an order.

The Pips team

We Record ...

Funeral at Purton Cemetery

5 August 2020 Muriel May Haines (98)

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06/21

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The Turbulent Priest

In last month's issue we carried the news of John Papworth's death and reproduced, with the author's permission, part of an article published in a 2006 issue of The Ecologist. Here is the concluding part.

After the war, John Papworth's thirst for change came back to the fore. He tried to take an economics degree at the London School of Economics but was 'completely out of my depth' and was thrown out. Before the war, searching for answers, he had joined the communist party, but it hadn't been a happy move. 'It seemed to me that we needed a revolution to get rid of all these rich bastards who were oppressing us. I swallowed the communist party line wholesale. I hadn't read Marx at the time. Not many communists have in my experience. They'd be amazed to find how much he agreed with Adam Smith.'

Communism, he quickly discovered, was too top-down for him. Far from wanting to liberate 'the people', the communists wanted to control them too. 'I was really taken with the Russian revolution, and the talk about "all power to the Soviets"' he explains. 'That seemed to me a wonderful thing. That tragedy is that it was a wonderful slogan, but they never followed it. It was all power to the state. Just like the bosses. I said so and they didn't like it. They kicked me out after six months. They said I was disrupting the working class, whatever that meant.'

Communism having failed him, Papworth tried the Labour party instead, then in its post-war heyday. They, too, let him down. 'First of all, I was secretary of the local constituency party', he recalls. 'It was all very Fabian and top-down. They thought they were meaningfully determining the direction of the party but in fact they were just so much voting fodder for the people at the centre. I became adopted as a candidate in Salisbury in the general election of 1955. It was a hopeless Tory seat. But that disillusioned me because I could see that the ordinary people in the party, whenever any policy questions came up, instead of saying "well, we think this", they would say "we must inform the agent and see what he thinks". The agent would be a bridge to the powers that be in the centre, who would tell them what to think.'

Indeed, it was an experience in the Labour party, according to Papworth, which cemented an idea that had been brewing in his head for some time: an idea which would form the basis for all his later thinking. 'My total disillusionment came from a conversation I had in the tea room of the House of Commons,' he remembers. 'I was having a conversation with an MP, Anne Kerr. She asked was I interested in getting adopted as a candidate for a by-election seat somewhere in the north. I said, well I don't know anybody up there, and nobody up there knows me. And she said very smoothly, "well, these things can be arranged". And that just echoed in my head.'

All of Papworth's experiences up to this point, from the orphanage to the communist party had convinced him of one thing – the bigger an organisation, the more it disempowered ordinary people. Whether it be an orphanage, a political party, a

state or an army, mass organisations inevitably destroyed both individual will and the institution that, until the dawning of the industrial age and the rise of capitalism, had been the prominent form of social organisation all around the world – the ‘small community.’

‘They were the oldest social unit in our history’, he says now, ‘and they endured until about 100 years ago. The destruction of the small, local community has given way to the most dangerous, destructive and degenerate for social organisation ever to have existed in history, which is the mass society. The whole thing is based on this idea of “democracy”, yet you can’t have democracy in a mass society. Why? Because the forces that control the mass are at the centre. They’re not in your hands or mine.’

Eager to explore this idea, Papworth got together in the 1960s with a group of thinkers and doers who thought the same way and founded a magazine. With writer Leopold Khor, economist E F Schumacher and poet Herbert Reed he founded *Resurgence*, a magazine dedicated to this new vision of society. It was in *Resurgence*, under Papworth’s editorship, that Schumacher developed the ideas that were to become the basis for his enormously influential book *Small is Beautiful*, one of the keystones of modern green thought.

‘I think we’ve got to introduce the idea of organic politics, organic economics, where each small cell is playing a vital part in the life of the entity’, says Papworth now. ‘This means, it seems to me, the disintegration of centralised states, and the integration, if you like, of small villages and communities who have full powers to elect representatives to run the practical things, like regional police, water, gas, sewage. Small nations, governed by small communities – that’s the vision.’

Since founding *Resurgence* in 1966, Papworth has pursued this vision. He has been an activist in the peace movement and has been jailed several times for his anti-war activities. His long experience has given him a typically frank view of this movement’s weaknesses. ‘If you want something, whether it be democracy or peace or any of the great virtues – well, if you think that you’re going to get it by campaigning for it with no understanding of the power structure that’s promoting the things you’re trying to oppose ... you see it in so many organisations now. It’s a waste of everybody’s time. I’ve said this to some people in the peace movement. I said, when I started out working for peace, only one country in the world had nuclear weapons. Now it’s thirty. What does that tell you about how effective you’re being? But they don’t want to hear it. They prefer to hug their security blankets.’

John Papworth is not shy about telling people what he thinks they need to hear. He seems, indeed, to have a remarkable ability to fall out with his erstwhile allies. First the communist party, then Labour, then the editorial team at *Resurgence* who took over from him, then the peace movement. Perhaps his most famous public falling-out was with the church. Papworth trained to be a vicar after the war and became an ordained minister. After causing trouble in various parishes he was caught bang to rights in 1997 apparently encouraging his parishioners to steal from supermarkets.

'I was on a neighbourhood watch committee in London' he explains, 'and the area included the West End shops. And at a meeting we were having, shoplifting came up. I said, if somebody takes goods from their local store without paying for them, that's illegal and it's immoral. If they take goods from giant supermarkets, it may be illegal but it's not immoral because Jesus said love your neighbour – he said nothing about loving Marks and Spencer's. Anyway, somehow or other the press got hold of this and for about five minutes I was internationally famous as the shoplifting vicar. And the archdeacon of Charing Cross – why they have an archdeacon attached to a railway station I'll never know – told me they could no longer allow me to function.'

Debarred from preaching, he turned his attention to his other enthusiasms, which for some time have focused around writing books and editing the Fourth World Review, the magazine he founded after leaving Resurgence. All of his writings these days propound that central idea of 'small nations, governed by small communities – the idea that, in the title of his latest book, he calls 'village democracy'. When he first started propounding such ideas, in the 1960s, they were dismissed as archaic, antediluvian, reactionary, absurd. Today, they are at the forefront of a political and social movement that is trying to find answers to the problems thrown up by over-development and environmental degradation.

This is where Papworth's ability to make trouble, to annoy people, to alienate himself, must be put into context. For five decades, John Papworth has been telling people things they don't want to hear. He's been telling them that their lifestyles are unsustainable, that the society they live in is heading for disaster, that their priorities are wrong and that things need to change. Much of the time, he has been right. But people don't like this kind of message. They don't like it because it is challenging, uncomfortable and it threatens them. They prefer not to hear it; they prefer to curse the messenger. But John Papworth doesn't mind being cursed. If anything, he enjoys it. This, it seems to me, is a great strength.

But it is something of a paradox – and not the only one. His focus on small communities and villages as the best form of social unit, for example, is complex too. He is full of praise for the virtues of the small community. Unfortunately, as he freely points out to me, he currently lives in one, and it's a disaster.

In the Wiltshire village he lives in, Papworth has, in three short years, managed to get himself debarred from preaching – again – thrown off the editorial board of the village magazine, blackballed by the British Legion and threatened with a lawsuit by the village headmaster. The latter problem stemmed from an article he wrote in his alternative village magazine – founded, edited and written entirely by himself – attacking the school for its expansion plans. I put it to him that should his current home be granted the full powers of his desired village democracy the first thing they might use it to do would be to expel him.

'I have no illusions about that', he agrees. 'The people in this village can't stand the sight of me, and I imagine that the minute they had power they'd drive me out.'

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There was an audible sigh of relief around Purton when all the home-schooled children found out they have a new teacher from September.

Followed by the even louder sound of corks popping from their parents!

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That's life. But you know, the moment I start talking about an alternative, people start telling me I'm looking for an ideal society. I'm not looking for such a thing at all. I'm fully aware of the downside of human nature, and I simply want a society which promotes the upside. I'm fully aware that the downside will always be around as long as people are around, because we're fallen creatures.'

