

Purton. Magazine

September 2019

A section of 'The Wier Pond, Purton c.1963' by Andy Le Poidevin.
A limited edition print of this painting will be available to
purchase at Purton Artists' annual exhibition. See page 29.

50p

Purton Contacts

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

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www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton. Magazine

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INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

September is often seen as the change-over month. Summer activities draw to their natural close as the evenings slowly draw in, although it is mainly the new educational year that really marks out the change-over. However, talk of unconditional places on university courses has re-opened the debate about allowing some youngsters to coast their way into higher education while others have been sweating over the recently announced A level examination grades.

Many readers might catch themselves remembering their early years as does the 'Remembered Book' contributor on page 34. She recalls reading many books about 'outdoor' adventures and particularly the story of three brothers brought up by their maiden Aunt – "pince nez on nose, her hat jammed down on her iron grey hair" – who run away to avoid returning to boarding school.

Then, on page 30, we are delighted to publish a story about a double coincidence dating back to 1951. It is surprising that even in a village, smaller than ours and high up in the Austrian Tyrol, a close family relationship with Purton was discovered and then only through a mistake in a hotel booking. Contributions like those two just mentioned add such an interesting, additional perspective to all the local information that we are pleased to publish regularly. There must be a wide variety of fascinating memories and 'Remembered Book' stories lurking amongst our many different readers and we really do encourage you to share them with other readers through these pages – the magazine contact details are on page 4.

All of that is not to deny the initial importance of including information about the activities and achievements of others in the village, whether as individuals or as members of the many clubs and societies that make our community such a great place to live. This month you will find out about the plans for the Artists' exhibition and a silent auction on page 29, plans for the annual tennis tournament on page 36 and details of the black tie Purton Stoke Charity Ball with champagne reception on page 64. Then on page 28 we learn about a temperamental horse that bolted at the sight of men in any kind of uniform with sonic screwdrivers mentioned on page 35.

Separately we are told that Lloyds Pharmacy's head office is aware of the difficulties being experienced at their Purton branch which we all hope will soon be resolved.

26

Children regularly attended the tennis club's Saturday morning sessions – see page 36

£900

Donated to the community defibrillators by the 2019 Open Gardens – see page 45

93%

Successful delivery rate of cargo to the Soviet Union during World War II – see page 67



Memory Walk

Purton is holding its very own Memory Walk on Saturday 12th October starting at 10am at the Village Hall. The rate is 3.74km (1 hour average pace), and it's not suitable for wheelchairs or prams.

Set route, throughout Purton's open countryside and footpaths. Sponsorship forms are available from the office or on our website/Facebook pages to download. For more info contact our offices direct.

Unsung Heros in our community – Awards Scheme

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

Reminder of Changes to Village Hall car parking and use

Anticipated works due to commence on 19th August. Having been delayed by one week. The public toilets will still be accessible to residents, however you cannot park along side this area.

IMPORTANT: From 19th August, the strip of parking spaces to the side of the village hall will not be usable by anyone bar the Parish Council and the Co-op. (for references these spaces are as you enter the car park on the right).

Please bear with us during this period and support the Co-op in providing much needed service to the community - do not park in these spaces as it will halt work if they have nowhere to park their vehicles and access the site.

There is no overnight parking allowed on this site so please adhere to the current regulation and the changes imposed during this period. No definite timescales can be given at this time, but a minimum of six months is anticipated).

Thank You - Harvest Water Clean Up

This area was created as a feature by Holland Handling for the Millennium. The area was recently cleaned out by John Holland with help from Danny Fry, David Glead and equipment from Steve South and Rob at Rapid Hire.

A request has been received to not place anymore pond plants in this area as the site is not suitable.

Thank you from the Parish Council and residents on the excellent work. Alongside our Grounds Team we have to agree the area is kept well and a pleasure to view on entrance to this section of the village.

Community Engagement

This month our question is answered by Parish Council Chairman Ray Thomas.

Question: What Powers does the Council have to carry out its duties?

Listed below are a few main “acts and powers” that allows the Council to perform its duties.

Function	Power & duties	Statutory Provisions
Burial Grounds, cemeteries and crematoria	Power to acquire and maintain Power to provide Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries	Open Spaces Act 1906, Section 9&10 LGA 1972, s214 LGA 1972, s214 (6)
Bus Shelters	Power to provide and maintain shelters	LGA 1972, s214
Charities	Duties in respect of parochial charities Power to act as a charity trustee	Charities Act 2011, s298-303 LGA 1972 bs139(1)
Clocks	Power to provide public clocks	Parish Council Act 1957 s2
Closed churchyards	Powers to maintain	LGA 1972 s215
Conference facilities	Power to provide and encourage use of facilities	LGA 1972 s144
Crime Prevention	Power to spend money on crime detection and prevention measures	LGA and Rating Act 1997, s31
Highways	Power to provide highway seats and shelters Power to complain to district council about the protection of rights of way and roadside waste Power to provide certain signs and other notices Power to plant trees and shrubs and to maintain roadside verges	Parish Councils Act 1957 s1 Highways Act 1980 s130 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s72 Highways Act 1980 s96
Land	Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate and to dispose of	LGA 1972 s124, 126, 127
Litter	Provision of bins	Litter Act 1983, s5,6

Newsletter	Power to provide information relation to matters affecting local government	Local Government Act 1972 s142
Open Spaces	Power to acquire and maintain land for public recreation Power to acquire and maintain land for open spaces	Public Health Act 1987, s164 Open Spaces At 1906, ss9 and 10
Recreation	Power to provide a wide range of recreational facilities	LGA 1976 s19
Public Convenience	Power to provide	Public Health Act 1936 s 87
Traffic Calming	Power to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes	LG and Rating Act 1997 s30
Transport	Power to spend money on community transport schemes	LG and Rating Act 1997, s26-29
War Memorials	Power to maintain, repair, protect and adapt war memorials	War Memorials Act 1923 s1
Websites	Power for councils to have their own websites	LGA 1972 s142

Countryside Public Footpaths

Purton is fortunate to have 161 countryside footpaths which Wiltshire Council and the relevant landowner are required to keep open and accessible. We do not have the "Right to Roam" in this country therefore all our footpaths require all users to stay on the designated route. A full map of all footpaths is available at the Parish Council offices (fee pending size), viewable at the Library or Doctors Surgery or on Wiltshire Councils website as follows : <http://wiltscouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=43d5a86a545046b2b59fd7dd49d89d22>

Purton Parish Council have an amazing group of volunteers who work with the Parish and Wiltshire Council to maintain and keep as many footpaths as they can open and accessible, however there are times when this has to be dealt with by Wiltshire Council Officers alone due to issues with land owner. If you have any concerns please contact our office and we will do our best to advise and resolve matters. Letters sent to land owners are at the request of members of the public and/or the footpath teams and form part of a two-stage letter writing process before Wiltshire Council enforcement is engaged. The Parish Council does not have jurisdiction over footpaths and are only acting as a mediator as requested by Wiltshire Council.

Volunteers Wanted

St Marys Church in Purton has a small group of volunteers who work within the Churchyard clearing the grave spaces of overgrowth. If anyone would like to be involved, please contact Paul Dempsey via email on paul.dempsey@live.co.uk or call the office and we will pass on your details.

Highways Maintenance

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

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

Donations - Working With The Community

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

Next round of applications will be considered in February 2020. Applications are available on our website or from the Council offices. www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Financial-Details.aspx

In July, the Parish Council has awarded grants to:

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

Purton Youth Club For School Years 4-7

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

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

Councillors 2019-20

Chairman of Council/Charities	Ray Thomas	01793 951520
Finance & General Purposes		
Vice Chair of Council/Chair of Burials	Neil Hooper	01793 771066

Councillor	Helen Hicks	01793 778207
Councillor	Geoff Greenaway	01793 771140
Councillor	Kevin Law	07768 456989
Councillor	Sue Matthews	01793 771091
Councillor	Vicky McKerrow	01793 778190
Councillor	Julie Ann Hurwood	01793 771066
Chair of Staff Sub	Paul Grigg	01793 771066
Chair of Recreation	Sue Relfe	01793 771066
Councillor	Emily Seabrook	01793 771066
Councillor	Grant Seabrook	01793 771066
Councillor	Jim Reid	01793 771066
Councillor	Gavin James	01793 771066

Council Meetings in September

Commencing at 7pm in Purton Village Hall

Council meeting - 9th September 2019

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity Meeting - 23rd September 2019

Councillor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Councillor by co-option, due to the resignation of Elizabeth Wilson. The Council wish to formally thank Elizabeth for her hard work and dedication during her service to the community. If you would like to know more information about the post, please contact the office.

Public Convenience

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

Memory Stones

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

Planning Permission

Approved Applications

19/04185/FUL 37 Restrop View. Proposed rear extension and garage conversion.

19/03070/FUL 1 Hayes Knoll, Purton Stoke. Change of use from land to residential garden.

19/03164/FUL Pry Holding, The Pry. Change of use of ancillary accommodation to use as a separate dwelling.

19/04195/FUL Hansells Farm, Cricklade Road. Replacement roof and extension.

19/05160/FUL Midway, New Road. Proposed single storey rear/side extension.

19/05250/FUL 89a Reids Piece. Single storey rear extension.

Charities

Thank you to all those who attended the Purton Village Hall and Institute Charity Pop Quiz night on Saturday 19th July – we raised a whopping £652.28 for the charity funds. We will be arranging another event shortly. Watch this space!