Maybe this is the point, Papworth is not talking about how things are, but how they should – or could – be. In a genuine village community, things might be different – but his village, like so many in England now, is commuter-led, not land-based. There are few services and little of the traditional 'community' that one might associate with rural life. It's dangerous to idealise village life, or rural life – but it's dangerous, too, not to consider alternatives to the current unhealthy social model.

And here, John Papworth cannot be faulted. At 85 he has more energy than many people a third of his age, and he refuses to stop working for change. He probably doesn't even know how to. Now, he has the immense privilege of having lived long enough to see ideas he has promoted for decades – dismissed in his youth as naïve, unrealistic or downright idiotic – becoming mainstream thought.

'There's a transformation of consciousness going on now which is absolutely beyond any measure' he says. 'If you think back even five years, nobody talked about global warming, for instance. Things are changing fast, and much of what we have said is being proved right. I don't know if it will be in time or if it will be enough. It seems to me that people are addicted to this world. But if you ask me if I have any hope I'm driven back to Nietzsche, who said – by all means have pessimism of the mind, but never lose optimism of the spirit.' He grins – and looks decades younger than eighty five.

'I think it might be time for some lunch', he says. 'I'm going to give you an omelette. Would that be alright?'

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Purton Scarecrow Trail 2020 change: Important information

Purton Scarecrow Trail 2020 – take a virtual tour and guess the scarecrow names. The theme is "Best of British". Find out more on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail/events. These are the dates for your diary:

- Sat 5th September 2020 - Trail photos release date on Facebook.
- Sat 12th September 2020 - Closure date for answers (send an email to info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk). Tell us which was your favourite.
- Sat 17th September 2020 - Answers posted on Facebook

We hope that we shall be able to hold a real trail in 2022.

If you would like to donate money towards the defibrillator maintenance fund please contact Debbie at Purton Parish Council: deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Purton Scarecrow team



Early August and I was thinking about the abundance of fruit and vegetable crops currently being produced in our gardens and on our allotments this year when I came across the following English folktale which forms the basis of a children's school exercise lesson.

'Sharing the Crops'

Once a farmer rented some land.

"How much does it cost to use this land?" the farmer asked the land owner.

The owner, trying to get the better deal, said, "I'll take the top half of the crop and you can take the bottom half.

So the clever farmer planted potatoes because they grow in the ground. At harvest time, he gave the owner the potato tops, which are not good for anything.

The owner knew he had been outsmarted. He said, "Next year, I want the bottom half of your crops.

So the next year the farmer planted oats, which grow at the top of long grasses. The farmer gave the bottom half-useless grassy straw-to the owner.

This time the owner said, "Next year, I'll take the top and the bottom. You can have the middle."

So this time the farmer planted corn. At the top of each corn stalk are tassels. At the bottom are woody stalks. In the middle is where the tasty corn grows.

For the third time, the owner had been outsmarted.

Now it was the farmer's turn to suggest a deal. "From now on why don't you take half of whatever I grow? Whatever I get, you will get the same.

This was a fair deal at last. From that day on, the owner and the farmer shared the crops equally.

So it took three attempts for a satisfactory outcome of sharing in this instance but not so in Purton where plants, crops and produce are being shared constantly amongst gardeners in our community. Our first 'share' was with George who generously provided us with runner bean plants and we reciprocated with courgette plants. A surprise call from Eve and we were the recipients of a tray of 'Gardener's Delight' and 'Sweet Baby' tomato plants that are currently dripping with ripening tomatoes.

French Bean plants to Sandy with Squash plants in return and Purple sprouting plants from Chrissie at the allotment with netting to protect her gooseberries from the birds our reciprocal offering.

Now these same 'shared' plants have come up trumps and thanks to a warm spring are now dripping with crops and so the sharing begins again.

Loganberries from Frank on our next door allotment with beetroot in return. Runner beans and French beans to Catherine resulted in a knock at the door and

an offering of delicious blackberry muffins made by Catherine with the blackberries picked and shared by Linda and David. Courgettes to June with a lovely garden plant in return and so it goes on.

Following on the theme I thought I'd share the following 'Courgette and Lime' muffin recipe with you. It may just help to use up a few of those never ending courgettes currently being shared around. Enjoy!

Happy sharing.

Courgette and lime muffins recipe

Makes 12 muffins, preparation time 30 mins, cooking time 20 mins (may need an extra 5 mins). Courgettes aren't just delicious in savoury recipes. You can turn them into sweet treats or even cakes like these tasty courgette and lime muffins.

Ingredients

250g courgettes (about 2-3 medium-sized)

2 large eggs

125ml vegetable oil

150g golden caster sugar

225g self-raising flour

½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

½ tsp baking powder

Juice and zest of 1 lime

For The Lime Cream Cheese Icing

200g cream cheese

100g icing sugar

Juice and zest of 1 lime

You'll Also Need:

12-hole muffin tin, lined with cases

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F, gas mark 4).

Grate the courgettes and leave them to drain in a sieve hung over a bowl.

In a large mixing bowl, add the eggs, vegetable oil and sugar and beat until well mixed and slightly fluffy. An electric whisk will make this easier, or use a food mixer if you have one.

Sieve in the flour, bicarbonate of soda and baking powder and beat together.

Finally, add the drained courgette and the lime juice and zest and divide the mixture between the 12 muffin cases.

Cook in the oven for 20-25 mins or until the muffins are nicely brown and firm to the touch. Allow to cool completely on a wire rack before icing.

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To make the icing, blend together the cream cheese with the icing sugar and the lime juice and spread generously over the top of each muffin. Decorate each with a few swirls of lime zest.

Margaret Goodall, Secretary Tel: 770906

St Mary's Church Renewal project – Finalisation of Contract

It has been a long time since our last update on the Renewal Project in the May magazine. At that time we were hopeful that work could start in June – this proved far too optimistic! The disruption caused by Covid has meant that finalising a contract has been difficult and protracted.



However, the good news is that the main contract is now being finalised ready for signature. Consequently, we expect the work to start in late September. This is a huge milestone! We do sincerely thank everyone who has encouraged and supported us along the way – especially those who have shared our vision of a renewed Church building that will be better equipped to serve the village into the future.

Six months ago we confidently expected to celebrate Christmas 2020 in the renewed Church. This is not possible now, but Easter 2021 is! Our hope and prayer is that we will be able to meet again in Church by that time.

Some people have already offered to 'sponsor' some of the new chairs for the Church and we have arranged for permission to include a small dedication plaque on the chairs. More on this elsewhere in the magazine.

Paul Dempsey

Remembering Them: Put out a chair in a historic place for someone special

St Mary's Church is a special place for many in the village. Numerous memories have been created there – the joy of a wedding, the expectation of a baptism, the excitement of Christmas Eve, the flood of emotions at a funeral. The stones of our church have hosted them all.



We now have an opportunity to remember in this place those who have given life and character to our village as well as expressing our thanks for a new and growing generation. The heart of the building is presently being renewed. Providing flexible space without the fixed pews, added by the Victorians late in the building's long history, opens up lots of possibilities. Further church work amongst children and

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youth will be enabled as well as village meetings and cultural events for all. Those who have witnessed the initial clearing of the church have been struck by the way impressive historic architecture is given space to breath. And it is within this special space that we are inviting readers to put out a chair for someone special to them.

This could be in memory of someone who has passed. It could be in thanks for a new life added to your family – child, grandchild, nephew or niece. It could be for one who has lived here among us, moved on, and you feel a tangible token might fittingly be left in a public and regularly open place.

Of course if you wish, this action could be unmarked – known only to you. But others may value some kind of indication to the many who visit the church. So we have secured permission for discreet engraved metal plates with a short dedication to be placed on the back of some of our new chairs.



The chairs we plan to purchase, some with arms and some without, are of high quality wood and upholstery. Their Aquaclean fabric has proved itself in similar venues to be robust, long lasting and readily cleanable. So your provision of a seat for concerts, exhibitions and the whole range of celebrations and services the church offers throughout the year promises to be enjoyed for much time to come.

Of course quality furniture is not cheap, especially that suitable for a grade one listed building. Included in the price is a modest donation to the church renewal. With this a chair displaying an engraved plate is offered at £170 with a reduction of £30 for those who may

wish to give the chair but not with the engraved plate.