THANK YOU to CYCLE CARE of Purton for donating a wonderful lady's bike to raffle for the Village Hall charity funds. The raffle was held at REDFEST on Saturday 24th August 2019. It was a fantastic event, and a great raffle.

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

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

How to contact the Parish Council

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

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Facebook, Twitter and Website

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

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

Memorial at the Red House

The Trustees have now agreed the size of the stone and its location but further discussions are needed to agree the wording on the plaque, which we hope to resolve at our next meeting with them.

We are presently applying for a Wiltshire Area Board Grant and we hope to be successful. Also keep a look out for future events we will be holding over the coming months and we hope you will be able to come along and support us.

If you feel you would like to make a donation towards the cost of this project, please contact Tony Price on 770696, Sue Giles on 771661 or Helen Griffin on 771645 or email griffinhs@yahoo.co.uk

Helen Griffin

Events

September Mystery Tour with Pub Lunch - Wednesday 4 September leaving the village around 10am. If we don't get lost and manage to find the pub, it will be a good day out! £15 for pensioners and £17 for non-pensioners or people who live outside the village. As usual numbers and money needs to be in to Tony or Arthur and Maureen by 23 August.

Jumble Sale at the Village Hall - Saturday 7 September. Come along a grab a bargain. Always a popular event. Any donations can be dropped off at noon – no earlier please.

Minibus Shopping Trips – Hazel is organising a shopping trip on Friday 13 September to Millets Farm, near Abingdon and will have her normal trip to Cirencester on 27 September both of which will leave the village at 9am. For more details and to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

October Mystery Tour with Pub Lunch - The last one of the year - Wednesday 2 October leaving the village around 10am. £15 for pensioners and £17 for non-pensioners or people who live outside the village. Numbers and money in to Tony or Arthur and Maureen by 20th September.

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

Attention all quizzers: We will be organising a Quiz Evening with a Fish & Chip Supper on 1st November at the Silver Threads Hall. We would like teams consisting of six people maximum and we will be offering prizes for the winners. There will also be a raffle. Read more in next months magazine for details of costs and timings.

Latest News



Some photographers out there have responded to last months' notice and have sent in their pictures for the Purton Calendar, but we still need more, so get snapping. We want to feature all the seasons of the year, especially winter time as not that many photographs are taken then.

The photos need to be at the highest resolution your camera can manage in either portrait or landscape format. If you need me to let you know if the quality is good enough then email them to peterberry@uwclub.net and I will have a look at them.



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



Purton & District Age Concern are looking for new committee members to join us. We need people who are willing to help out at events, attend monthly meetings and contribute to the continued success of the charity. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Peter on 778119.

Information

Luncheon Club - This is held at the Silver Threads Hall. Please give Pat Suddaby a call on 771331 for information. We do currently have some places available, so why not get in touch and join us?

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

Brass Band - The next Brass Band afternoon will now be 22nd September (they apologise for the change of date). They are hoping to have a really good band, so look out for details. Events starts at 3pm until 5pm. As you know Purton & District Age Concern do not organise these events, but we promote the Brass Band afternoons at the Red House as all the proceeds are kindly donated to the Age Concern Minibus Fund.

Swindon West, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service offer a dedicated and free service for safe and well visits and fitting smoke alarms on a proactive approach in the Purton area. Visits can be booked through their website or by calling 0800 038 2323 www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/

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.

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 various articles in the form of wheelchairs, some walkers and zimmer frames that are stored in Tony's garage so if you think you might need these at any time then ring Tony Price on 770696 or Peter Berry on 778119.



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

Don't forget the minibus service we offer to

residents living in the Purton Age Concern catchment area. Surgery runs, coffee mornings, day trips or general get-togethers, for those aged 60 and over that have disability or mobility issues. Both minibuses have hydraulic lifts and wheelchair security. Call Hazel to book your place 01793 770862.

Peter Berry

New Local Area Co-ordinator for Purton

Hello, my name is Frances. I'm your Local Area Coordinator. I work within and around the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area.

You will usually find me in:

Royal Wootton Bassett Library on Monday from 11am-12noon

Purton Pips Community Café - Tuesdays 10-11am

Broad Town Village Hall – every second Wednesdays at the coffee morning 11am-12 noon (except August)

Lyneham – St Michaels Church Thursdays 10.30-11.30am

Cricklade – United Church Fridays 10.30-11.30am

Come and say hello! I am also happy to meet you in your local library or a place that is convenient for you.

My role is about finding, sharing and connecting people to the great resources in your community. I do this by finding and sharing the assets and activities within each community and by supporting individuals and families who might currently be experiencing complex issues or difficult times. Together we work to build a vision of a good life enabling inclusion and facilitating discovery of strengths, gifts and talents. We believe that each person matters and has a part to play within community life and spend our time getting to know the community and its people. If you or someone you know would like to explore this idea further we would be delighted to hear from you.

I can support you to:

- access information, advice and support
- build your own local network
- find practical ways to resolve problems
- be part of your local community

identify your personal strengths, needs and goals

I work alongside people of all ages (including disabled people and people with mental health conditions). If you feel you would like to reconnect with your community or need some help or support, then you can invite me to work alongside you.

My support is free and without judgment – there are no assessments, referral processes or time limits – and I can meet you in local community settings or where you live, work, volunteer or learn.

By inviting me to work alongside you, I will:

- Take time to get to know you to build a trusting relationship
- Help you find relevant information, advice and support at the right time
- Help you to build and fulfil your vision of a good life
- Help you to identify and develop your strengths, skills, talents and abilities
- Help you in building, developing and using personal and local networks
- Help you to stay strong and be heard so you stay in control of your life

*Frances Barrone, Local Area Coordinator – Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade
Telephone: 07443 769 500, Email: frances.barrone@wiltshire.gov.uk
www.yourcareyoursupportwiltshire.org.uk/local-area-coordinators*

Jubilee Gardens Project

Would you like to take part in something worthwhile and join the Trustees of the Jubilee Gardens Project?

We wish to recruit two more trustees to our Board of six active and committed trustees. We are particularly interested in recruiting parents of people with disabilities but anyone who has abilities to devote to this kind of community work would be welcome.

We aim to provide adults with learning difficulties with a safe and welcoming environment in which they are encouraged to learn and improve the quality of their lives. Students learn everything to do with horticulture including crop growing, plant care, weeding, and harvesting; growing fruit, vegetables, flowers and plants which they sell from a stall as well as supplying a small number of local businesses. Students also enjoy our classroom-based training in literacy, numeracy and art.

Two open days are held in the Spring and at Christmas which are popular and well supported by the local community. The Project relies on fund raising, donations and the income from its produce.

Jubilee Gardens is based at Bush Hall on Cricklade Road, near Purton and is a registered charity. If you would like an informal discussion about joining us please, contact the Principal Bruce Porter: telephone 01793 771539, visit us on Facebook or email info@jubileegardens.co.uk

Church Floodlighting

Sept 6 St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Doris Wadsworth** on her birthday. Lovingly remembered and so sadly missed. Reg, Jean, Mark, and all her dear family.



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

Ten Years Ago...

What a difference ten years make! Purton Magazine in September 2009 reminded us that it was the year of the promised “barbecue summer” which never happened. This year the Met. Office has been more circumspect so, writing this column in late July, the onrushing heatwave seems far more real. Throughout the æons the Earth’s temperature has waxed and waned and we are doubtlessly on an upward swing at the moment, maybe with a little help from ourselves. But is it an adequate reason for the ongoing outbreaks of anarchy on the streets of our cities?

Continuing this column’s following of the effects of austerity and the credit crunch, in this month in 2009 there is an article on mediation services. The effects of financial difficulties, coupled (it suggested) with rising temperatures, could lead to problems between partners or between them and their children. These problems increase should a family split up. For those readers who recognise these situations, a re-read of the full article on the magazine website might be helpful.

However, despite the weather Purton was enjoying itself. One contributor went to Bruges for sunshine and the Chip Museum. After Eight took a wet (apart from time in the pub) walk around Cricklade and South Cerney; this was Plan B but we weren’t told what Plan A had been. The Brownies went to Cotswold Wildlife Park where they all said “ahhh” on seeing the monkeys. “They must have been cute or we had all suddenly turned mad”.

Bradon Forest School reported that one of their pupils had won a competition to create a dish for Jamie Oliver’s then-new restaurant in Bath, “home-made ravioli with a ricotta, pesto and crispy bacon filling served with a tomato and red onion salsa, sour cream and chive dip, ciabatta bread and cherry tomatoes”. Sadly Jamie has subsequently had problems and the restaurant is now closed.

The editor had popped in a quote from one of our latest Prime Minister’s two heroes, Sir Winston Churchill: “Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm”. No further comment is necessary.

Finally, it was rumoured that a ladder erected up the steeple of St. Mary’s Church was to enable the Vicar to get closer to God. You can’t believe anyone these days.

DISCLAIMER

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

Purton FC – a tribute to Alan Eastwood



Everyone at Purton FC and the Corsham Print Wiltshire Senior League were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Purton FC Secretary Alan Eastwood. Throughout the county of Wiltshire, Alan was rightly known as Mr Purton having first joined the club back in 1972 and remained with them for 47 years until his sad passing on the eve of the 2019-20 Season.

Despite serious ill health Alan had continued to fulfil the Club Secretary role at the club and carried out the role with such skill and diligence that he was honoured with the Wiltshire Senior League's Club Secretary of the Season award in Season 2017-18.