By no means exhaustive, examples of what can be engraved include

In Loving Memory of
[Name]
dates

In Thanksgiving for
[Name]
Born [date]

If you would like to join others in putting out a chair for those who come to the building for a whole range of activities please let us know either by email on renewal@stmaryspurton.co.uk or call 770171. A simple form will then be sent to you for chosen wording and/or details of payment.

2020 will be remembered for many things. A noted point in the future history of our village will inevitably be that this was the year our church building was renewed and its interior took the best of its seven centuries of heritage and equipped it for years to come. We thank and welcome all who wish to play a part in this provision.

David Martin, Co-ordinator of Chairs Promotion - for Churchwardens



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.



Traitor's Purse by Margery Allingham

A man lies in a hospital bed on a deserted ward. He has no idea who he is, and he is desperately afraid. From the far end of the long room comes a muttering which resolves into two distinct voices. At first he finds this reassuring. One voice is a nurse. The other, he realizes, is a policeman, and he is sure that he has known and liked several policemen. But as the conversation unfolds, he discovers the constable is guarding someone who has killed a policeman, for which he will surely hang. Although the man remembers nothing of it, they must be talking about him. There are no other patients.

The country is at war. The hospital is empty because all the patients have been evacuated. Part of the man's fear stems from his amnesia, but part comes from a half-recollection of "fifteen." He does not know what fifteen signifies, but he associates it with a "great dim spirit of disaster" that means defeat for Britain and the coming of a new Dark Age. He has to escape from the hospital.

So begins *Traitor's Purse*, Margery Allingham's wartime thriller and the eleventh novel to feature Albert Campion. First published in February 1941, much of the book was written in early 1940, when the fate of the nation really did hang in the balance. At the novel's heart is a German scheme so inventive it might very well have succeeded – especially the method of delivery, which is sheer genius on Allingham's part. (And no, I'm not giving it away!)

Some of the novel, of course, is pure melodrama. The hero Albert Campion's amnesia

is literary amnesia, not a medical condition, and, as is traditional in such matters, his memory is finally restored by another blow to the head. The fog through which he moves in the meantime reflects the uncertain state of the nation at the start of the war, and his own emotional turmoil. On the one hand his country is in deadly danger and he is failing her. On the other, his fiancée Amanda is falling in love with someone else because he has failed her as well. He is hunted by both the villains and the police, and they run so hard on his heels his exhausted mind barely has time to think. There is a clandestine meeting with a thug and a nail-biting escape over the roofs, both beautifully described.

Most of the action takes place in the fictional town of Bridge. The Masters of Bridge are a hereditary organization who own the town and much more besides: vineyards all over the world and spice islands and heaven knows what. They have been wealthy since the time of Queen Elizabeth, when they made money from a loom which hugely increased wool-weaving production. "The word abridged comes from it," one character solemnly tells Campion. "It shortened the process."

The first time I read that I almost believed it, because Allingham had a gift for making the fantastical seem normal. The Masters of Bridge and their Institute seem all too likely. So too do the characters Campion meets: the pompous Anscombe, the charismatic Lee Aubrey, the over friendly Pyne.

Then there is the moment the despairing Campion staggers blindly into a small, dirty shop, and finds a large man sitting at a table. "He had a white melancholy face hung beneath a glistening bald skull, and his eyes, which were narrow and expressionless, were dull as coal-dust." This is Magersfontein Lugg, a retired burglar "with the courage of his previous convictions," and Campion's servant for the last seventeen years. At last there is a glimmer of hope.

The eighteen Campion novels were written between 1929 and 1965, a span of thirty-six years. Unlike, say, Hercule Poirot, who changes very little between his first appearance in 1920 and his last in 1975, Albert Campion ages and matures from novel to novel. *Traitor's Purse* is the book in which he finally leaves behind the flippant adventurer of the earlier appearances. One of the most telling moments is when the amnesiac Campion realizes that his other self has done the Great Detective thing of not confiding in his companions, so that neither Amanda nor Lugg can help him. "He had a vision of a damned superior young man... The new Campion turned from him with loathing."

Traitor's Purse is the work of an author writing at the height of her powers. Of all Allingham's books, this is the one I return to the most often. Every time I reread it, I notice something fresh, such as the amnesiac Campion's delight in discovering he can climb like a cat. The pacing is perfect, the plot ingenious.

And did I mention I think the German scheme would have worked?

Patrick McCormack

Purton Village Diary - September 2020

5	Sa		Purton Virtual Scarecrow Trail 'Best of British' photos released on Facebook www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail/ events
6	Su	9.45am	Virtual United Junior Church and Messy church
		10.30am	Zoom Family Service, hosted by St Mary's Church
12	Sa		Purton Virtual Scarecrow Trail closing date for answers - and please tell us which was your favourite, email: info@purtonscarecrow.co.uk
13	Su	9.45am	Virtual United Junior Church and Messy church
		10.30am	Zoom Communion, hosted by St Mary's Church
17	Th		Purton Virtual Scarecrow Trail answers posted on Facebook
20	Su	9.45am	Virtual United Junior Church and Messy church
		10.30am	Zoom family service, hosted by St Mary's Church
27	Su	9.45am	Virtual United Junior Church and Messy church
		10.30am	Zoom Communion, hosted by St Mary's Church

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

How to join in the 10.30am Services from St Mary's Church

Please use this link from 10.20am:

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

Meeting ID: 549 593 510

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

EITHER 0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

OR 0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

Then you will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID: 549 593 510 followed by #

Please note that call charges may apply.

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

For prayer requests please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith 770077 or Revd Judith Wells 770627. For more information visit: www.stmaryspurton.org.uk

Purton Methodist Church services

Revd David Perkins records a weekly Sunday Service of Worship which can be accessed on You Tube at any time: www.youtube.com/channel/UCYZpw6oX_l ef-68tycPGT3Q?

Purton Village Diary - when life returns to normal

Every week

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

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

DISCLAIMER

Contributions to Purton Magazine are welcome for consideration, the contributor's name and address must be supplied (but may be withheld on request). Copyright must be agreed for publication in this magazine - especially those recognisable in photographs. Opinions expressed in the Magazine are solely those of the respective contributors. Contributions are to be written concisely and we reserve the right to edit contributions and advertisements. Submissions received after the copy deadline will only be included at the editors' discretion and if space allows. Articles and information relating to the Parish of Purton and relevant to its residents, will be given priority. Advertising is accepted in good faith and does not imply the Magazine's endorsement of the product or service.

Shop local to help small businesses

Shoppers across the UK have been urged to do their bit and support local businesses rebuild from the coronavirus pandemic.

Shop Local Week earlier in August was part of the government's Enjoy Summer Safely campaign, encouraging people to get back to the way of life they have missed, while following safety guidelines.

From popping into a local family-run bakery for a loaf of bread, or buying a quirky gift from an independent shop, by shopping locally people can help local business owners and local communities get back up and running.

Help the high street and support the local economy

Shopping at local businesses pumps money into the local economy, and by spending money in their local shop, restaurant, café or pub, shoppers can do their bit to aid our national recovery across the country.

Save jobs – and create even more

Supporting our high streets creates jobs in local communities, supporting often young and disadvantaged people to find employment. Helping to grow the number of jobs in our local areas makes for a better place to live and work, which then creates a healthy economy for the community.

Great deals

People might be surprised to see just how competitive the prices are in your local shops. Independent retailers often reward regular customers, while others often provide great deals that can't be found in major outlets – meaning people save money as they spend. Consumers can also save money eating out - the Eat Out to Help Out discount scheme was provided by the government, saving diners up to £10 per head on eat-in meals on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays during August in one of the 73,000 participating businesses.

A safe way to shop

Businesses across the country have been following government guidance and implementing a range of measures to ensure people are safe while they shop, such as customer limits inside the store, plastic partitions at tills and hand sanitizing stations.

Preserving the heart of the community

A thriving high street is key to boosting the potential of a village or town where people can socialise as well as shop. Local businesses also generate revenue to support council services such as libraries, parks and roads that benefit communities across the UK.

Spoilt for choice

Small and local businesses often stock items which are made locally and aren't available elsewhere else, providing a great range of choice and unique products that

bring much-needed originality and variety into communities – including rare finds and items that aren't mass produced.