As a player Alan had formed a successful goal scoring partnership with Allan Coole back in the 1970's. Whilst Coole was invariably Purton's top scorer Alan was himself Purton's top goal scorer in Season 1974-75 hitting 24 goals that season. Alan went on to score 125 goals for the club before hanging up his boots and taking on the administration at Purton, holding down just about every role in the club since and becoming the recognised face of Purton Football Club to everyone in Wiltshire and beyond.

Alan was rightly proud of the season his Purton side went the whole league season unbeaten in Season 2003-4 to win the Hellenic League Division I West title, having previously lifted the Division I title back in 1995-96. Alan's match day programme for Purton became renowned for the impressive historical information it contained, with Alan having kept a copy of each season's final programme going back to when he first joined the club enabling him to trace past results and reports for his programmes.

All our thoughts are with Alan's family at this sad time. Alan will be deeply missed by all those in the Wiltshire football family but none more so than at Purton the club he served with such dignity and esteem for 47 years.

Saturday's game between Purton and Pewsey Vale Development at the Red House went ahead, as the club believe this is what Alan would have wanted. There was a minute's silence before the match as a mark of respect to Alan, as there was at all the other seven league games in the Corsham Print Wiltshire Senior League. Purton won this, their first game of the new season, 9-1 with goals from Will Backhouse, Darren Regis, Jamie Tuck, Mark Duckers and Steve Keir. Alan would have been very proud of their performance.

Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC

We welcome submissions for publication in the next edition of *Purton Magazine* from the local community and from readers further afield. Copy deadline is the 10th of each month. Please email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Ridgeway Farm Art Project

Residents of the Ridgeway Farm and Purton Communities are working with local artist Melissa Cole to create a legacy public art piece for a communal space on the new housing development at Ridgeway Farm.

Melissa took part in the Ridgeway Farm Academy Summer Fair in July and has started to meet up with local people to plan the project. There are already lots of exciting ideas and people emerging with lots of fascinating skills and interests.

All local residents are invited to get involved and especially anyone with any kind of interest in: Local history, Craft, Wildlife, Photography, Art, Walking, Trees or Nature.

Melissa is going to start a series of walk and talk sessions to enable everyone to explore and share the space together and see who else shares it; bats, birds, bees, foxes, frogs, dogs, deer, mice... She hopes that everyone will get inspired to help create a fabulous piece of art that will really mean something to the people who live in the area.

The first Walk 'n' Talk session took place on Sunday 11th August. This is an open invitation for you to show Melissa your public open spaces and share with her and the group how you hope these spaces will be used in the future.

Bring your dog, trainers/wellies, camera, notebook/sketchbook, friend, binoculars, map, flask!

The aim is to spend a couple of hours as a group exploring your space – looking at where any art work might go and letting you get to know Melissa and find out more about this project.

Ideas already suggested and open for discussion are; Entrance Sculpture, Seating – Meeting Places, Nature Trail, Wildlife Sculpture, Community Orchard and Bat Boxes

This project needs your help! Do you have an interest in the history of the farm, birds, trees and gardening, nature and wildlife and/or just want to be involved in the art project in some way?

This project needs a keen photographer to document the project – this could be a student or amateur wanting to develop a project of their own – please get in touch!

Melissa will also be looking for anyone with wood working skills who might be able to help. No unaccompanied children (or pets!) – please come as a family instead!

RSVP to melissa@melissacole.co.uk

Follow this <https://melissacoleartistblacksmith.blogspot.com/> to find out more about the project and/or sign up for regular updates!

Follow #ridgewayfarmart on Twitter and Instagram

If you would like to contribute to this project in any way please let Melissa know via email; melissa@melissacole.co.uk

Our mother, Sylvia Glass

Sylvia Mary Dodson was born, in Purton, on 8th August 1929. She was the second child of John and Ethel – a sister for Alec and Lesley.

When she was young, the family moved from Hoggs Lane to Station Road where her father ran a successful coal business and this is where she lived until she married. She often talked about the friends she made, the household chores and Chapel on Sunday. She always regretted missing two years of schooling because of rheumatic fever.

The war played a significant part in her later childhood. Rationing was supplemented by home grown produce. She remembered helping out on the coal round, the coal cart being pulled by a temperamental horse that bolted at the sight of men in any kind of uniform, which was rather unfortunate during the war! Friendships were formed with evacuees who stayed in the converted attic.

After the war her aunt arranged for her to work in the Swindon Railway Works Canteen. It was whilst travelling to work on the train from Purton Station that she met Frank Glass, who had returned from the war in 1946, to resume his work in the Railway Works. They were married in August 1950. They set up home with Frank's parents in The Peak, where two daughters Mary and Shirley were born.