A better shopping experience

Small businesses are often run by people who live nearby. As the UK continues to recover from the pandemic, the experience of buying locally from a friendly face offers a dose of normality that many people may have missed.

Help the environment

Local shops often source their goods locally, helping to reduce their carbon footprint. When shopping locally, people are also more likely to walk or cycle to get there – doing their bit to reduce air pollution, reduce traffic and improve the quality of the nation's high streets.

Business Secretary Alok Sharma said:

“From corner shops and florists, to newsagents, cafes and pubs, our high streets are at the heart of every community in every corner of the UK.

Business owners have done an incredible job so far to welcome shoppers back safely, and I hope people across the country will do their bit this week to help our high streets bounce back to protect jobs and support local communities.”

Small Business Minister Paul Scully said:

“The last few months have been incredibly hard for businesses across the country, which is why the government put in place an unprecedented package of measures to support them. As small businesses get back on their feet and reopen with new safety measures in place, consumers can lend a hand by shopping local – supporting local companies and jobs.”

Michelle Ovens, Director of Small Business Saturday UK and Founder of Small Business Britain said:

“Small businesses are the beating heart of communities and town centres up and down the country, and they will be at the centre of the recovery. These small firms – from the local greengrocer, to the neighbourhood gift shop – were there for the nation during lockdown and now they need our support to get back on their feet.

Shop Local is an important campaign to encourage more people to return to shopping locally, in a way that is safe and gives them confidence. The British high street is confronting seismic changes, which have been accelerated by COVID-19. Small businesses are facing a really tough time, but they are also at the forefront of responding to this challenge and evolving these much-loved centres into places that enrich communities and add value to people's lives. Now is the time to show your local area some love.”

Federation of Small Business National Chair Mike Cherry said:

“It's vital now more than ever that we do what we can to support our local small businesses. The past few months have been among the most difficult that businesses have ever had and as we slowly reopen, the public can help by supporting their local businesses. Whether it's your local grocer, decorators or florist, they all need the support of their communities in

order to survive this crisis and thrive.

Even those businesses who haven't been able to reopen their stores, or members of the public who are continuing to shield, then shopping online is a great way to still do your part. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy nationwide, but crucially are the cornerstones of our local communities."

The pages of this magazine, both articles and advertisements, are testament to the number of small businesses operating in our community. As we enter a period of recession following the pandemic lockdown, support of these businesses is more important than ever. Shop local, support the economy, save livelihoods.

Keeping Purton Magazine sustainable

Tuesday 15th September is the launch date for the brand new Purton Magazine web site at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk – is that the sound of the trumpets warming up? Seriously though, regular readers will know that we have been busy behind the scenes in the last few months, preparing and producing our brand new web site with local internet specialists Pink Fish Associates.

The recent move away from printed advertisements, only exacerbated by the coronavirus, has significantly reduced income for the magazine. Rather than just standing still, letting these macro changes happen around us, we have substantially improved our offering to advertisers. From 15th September and for the first time, all advertisements printed in this magazine will also appear on our web site. However,

we considered even that might not be the best level of service that we could provide and the new web site includes an easily searchable



database of advertisers and advertisements. That means anyone with internet access can search magazine advertisements by business type, business name or even sometimes, by business owner. So, rather than hoping your neighbour might know of an electrician or plumber or builder, everyone can search through all the magazine advertisements themselves, every month.

If you advertise in Purton Magazine after the launch date and provide an email address to accompany your advertisement, anyone wanting to enquire about your services can quickly send you an email by following that link in the website advertising directory. With a subject line showing you where that email came from, this should help you to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of advertising with Purton Magazine.

As always, we would be pleased to receive comments and feedback from our readers about our new website and look forward to printing readers' reactions in future issues.

Francis Sheppard, Treasurer.



Purton Magazine is available to buy at; One Stop, Purton Farm Shop, Dora's Dairy, Shear Success and the Co-op. We deliver to over 800 homes each month through our network of volunteers.

To become a distributor, or a Magazine subscriber, contact Sandra Horsnall, tel: 01793 770157 or email:

distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk

To promote your business in an advertisement please email: advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk or call 01793 772954.



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.



Letter of thanks

This is a message to say thank you to the village for all the support and help it has given to my family. We fell on hard times at the beginning of the year and Purton village has surpassed itself. The community spirit of this village is to be commended and especially in the current challenging times we find ourselves in. I'm not normally on the receiving end of help due to the nature of my job which finds me in the supporting, giving role. But I have learnt to value that help I give more, following the blanket that Purton has wrapped my family in. So thank you to all those who have helped us set up a new home and get us back on our feet, it is very overwhelming and warming to

know that there are good people in this world. Something that will stay close to my heart and should be shared with you all is the response of my kids who said; "we may not be rich but we feel pretty rich from the love shown by the village", out of the mouths of babes as they say. So thank you to everyone who has helped us.

V. Grateful



Lockdown Birthday

Thank you to everyone who made my birthday special with cards, gifts, phone calls, calling to see me and inviting me to dinner. What a great place Purton is!

With love and thanks, Bernice Seviour

Church Floodlighting

As you will know St Mary's Church is now closed whilst work is being carried out on the Renewal scheme. We are hoping that the Church will open again in time for Easter 2021.



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

Please contact Libbie 771018 if you need further explanation.

From the archives – more interesting facts about our area

A History of the County of Wiltshire Volume XVIII contains records for Braydon – Social History and Education.



THIS photograph of Braydon School pupils in 1928 has been sent in by Herbert Hussey of Brickstead Avenue, Devizes. He says he used to walk two miles to the school, near Purton, which is now demolished. He also had to walk a quarter of a mile from home for water. Mr Hussey went on to join the Army in 1940 and served with the 27th Lancers in the Middle East and Italy.

In the photograph he is pictured second left on the back

row. Also pictured are back row, from left: Mrs O'Mara, S Hussey, L Day, V Joyce, R Pritchard, Miss Evans; second row: Unknown, Enid Joyce, May Selwood, Lily Stratford, Ossie O'Mara, Elsie Selwood; third row: Ernie Plummer, R Plummer, F Plummer, D Sly, T Hussey, T Day, Joan Davies; front row: D Pritchard, T Page, C Sawyer, Kath Day and Edna Hussey.

If you have an old photograph you would like published send it to the Editor with some details and phone number.

A National School, with a house for the schoolmistress, was built at Braydon in 1857/8 for 36 pupils and was enlarged in 1882 to accommodate 60. As time went by numbers became low and it was closed in 1933.

A private dwelling is now situated on the school site adjacent to the old Braydon Church, which is also now a private dwelling. We are uncertain at the moment if the school and house was totally demolished, as it says in the newspaper clip below, or if some of the original school and house remained and was incorporated into today's private dwelling. We hope to confirm this detail in the near future.

There is a copy of "A History of the County of Wiltshire Volume XVIII" in our museum which was presented by Inez Gale in memory of her husband Michael. Michael and Inez Gale were both valued members of the society for many years.

There are no other recorded details of Braydon School easily available.

Appeal for information - it would be greatly appreciated if anyone can give us further information about Braydon School.

There are other photographs available to view on our website or photocopies on request. Thank you to David and Jill Herbert for the loan of these photographs.

Appeal for information - We have received an appeal via our website: A Grandson, is seeking information about his Grandmother – Vera Alexandra May King born 1897 and died at Upper Square 1932. Contact details on request.

Future PHS Articles: Purton Mills and a circular walk to Mouldon Hill Country Park will be featured in the October and November issues of the magazine.

The Future

The Historical Society committee is arranging a meeting in the near future to discuss and decide the best way forward in view of the current situation regarding COVID19. Decisions will be made about the viability of meetings and outings, taking into account Government guidelines.

All members and friends will be receiving a newsletter in early September regarding the Society's plans. There will be posters/notices around the village, information on Facebook and Nextdoor giving details of any decisions taken.