In 1960, the family moved to Upper Pavenhill, where they had built a house. Sylvia was particularly resourceful and industrious when it came to making clothes for the family, decorating, gardening and providing tasty home-made meals from garden produce or left overs.

Once the family had grown up Sylvia joined the band of early morning post men and women who rose at the 'crack of dawn' to sort the mail at Purton Post Office and then delivered it on their bicycles.

Sylvia was thrilled when she passed her driving test and could retire the moped. This gave her an independence which she cherished. When she stopped being a post lady she was able to drive herself to work at a farm shop in Braydon. She also took the family on day trips and holidays to the New Forest in her car. Mystery trips on the train and coach holidays to places further afield were also enjoyed.

As well as caring for her own family Sylvia was a very good neighbour and friend. She provided meals, babysat, ironed and gave very good advice on children's ailments. Her Morris Minor Estate car, with the homemade lavender bag air freshener, was loved by all the children who travelled in it.

Many day trips and picnics were enjoyed with Sylvia and Frank.

Sylvia was a much loved grandmother to five grandchildren. Nothing was ever too much trouble. She was always ready to help in any way she could. She also enjoyed the arrival of five great grandchildren.

Sylvia's knitting was almost legendary. She knitted right to the end – hundreds of

jumpers, cardigans, toys, hats, scarves and socks must have flown off her needles, for family, friends and charities. As well as her knitting, she was a lady who always liked to be busy. She never stopped making jams, marmalade's and cakes. You could also be sure of a colourful array of flowers on her patio during the Summer months.

Sylvia touched people's lives in many small and generous ways. She was a kind, caring and thoughtful person.

Mary Hodges and Shirley Bevington

Purton Artists Silent Auction

Last month's magazine advertised posters and postcards being produced from the twelve paintings on the cover of April's Purton Magazine. These were originally and generously produced by local artist Andy le Poidevin for the magazine covers throughout 2004. He then



donated the originals for a silent auction at that year's Purton Artists exhibition to raise money to repair the roof of St Mary's Church.

Sadly Andy died earlier this year but Purton Artists are excited to announce that thanks to the generosity of his daughter, Yvonne Parr, it will be holding another silent auction of another of Andy's original paintings at their exhibition from Friday 18th – Sunday 20th October. This will be part of a retrospective display celebrating the work of one of our founder members to include limited edition prints, such as the one above of the Wier Pond, a section of which is featured on the cover of this month's magazine, other originals and to see his sketchbooks. More information about the exhibition October's magazine and don't forget pre-orders of postcards and prints must reach Heather by 10 September. Email: heather@intouchpurton.co.uk

Christine Gill

We Record ...

Funeral at North Wiltshire Crematorium

11 July 2019 Linda May Brown (73)

Weddings at St Mary's Church

12 July 2019 Helen Barclay and Joseph Hall

13 July 2019 Harriet May Woodman and Daniel Ian Nield

13 July 2019 Kimberley Anne Willett and Alexander Robert Harris

Baptisms at St Mary's Church

28 July 2019 George William John Forty

28 July 2019 Rosalie Aislinn Quegan



A double coincidence

I would like to share an amazing coincidence that happened to my sister and me back in 1951.

I had completed my National Service from 1947-49 and was now, at the end of 1950, earning enough to afford a holiday. My sister, who had been working away from home, came back for Christmas 1950, and out of the blue, asked me if I would like to go on holiday with her. Not having had a holiday since before the war, I said 'Yes, where to?'. To my complete surprise she said Seefeld in Austria. She said, "Get yourself a passport and I'll do the rest". She organised it for the second week in June, so off we went.

We arrived in Seefeld, but when we went to the hotel, it was shut and locked. We knocked and a gentleman answered the door and asked if he could help. My sister told him we were booked with the hotel for a week, to which he said "There must be some mistake, we don't open for the summer season for another two weeks, but as you have come from England, I think I know a hotel that can fit you in."

We heard him speaking on the phone (in German of course) and when he came back, he said the other hotel could take us. He told us where it was and said the receptionist would be waiting for us. When we got there, she told us they were just about to serve the evening meal, so she gave us our room keys, took our passports to book us in, and said she would return them while we were having our meal.

When she brought them back, she said to my sister "I see you were from Lydiard Millicent, do you know [named person]? She is Head Mistress at the school and a friend of mine". My sister said she would find her "Perhaps you could take a present back to her for me?". My sister said she would, but this was not the end!

Part way through the week, the proprietor and his wife returned from holiday and asked us where in England we were from, to which my sister replied "Purton, a village just outside Swindon in Wiltshire". To our surprise he picked up on that and said "Did you say Purton?" we replied yes, to which he said "Do you know Col. Carming [check name spelling] (some people may remember him, he lived at Restrop House), he's my uncle, I haven't seen him since 1937". I said I knew him quite well.

And all this through a mistake in the booking!