Meetings and events subject to confirmation

Thursday 24th September, 2020 - A brief Annual General Meeting followed by:

Ann King - 'Taking the Waters in Wiltshire' – The "Rise and fall of Wiltshire Spas" including our own Spa on Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke. Wiltshire had four places that were recognised as spas: Box, Holt, Melksham and Purton Stoke with several other settlements aspiring to that title, such as Seend and Chippenham. This presentation looks at the general background to the popularity of 'taking the waters' and growth of spa towns from the 17th century, the heydays of these Wiltshire spas, and the factors that then contributed to their demise.

Sunday 4th October 2020 - Visit to Swindon & Cricklade Railway - Postponed until 2021

Thursday 22nd October 2020 - Julia Hunt – A story of researching family history

Thursday 26th November 2020 - Vince Povey – R.A.F. Blakehill Farm

Provisional late November - An outing to Winchester Cathedral and Christmas Market

Friday, 4th December - Christmas Social in Purton Silver Threads Hall at 7.30pm. Christmas Social Evening

Museum Re-Opening News

Purton Museum Cricket Club bicentenary exhibition, researched and compiled by Mr Joe Gardner

Joe Gardner came to Purton in late 1962 prior to getting married at Christmas. In May 1963 he joined Purton Cricket Club where he has been a member ever since. In his school days he had success on the cricket field and History was his favourite subject.

For the last 57 years he has researched the history of Purton Cricket Club spending many hours and days in libraries, archive centres and scanning newspapers in addition to talking to 'Purtonians' about the club founded in 1820. The exhibition is the result of his efforts, ably helped by family members. He would like to thank his wife Rosemary and daughter Nicola for supporting his efforts and in particular, for mounting this exhibition when he was recovering from a hip replacement operation.

The exhibition will be available to view on Saturday mornings only from Saturday 5th September 2020 until Saturday 31st October 2020. In addition to this important new exhibition there will be our usual displays of interesting artefacts and documents. Admission is free of charge. The opening is in accordance with the Government's opening up plan from lockdown, following the guidance of the South West Museum Development Programme. Admission only on Saturdays 10.00am to 12.30pm, so as to adhere to our risk assessment. In accordance with Government guidelines, all visitors to Purton Museum must wear a face mask.

Thank you to all who are making this possible.

*Marion Hobbs, Chairman, email:roy.marion@btinternet.com 01793 770185
www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com*

Purton Methodist Church

An update on the Methodist Church from the Church Stewards

As with all places of worship, the Methodist Church has been closed since March due to Covid-19 in accordance with Government guidelines. Meanwhile, we have kept in touch with one another through telephone calls, emails and social media. Revd David Perkins also records a weekly Sunday Service of Worship which can be accessed on YouTube at any time at www.youtube.com/channel/UCYZpw6oX_1ef-68tycPGT3Q?

As restrictions are eased we are working towards meeting again in the chapel, but this too has to be in accordance with Government guidelines, and with plans in place to ensure complete safety for our congregation and anyone else who comes into the building. Unfortunately, from information we have received, this is unlikely to be before the end of September.

We look forward to the time coming when we can meet together again in the chapel for Sunday worship and other church activities. If you would like to join us when that time comes you would be very welcome. If you would like further information feel free to contact Sylvia Freemantle (telephone 770686).

Heather Hunt

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Jubilee Estate, Vasterne Close, Hoggs Lane, Vasterne Hill, (and from Moulden View) Caspian Close and Pinto Close*

Purton in the time of Victoria

Part 14: Evolution of Sport

Prior to 1863, football was played at a very local, village or town level. In that year the Football Association was formed, creating unified rules for the game. Many clubs amalgamated which explains why there are so many teams with “United” at the end of their name. Purton Football Club was established rather later in 1924.

Three main codes of football came into existence at about that time: Association Football – soccer from three middle letters of ‘Association’; Rugby Football or rucker; and Rugby League mainly played then and now in the north of England. Rugby was kicked off (as it were) when William Webb Ellis picked up the ball and ran with it during a Rugby School football match in 1823... though most sport historians think this is a myth!



Francis Sheppard, in his books *A Gift for All Time* and *200 Not Out** records that “Purton Cricket Club was formed in 1820, [the year before Victoria’s birth], and enjoyed a very distinguished early history. ... Perhaps the most famous member of Purton Cricket Club was E. H. Budd (1785 - 1875), pictured above left, who was listed in the top 3 English cricketers of his time by many writers and was the first to score a century at Lords (105 in 1816). ... However, back in the 1870s, the club began to fall on hard times and it was the generosity of local politician and landowner James Sadler (pictured centre ‘sideways’ in 1908, above right) that quite probably saved the club from extinction. Club records pinpoint numerous instances of his generosity; for example, the minutes of the 1898 Annual General Meeting

state ‘through the generosity of the President, the club will again be enabled to have a coach for the greater part of the season.’ Professional coaches for cricket clubs were one way of identifying that the club should be taken seriously on the playing field.”

It was Sadler who gifted the Workmen’s Institute building to the village in the 1880s – see part 7 (January 2020). He gifted the cricket field to the Club in 1911.

There is a chain in Purton Museum which came from Purton Cricket Club. It’s a whole load of rather rusty metal links held together with a cloth band. Though only to be opened out by the brave but not suitable for photographing, its interest value is that the chain has a length of “one chain”. In the old imperial measurement system, I was taught at school in the 1950s that: 12 inches make 1 foot; 3 feet make 1 yard; 22 yards make 1 chain; 10 chains make 1 furlong; 8 furlongs make 1 mile. Furlongs survive in horse racing and 1 chain = 1 cricket pitch (22 yds). Also 1 chain x 1 furlong = 1 acre (4840 sq yds).

Boxing also saw a game changer. Bare knuckle, or prize fighting had been outlawed by the early 1800s but still survived as a “sport” hidden away from the authorities just as cock fighting unfortunately continues today. Between 1865 and 1867 the modern versions of boxing were born under the Marquess of Queensberry Rules. They should be called the Chambers Rules because they were really written by a Welsh sportsman, John Graham Chambers. However, you don’t get anything much done without a well-placed sponsor. The 9th Marquess of Queensberry publicly endorsed the code ensuring its success.

When I was talking about the Turnpike roads back in Part 5 (November 2019 issue) I referred to some letters found in an old tin box, wedged inside the large chimney piece during a cottage renovation in Gloucestershire. The six letters from Phillip Bramble to a Miss Elizabeth Peart, between 1823 and 1826, tell of his time as a prize fighter. If caught by the authorities he could have been transported as a convict to Australia, but the account showed how badly injured he had been and the amount of time he had needed to hide away before being able to face the world again in safety.

The new rules still gave a sense of excitement to the spectators while not reducing the boxers themselves to the point of death.

Next month: Education & Voting Reform

*200 Not Out is available from francis.sheppard@live.com or 01793 771018.

Rick Dixon

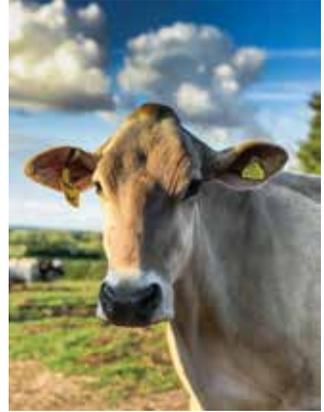
Purton Silver Threads

Unfortunately due to the Covid restrictions, the Silver Threads Hall will not be open for bookings for the remainder of this year. We apologise to all users but feel we are unable to sanitise the premises to the appropriate standard required.

Purton Silver Threads Committee

The other side of the gate

Sadly we lost our beloved Lilac. When I wrote last, we were nursing her. She was ill and we didn't know why. She had fluids and veterinary care and our vet even called in to check on her in his own time. We had been helping her stand up for a week and she was ok, eating grass and hay and acting normally. Then she refused to stand. When a big animal like that refuses to stand you know it's not going to be a good outcome. I monitored her for the next day and I could tell her organs were starting to pack up. Bubbling nose and laboured, erratic breathing usually mean heart failure. That's trigger enough to end the suffering. We're going to miss her gentle presence.



31st July saw the last milk tanker collection. It was a strange day. Mixed feelings about the end of an era, but also excitement about the opportunities that we can now pursue.