As a postscript, I was in Seefeld in 2015 and it has grown quite a lot. Since that time Innsbruck has hosted two winter Olympics and Seefeld now has a complex of training facilities for winter Olympic sports. One feature I discovered was, where as on my first visit there was a chain lift up to a certain point, there is now a funicular and then a cable car to take you further up, where you get a good view of Seefeld. How times change.

F Strange

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Talk on Bowel Cancer – Wednesday 16 October, 7.30-9pm, Purton Surgery



The next Information Evening will be on Wednesday 16 October when we have Gastro-Intestinal Oncology Nurses from GWH to talk on bowel cancer. Usual time and venue – 7.30-9pm in Purton Surgery. Tickets (free) will be available from 2 September.

Table top sales

Thank you to all who support our Table Top sales in Purton surgery waiting room. If you wish to purchase any item from the Table please give your money to the Receptionists. Similarly, please hand to the Receptionists any items you would like to donate for the table.

'Flu Clinic

As in previous years we will have raffle tickets for a hamper during the 'Flu clinic, dates of which are still to be finalised.

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

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

Malmesbury Abbey Music Society Concert

Passacaglia – 'Vivaldi Undercover'

Saturday 5 October 2019 at 7.30pm Malmesbury Abbey

Passacaglia is a UK-based professional ensemble specialising in music from the baroque era, played on baroque recorders, flutes, violin, viola da gamba, guitar, cello and harpsichord. With over 25 years of performing and recording experience, Passacaglia brings the music of the baroque era to life with a range of exciting, colourful and engaging programmes. Vivaldi Undercover - Vivaldi, as popular in the baroque period as now, was unashamedly imitated, borrowed-from and re-arranged by composers across Europe. In this invigorating and colourful programme, suitable for all kinds of audiences, Passacaglia explores Vivaldi's music as it masquerades in various different guises... with quirky re-workings of the Four Seasons and other concerti by Nicolas Chedeville and JS Bach, an exploration of Vivaldi's mysterious 'opus 13' and Passacaglia's own boisterous interpretation of Vivaldi's 'La Follia' Variations.

For further information and membership of MAMS, contact Neil Medland on 823461 or visit – <https://mamsmusic.co.uk/>



Beneath the Wool

This past month has been a bit quiet on the sheep side as at this time of year the sheep seem to get on with everything themselves. Most of my work has been dealing with their mischief! They have been devils for getting out of the electric fence and wondering around the farm where they are not supposed to be. This is a good time to say thanks to the many dog walkers who send me a message when they are out which is very useful.

We've made two more little pieces of haylage which totalled 23 bales, baled by Neil Webb baled. This will also be a little bit of extra winter feed for the sheep. It's always good to have plenty of winter feed as you never know how much you're going to need. Some winters can have enough grass and others can be cold and long, which puts a strain on reserves.

The latest piece of work on the sheep has been worming and putting on the prevention for fly strike. This can be a hard task if the sheep aren't playing ball, but luckily this time all went smoothly and in an hour and a half from getting them in the pen they were all treated. The wormer is given as a drench which is swallowed by the sheep. This is done by using a drench gun which makes such light work of the job. The fly prevention is blue and goes on their backs. It always looks funny having multi coloured sheep after but after a shower of rain the colour is gone.

Earlier in the month two cull ewes were sent to slaughter as they either had mastitis or had rejected the lambs they had in the spring. One of them was the ring leader of the sheep escape party. Unfortunately she had become such a pain it was easier for her to go, which is sad but as I'm not on the farm all hours of the day it makes it easier having one less thing to worry about. As well as being the ring leader she also hadn't taken very good care of her lamb which made the decision a little easier.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton



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.

Brendon Chase by B.B. - Denys Watkins-Pitchford

At the age of 12, I fell in love for the first time. Unrequited, of course; it had to be. The object of my amour is fictional; 15 year-old Robin Hensman, the eldest of three brothers who run away to live, for the best part of a year, as outlaws in Brendon Chase, deep in true middle England.

As a child I used to read 'outdoor' books and counted as my friends the Walker and Blackett children in *Swallows & Amazons*, Mary Lennox and Dickon in *The Secret Garden* and even the Pevensie children in C.S.Lewis's *Narnia* books; but Robin is different. He prefers to spend time on his own, exploring and living off the land, yet he is sensitive, enquiring, imaginative and a born leader.

Brendon Chase was written in 1944 by 'B.B.', although he uses his real name, Denys Watkins-Pitchford, for his beautiful woodcuts and silhouettes. It is in marked contrast to his 'fantasy' books such as *The Forest of Boland Light Railway* and *Little Grey Men*, although all his books reflect the author's knowledge and love of our English countryside, seemingly bringing us, through his writing, drawing and painting, the understated but remarkable beauty of the countryside and above all, his pure joy in the beauty and wonder of the world around us.