Sarah has been busy commissioning the pasturiser and cream separator. We have to send samples off to a lab to confirm all the products are fully pasteurised and free from things such as Listeria and Coliforms before we can sell to the public.

Andrew Hiscock Butchers and Purton House Farm Shop now stock our milk. Take up has been much better than we could have imagined. We've lots of new routes to expand and my initial thoughts are that we may not have enough milk! [Purton Magazine's designer, Heather, has been trying out our milk in her tea whilst putting this issue together].

Dotty, our little Jack Russell X Chihuahua has had 6 puppies. My midwifery skills were tested. I'm used to being able to climb into an animal to see what's going on, grab a foot or leg and extract the baby. Dotty's first pup came out normally (although she was bashing her about as she walked across the patio half hanging out!), but the second was backwards and stuck. I managed to draw the legs back, get the tail back too and pull her out. The feet are so small and very hard to grip. After about an hour and with no sign of the third, I had a feel about and found another tail. The pup was still in the uterus but I





could not get it to engage. Two hours at Drove Vets and we're on our way home. 4 weeks on and now they're developing personalities and causing trouble! A big boy was attacking Zulu, our older labrador. Luckily they are granted puppy licence at that age and she obliged his fooling around!

Straw is now in. There is a big shortage of straw this year as very little winter wheat was planted because of the wet autumn/winter. Prices will be high. Luckily I have some left from last year, but I still might be short. As we don't know when the cows are coming in for winter or going out next spring, we must ensure we have enough to cover the worst case. That's actually a lot of straw. I don't have enough storage yet – I will have to get more barns put up to store it!

We've had another crop of grass from Restrop. 70 bales. Not a bad second crop. Will get a third before year end.

Jonathan Cook

Rotary Clubs of Royal Wootton Bassett postpone Youth Challenge 2020

It is with much regret that the Rotary Clubs of Royal Wootton Bassett & District and Royal Wootton Bassett Town have made the difficult decision to postpone this year's very popular Rotary Youth Challenge due to the COVID-19 uncertainties.

The event sees young people from organisations based in and around Royal Wootton Bassett competing against each other in a series of seven challenges during the day. It is always extremely lively and noisy, and all the teams go home with a financial contribution towards their funds, with the main prize being worth £500 – definitely worth turning up for!

The clubs have decided to compensate the organisations who had already applied this year by awarding them each a £50 donation.

Events like Youth Challenge rely on close physical contact to complete the tasks. We will be monitoring the COVID-19 safety regulations and once restrictions are sufficiently lifted to allow the event to proceed, we will be setting a new date.



Beneath the Wool

The last month has been quite busy with a few jobs done. First job was to unload the hay off the wagon and stack it into the shed. Thanks to Jon, Harry and Matthew for helping stack them into the shed, it's a hard job on your own. At least now all the hay bales are in the dry, ready to be used. The other big job this month was to get all the sheep in and drench all them with wormer and put the fly spray on the lambs to prevent them from getting blow fly. This job went well and all the sheep and lambs got done and we even had a chance to weigh a few of the big lambs and see how they were doing. I was pleasantly surprised with a few of them, especially one which is currently 36kg, ideally they want to be over 40kg to go to slaughter. The others that were weighed were around 32kg.

We could really do with some rain again on the farm as the grass is yet again starting to burn up and we have started feeding a little bit of hay already. I always put the feeder out when it looks a bit short of grass so they can come and go and pick at the hay when they like and if they want it. The first day they seemed very keen and all came running over for it and they are eating it steady which is good.

At the beginning of August we made a bit of haylage down Pavenhill for some winter feed, which Neil Webb baled up for me. I managed to cut it one evening, put it into rows the next and Neil baled it the following day and we managed to get 7 bales.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton

Purton Cricket Club



At last, on 11th July, the club was given permission to restart cricket with conditions including social distancing and sanitising of hands and the ball. Since then, with the weather kind and warm, we have played 20 matches up to 4th August from Under 11 to adult. The ground staff have worked extremely hard and we are hopeful that we can complete the remaining 29 fixtures.



On the 10th August the Swindon United Churches team presented a '200' celebration cake to the club and slices were offered to both players and spectators.

On 24th July former player, Craig Miles, was awarded his county cap by Warwickshire. We wish him well and success in the county matches.

The celebration of the club's 200th anniversary will be marked by an exhibition in the Purton Museum on Saturdays from 5th September to 31st October, 10am to midday. The committee would like to thank Rosemary and Nicola Gardner for their time in presenting the material while I was recovering from a hip replacement operation.

Joe Gardner, 770681

Purton Profferings

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

- Chrome standard lamp and desk lamp, laundry basket, wooden towel rail and trinket box. Happy to split items up, Bernice 771210

Carer needed

Rick has two carers, one of which is on long term sickness. This has made us realise we need some backup, so we are looking for an experienced carer to help out.

We need someone to work 12-14 hours per week on a permanent basis, and maybe cover some extra hours. You would need to have your own transport. We pay mileage and £10-25 per hour. If you can help please call Alex on 01793 770065.

Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group

Chris Rumming of Lydiard Turkeys was the speaker at our July meeting on Zoom. Chris grew up in a farming family in Hook and he and his wife Lyndsey now grow on cattle that come from his brother's farm nearby. They also have sheep and, of course, turkeys! He and his brother are passionate about attracting as much wildlife as possible to their farms.

Chris began his talk by saying that he doesn't like the term 'Sustainable Farming' because he thinks most farmland is now so degraded that why would we want to sustain it like that? He prefers the term 'Regenerative Farming' and this is the basis of his whole way of managing his land and animals, continuously keeping up to date with the latest research into how farming can have a positive impact on biodiversity and the environment.

His farm includes extensive 'scrubby' hedges which are cut in winter rather than summer as this maintains density and only every other year to allow plenty of food for wild birds, of which he

has counted 94 species (so far). There are also copses which are cut on a 10 year rotation, part of the wood being used to fuel the biomass boiler and the rest left to rot down slowly providing habitats for small mammals and improving the woodland soil. There are ponds and several brooks running through the land which are home to water voles, kingfishers, otters and – something I'd never heard of – water stick insects! He keeps some of the grass ungrazed to grow long, providing habitats for a huge variety of insects which, he says, makes it very noisy.

His first slide showed a herd of wildebeest in Africa. Here he was demonstrating that grazing animals are a natural part of the ecosystem worldwide. Without them, everywhere, apart from water bodies and desert regions, would be trees. This sounds good but the natural world is actually made up of a wide range of habitats which is what creates such enormous biodiversity. In addition, grasslands have been shown to absorb more carbon than trees and the deepest, healthiest soils in the world are grasslands.



Long grass gets trampled into the soil by grazing animals which, together with their dung and urine, builds up the soil and captures carbon. On his farm, Chris tries to mimic the grazing patterns of wild herbivores by using 'mob grazing' controlled by electric fencing. The cattle graze each patch intensively, as they would in the wild – herbivores keep close together to avoid predators. The cattle then get moved on, and each patch of grazed grass is left far longer than normal to regenerate. This method has been shown to greatly improve the soil as well as the health of the cattle and Chris would agree with this. Some of his fields were in a very poor state only a couple of years ago and he showed us before and after pictures to demonstrate the improvement. And by restoring soil fertility naturally he has not needed to use artificial fertiliser.

Deeper soils also retain water better and prevent flooding. A favourite demonstration is a model comparing bare soil to grass covered soil. When a cup of water is poured over both, it runs straight off the bare soil but goes downwards in the grassland soil with none running off. Another interesting point is that soil is the bottom of the food web – good soil contains a huge ecosystem of micro flora and fauna, including fungi and bacteria which provides nutrition to plants and minibeasts and also helps prevent diseases. Research has shown that these microorganisms also break down methane in the soil which balances out the methane produced by ruminant herbivores, both wild and domestic. Listening to this whirlwind tour of the science of soil makes you realise that it is a lot more complicated than we might have thought and natural systems have their own way of balancing things out.

The problems occur, as always, when humans try to take short cuts for greater profit. Artificial fertiliser is made by combining nitrogen and hydrogen from the air using huge amounts of energy and so contributing to climate change. When



applied to the soil in large quantities, it destroys the micro flora and fauna just described. The method of finishing cattle using Feed Lots in the US creates large emissions of methane and ammonia gases as well as a very damaging effluent, and the cattle are fed on soya grown where rainforests once were, with progesterone and testosterone hormones used to enhance growth.

Another interesting comparison with the US was made regarding the rearing of

indoor chickens. In the UK, chicken houses are very clean with the litter replaced between each flock by law. In the US they have lower standards of hygiene and then make the chicken safe afterwards by chlorination and they also use a lot of antibiotics for disease prevention (rather than cure). In the UK poultry farms reduced their use of antibiotics between 2014 and 2018 by 50%. Of course, this is all under threat now with the new trade deals!

In summing up, Chris compared how we tend to think about food compared to other aspects of our lives. When buying a house or car we are much more likely to do thorough research than when choosing our food! We need to learn more about how our food is produced so that we make good decisions for our health and the environment.

You can join in with the Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group via the website <http://ecorwb.org> or Facebook page or ring me to find out more. We are also holding 'Coffee and Conservation' at Purton Farm Shop every Saturday at 11am. Come along if you fancy an outdoor, socially distanced chat about interesting things that matter. We'll see how it evolves and farm tours, seed collecting and country walks among other things are on the agenda over the coming months. Contact me if you'd like more information.

Kate Robinson, email: purtonfarmshop@gmail.com Tel. 01793 772930

Purton Tennis Club

2020 has certainly been a summer with a difference. From a tennis fan's point of view there has been no Wimbledon, no French Open, no Queens, no Devonshire Park; and for those who play the sport, there has been no summer league.

However, tennis does continue to be a comparatively safe sport to play in these uncertain times as demonstrated when Jamie Murray spearheaded the very successful 'Battle of the Brits' tournament, bringing together the best players in our country. At grass roots level, many families have discovered what fun it can be just playing together; and various players have been arranging games among themselves and of course, the coaches, John Bastin, Richard Watkins and Ben Langley have been busy giving private lessons.

With this in mind, our courts have been busy at certain times, so we have introduced the 'Club Spark' booking system, which is linked to the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) and our own website. This means that players can book a court (and pay if necessary) online, making it easier for everyone.

In the meantime, we continue to play men's club tennis on Monday evenings, Ladies' on Tuesdays, and mixed tennis on Thursdays.

Should you like to book a court or join the Tennis Club, we would be very pleased to hear from you. All information is on our website: www.purtontennisclub.com

Purton Tennis Club committee, Janet Saunders (secretary) janetcsaunders@gmail.com

Parkinson's UK Cricklade Café.

When Lockdown was announced in March 2020, Parkinson's UK advised us that all social gathering must stop immediately and until further notice.

The Parkinson's UK – Cricklade Café coffee mornings were always run on the third Wednesday of every month, at The Cricklade Club (in the High Street adjacent to Tesco), from 10:30 – 11:30.

Parkinson's UK regularly considers the latest government rules and will allow the Cricklade Café to resume normal business when they deem it safe to do so.

At the time of writing this editorial, we are unable to announce when that might be but we promise to keep you informed as soon as things change!

In the meantime anyone affected by Parkinson's can call the free and confidential Parkinson's UK helpline on 0808 800 0303.

There is also a huge amount of support to be found on www.parkinsons.org.uk

The Cricklade Club has now reopened after lockdown and you are welcome to visit them for coffee and cake or their menu of delicious meals.

You can contact them directly on 01793 299079 or www.thecrickladeclub.co.uk

Vincent and Maggie Mobey, Parkinson's UK - Cricklade Café Co-ordinators

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Wiltshire Council publishes advice for parents and carers of children returning and starting to school

Families thinking about the start of the September term can find a range of advice and support in a Back to School booklet published by Wiltshire Council.

Schools are getting ready to open their doors to all pupils from September for the first time fully since March.

Schools have been busy preparing to ensure pupils can safely return and each school will be contacting families to set out how the new school day will work and providing practical advice.

Wiltshire Council has produced the booklet as an easy reference point with advice on how to prepare your child for going back, FAQs and general advice on where to find help and support.

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills said: "After months of being at home there will be students who can't wait to go back and others who are daunted by the prospect.

"We know schools have been very busy preparing to ensure we have the right timetables and systems in place so pupils can confidently return to school and I want to recognise all of their efforts to be ready."

"This booklet provides advice on how to get into the mindset of returning to school and also some helpful general advice we hope everyone will find useful."

Where possible pupils are being encouraged to walk and cycle to school. The Wiltshire Council website also has a range of advice and FAQs on school transport as pupils return. There is information on dedicated school transport and pupils taking public transport.

The Back to School information can be downloaded from the Wiltshire Council website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/articles/back-to-school-booklet-is-published

Outreach Purton

Following on from my article in the August issue about the grant application I had made, I received the following (abridged) email from the National Lottery Communities Fund:

"We want to thank you for the time and effort you put into developing your application for the Emerging Futures Fund. Unfortunately, your application was unsuccessful.

We received a high number of applications, and so many of them were for worthwhile projects. All the projects showed the huge desire communities have to share experiences and work together for a renewed future. There was so much positivity and creativity in the applications, and we had to make some very tough decisions about which projects to fund.

At the National Lottery Community Fund, we are committed to empowering communities to thrive and want to give an opportunity to everyone to share their stories and actively

shape a better future with some free resources, which we hope will be helpful to you.

In early September we will be sending out to all applicants a free, downloadable toolkit that you can use to do listening, storytelling and imagining work within your communities. We hope you will find it useful.

We are also hosting a weekly Community Listening Event every Wednesday in September for those applicants that were unsuccessful. This is to give you an opportunity to tell your stories, learn from others in communities, and we plan to offer you some advice and tips on any projects that you want to still do. The first one will also focus on the toolkit, with some guidance on how to use it. We also encourage you to keep an eye on our website and social media for any updates and future opportunities.

If you, or anyone in your community would like to take part in a film or audio project that has been funded through the Emerging Futures Fund programme, please sign up [here](#).

Thank you for taking the time to tell us about your idea. We know it takes a lot of effort to put an application together. We appreciate you taking the time to apply."

Perhaps there's an opportunity to put together a smaller-scale project documenting our pandemic experiences in Purton? If anyone has any ideas and would like to take part (including those organisations which have already supported the grant application), please let me know; email: heather@intouchpurton.co.uk

Stay alert, Control the virus, Save lives.

Heather Ponting-Bather, Outreach Purton helpline 772954

Christian Aid update

The winning home made bag, crocheted by Mary Wooding of Norbury Court, for the Christian Aid competition. Not only did Mary make it but she also gave it to the Christian Aid team full of money! A worthy winner! Thank you Mary!

Sunflowers for Christian Aid

Back at the start of lockdown the Christian Aid Team offered a challenge to Purtonians to grow a sunflower, ready for August 22nd. Sunflower seeds were available from various places in the village, for a small donation of 25p minimum, including a kit from the Purton Farm Shop, with seed, pot and compost all provided.

The competition ended on August 22nd when all sunflower photos were to be submitted and the tallest was awarded a prize.

Thank you to everyone for taking part... and for making Purton look so cheerful with so many magnificent sunflower heads adding colour and charm to the village. For more details contact Libbie.

*Libbie: 771018, Mary Hodges: 770505 Purton Christian Aid Team
www.facebook.com/Purton-Christian-Aid-Group*





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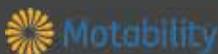
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02/21

Kennings as a riddle

Regular readers will know that we like to encourage new contributions to Purton Magazine and provide a wider variety of articles for your enjoyment. This month we are starting a challenge for readers to write a riddle wrapped up in pairs of words – known as a kenning – with a maximum of 12 pairs (24 words) or less if you prefer.

A kenning is a poem which uses two-word phrases to describe an animal, an object or a type of person (but not a specific individual) based on what they do. We hope that readers will enjoy composing some kennings as riddles for us to include in the October issue for others to work out what or who is being described in each kenning.

All we need is for you to send your name, your kenning and the answer to your riddle to mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk by 10th September for publication in the October issue. Here are three examples (Answers on page 62.)

1. Worm eater Melodious singer Nest maker Wing flapper Seed muncher <i>online example</i>	2. Well kept Hidden away Under wraps Tight lipped Lovers' tryst <i>Libbie Sheppard</i>	Red leather Green sward Creased whites Willow wand Puffed gloves <i>Francis Sheppard</i>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The origins of a kenning come from Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse traditions a thousand years ago that have a word for a compound expression with a metaphorical meaning. Simply put, in poetry, a kenning is when you take two words and combine them as a mild translation or metaphor for something else. Kennings were often used to describe everyday types of people, animals, and objects.

To no surprise, they were used to brighten up an author's prose. Why say "a ship" when you can use something more illustrious like "wave floater"? Similar to how we incorporate similes and metaphors in our prose, kennings can provide an added layer of intrigue and beauty. Some modern expressions that have their roots in kennings including:

Bean counter = a bookkeeper or accountant

Fender bender = a car accident

First Lady - the wife of the president

Head twister = an owl

Hot potato = something no one wants

Mind reader = a person who knows what you are thinking

Pencil pusher = a person with a clerical job

Postman chaser = a dog

Tree hugger = an environmentalist

Tree swinger = a monkey

Prospect Hospice

Join the Prospect Hospice 40th anniversary raffle and you could win £2,000 cash!

In celebration of Prospect Hospice's 40th year, you could win some fantastic cash prizes in their 40th anniversary raffle, all thanks to the generous people at Imagine Cruising. First prize £2,000, Second prize £500, Third prize £250, plus five lucky winners will receive a prize of £50 each.

To enter all you need to do is visit www.prospect-hospice.net/raffle. Tickets cost just £1 each and with every ticket purchased you will be contributing to the care and support that Prospect Hospice provides to local people living with a life limiting illness. Every pound really does make a difference so, whether you're looking to buy a single ticket or many, thank you for supporting Prospect Hospice in this way.

Entries close on Monday 5 October 2020. For full terms and conditions please contact the fundraising team on lottery@prospect-hospice.net.

Hospice raises over £1 million in first two months of appeal

Prospect Hospice launched its 'help us to support you appeal' on 12 May following the Covid-19 outbreak and the beginning of a nationwide lockdown. In her open letter to supporters chief executive Irene Watkins said: "The hospice you know and love is still supporting your community, but to respond to the current needs for Covid-19 we have had to dramatically change and increase the size and scope of our services. This means we are supporting people in their homes on a scale of operation we have never attempted before, at a time when income is all but drying up now that all community activities and events have been cancelled/postponed and all our shops closed."

The hospice changed the way it worked almost overnight to ensure their patients got what they needed. Which meant taking more of its specialist care out into the community, following this change in service operation and seeing a sharp decline in donations at the same time, meant the charity identified there would be a gap of £2million in their funds this year due to the pandemic.

Just over two months later, the local charity is delighted to announce that it has already raised £1,019,000 towards the £2,000,000 projected shortfall. It appealed to local people with a letter for support, made applications to receive emergency government funding and applied to Trusts and Foundations for additional support.

Sheryl Crouch, head of income at Prospect Hospice, said: "We couldn't have predicted the response we've had from our supporters and to know that we've raised over half of the funds we so desperately need in the space of just ten weeks is incredible. We know that the hospice has had a great impact on many local people and it's heart-warming that they're supporting us at this time so that we can be there for others who need us now and in the future. Support from local authorities

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and money from the national government recognising the importance of hospice care has also been gratefully received.

“We’re not out of the woods yet though. £1 million is brilliant but we need to raise the same again in additional income over the next few months to ensure our services continue and adapt to what our patients need in these changing and testing times.”

“With our shops reopening teamed with the thousands of donations of pre-loved goods we’ve received, this is certainly positive news for the hospice but our events remain postponed/cancelled for 2020 so we really need the support of local people to help us raise these funds in any way they can.”

People are choosing to support the hospice in a number of ways including joining the hospice’s own lottery, buying from their shops, creating their own sponsored activity, holding online fundraising events with their friends and family, and even choosing to leave the hospice a gift in their will.

Those wishing to donate directly to the hospice can do so at www.prospect-hospice.net/donate.

Exciting events news for 2021

Dig out those leg warmers and start crimping your hair because Prospect Hospice’s Starlight Walk will be returning to the streets of Swindon on Saturday 26 June 2021 with a ‘back to the eighties’ theme!

The charity’s flagship annual fundraising event raises a phenomenal amount each year from those who take part and all the money raised by entry fees and in sponsorship goes towards supporting the hospice’s care of local people living with a life limiting illness, and their families.

The mini version of this event, Kids Starlight Walk, will take place on Sunday 7th March 2021. Much like the adults’ event, walkers will gather together and take on a sponsored walk around a carefully selected route within Swindon. Unlike the Starlight Walk which has a later finish, this one has been planned so everyone will be finished early enough to be tucked up in bed for a good night’s sleep before school the next day.

Lastly, for those old enough to remember the TV programme, you’ll be excited to hear that Prospect Hospice will be hosting Swindon’s first ever ‘It’s a Knockout’ event on Sunday 18th July 2021. The event will see teams play a range of games, which usually involve dressing up, or getting wet, or both, throughout the day to win points.

For more information on all of these events visit: www.prospect-hospice.net

For this year though – more precisely, October, November and December – Prospect Hospice is launching a virtual Ironman Triathlon challenge. The challenge will entail a marathon, a bike ride and a swim but don’t fret, you don’t have to do them all! If you don’t fancy all three and an ironman Triathlon medal, you can still go for just one medal or maybe even two. Visit the website to find out more.

Foggys

I suffered with a number of symptoms for many years, and believed that my medical records had me written up as a Hypochondriac. My symptoms would vary from day to day. One day I'd have pain in my right leg for example, and the next day would be my left arm, and ALWAYS my neck hurt. I finally found a doctor who diagnosed Fibromyalgia. When I read the symptoms for Fibromyalgia, I cried. Here I was written down, and I wasn't alone.

However, June 2010, I contacted FMA UK to find the nearest support group and was told the nearest was in Calne. I was actually more interested in finding support and information for my then partner, as he found Fibromyalgia harder to live with than I did. I was encouraged and assisted by FMA UK to start the group and Foggys was born. It was 16th August 2010 and I sat nervously in the small hall of Liden Community Centre, hoping someone will turn up to Foggys first ever meeting. I can still remember myself saying "I hope people turn up". An hour later, nerves gone, as 50ish Fibromyalgia sufferers and loved ones turn up and Foggys was officially born. At one point we thought we'd be out of the door, as we had to keep moving to make room. Sounds scary? no! It was brilliant. Relaxed atmosphere, few tears, lots of laughs.

We've tried different venues and times over the years, but Liden 12-2pm on the first Wednesday of the month has always proved the most popular. We're currently not meeting due to Covid-19. but we hope to start them again in September 2020. In the meantime, we're holding zoom meetings, just to catch up with each other.

When not in lockdown, we try to arrange meals out, subsidised by Foggys (depending on funds) as many of us aren't normally able to socialise. It's lovely to be out with like-minded people, with similar disabilities, and anxieties.

From 7th July 2014, Foggys (paid) members could take advantage of FREE swim sessions at Thamesdown Hydrotherapy Pool. From 31st July 2017, we were able to increase this to 2 sessions. Paid members are welcome to attend both, space allowing. (Currently not happening due to lockdown).

Primarily setup as Fibromyalgia Support, we now provide support for Arthritic/Rheumatic Conditions, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Chronic Widespread Pain, Fibromyalgia, M.E. Myalgic Encephalopathy and Myofascial Pain and where possible other "invisible illnesses". As we tell people who contact us, please try to come to a meeting, you might be shy and/or anxious, but you shouldn't suffer alone! ... and we understand.

Sadly, due to lockdown and coronavirus, we missed our birthday on 29th June 2020, but we're still here waiting for when we can meet up again, and celebrate with tea/coffee and cake... or maybe even a subsidised meal for our members. I can't believe that we're 10 years old! Thank you to everyone who has passed through and to those who we still see.

Deb Cooke



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Kennings Answers: 1 = A bird, 2 = A secret, 3 = A cricketer



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