So to the story of the three Hensman brothers: Brought up by their maiden aunt – pince nez on nose, her hat jammed down on her iron grey hair – while their parents are stationed in India, the boys cannot bear the thought of returning to boarding school, so they decide to run away to live like Robin Hood and his Merry Men, deep in the forest of Brendon Chase. There they make their camp in an ancient oak tree and live like outlaws, relishing the dangers and excitements of their wild surroundings as the seasons change.

Their aim is never to be caught and their constant near-misses with authority, mostly in the portly shape of Sergeant Bunting on his trusty bicycle, add moments of high comedy, as the poor man spends many a weary vigil hopelessly staking out the shrubberies and stable lofts, his only companions the owls, rats and mice. He is even marooned up a tree by a rampant fallow stag!

As well as this tale of adolescent 'derring-do', *Brendon Chase* is an evocative reflection of B.B.'s love and knowledge of the English countryside that meant so much to him, as

he describes Robin watching the changing seasons and the wild life around him.

Recently I re-read Brendon Chase and yes, it is dated and I don't suppose that, in these days of instant communications and satellite tracking, any youngster could just vanish into a trackless forest and live off the land, yet the sense of adventure, of living with the trees and wild life in the forest, of living off your wits, still has the romantic pull it had for me all those years ago.

All of B.B's books are prefaced with an etching of a cowslip with this verse below it:

The wonder of the world, the beauty and the power,
the shapes of things, their colours, lights and shades; these I saw.
Look ye also while life lasts

One of Robin's ultimate dreams in the forest was to see the magnificent Purple Emperor butterfly, so naturally this was my dream too, and just recently I did, high in the oak canopy, its wings widespread, showing all the glory of its purple sheen. Nearly sixty years on, yet oh my, it was worth the wait!

Christina Thomas

After 8

Hip hip hooray, it's a hot summer's day!

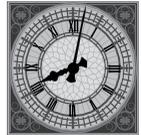
When we planned our summer barbecue last October for July, we thought all would be fine. But the Met Office had other ideas and issued a horrendous weather warning for that evening. With good co-ordination by Helen and Yvonne, the venue was changed from Christine's to Yvonne's (where Yvonne and Mark erected their marquees so we could be dry. The evening was cold but dry so we were able to see the garden and wish the chickens 'good night'. We sat down to a lovely barbecue organised by Helen, who did the cooking and a fantastic spread provided by our members, even one who couldn't attend sent a contribution.

Most of the members made it; I wonder why when food or drink are included, we have a good turnout?! We were all warm and cosy in the marquee with candles lit. Conversations ranged from local affairs, holidays and the government's policy of dropping Home Start, which was teaching parenting. Then the next day we read about more teenagers being taken into care or even toddlers killed as they interfere with the mother's social life.

After reading all the emails of the following days, it seems that everyone had a wonderful time and we were grateful to the organisers for doing such a great job in such a short time, especially to Yvonne and Mark for the hard work in preparing their garden. Hopefully in August someone organises a summer walk, we are not suggesting any names!

In September I will be organising a discussion on 'Our Sonic Screwdriver', a utensil or object that you find so useful, especially if you use it for a different purpose than that for which it was intended. This will take place on 17 September at Sandra's.

Eve Booy



Purton Tennis Club

The junior section of the club has enjoyed a successful season in the Team Tennis Wiltshire League Division 2 with the U16 team coming runners-up and the U14 team coming third. This has been our best showing in the league for many years.

The U16 boys team won 2 matches and lost 2. Their victories came against Chippenham 4-2 with Ethan Miller winning his singles and then combining well with Jack Kendall to clinch the deciding doubles match 4-2 away at Marshfield. In this match Jack Kendall fought hard in his singles but at one set all lost the deciding match tie-break. Harrison Black came up trumps with his first win of the season, with a comfortable straight sets victory and then the boys teamed up to win the doubles 7-5, 6-2. The other two matches were lost to a very strong Ramsbury side who fielded a Wiltshire County player and also to Riverside when Harrison came off his sick bed to ensure we honoured the fixture!

In the 14U section the team started extremely well recording two 4-2 victories against Pewsey and Marshfield and we began to dream of great things! Fin Corcoran won both his singles matches, Ethan Miller won one out of two of his singles, and the boys combined well to win one of the two doubles. The Highworth match was lost heavily 6-0 but it was great to give Raif Gunton his debut in league tennis! Unfortunately, Marlborough were unable to raise a team and conceded the points and then we were unable to raise a team to make the long journey to Salisbury to face Riverside.

The Saturday morning sessions have been particularly well attended and enjoyable this summer with 26 children coming down to the club. My thanks to Teresa Miles for her invaluable support and also to Louise Elliott, who filled in for me when I was lucky enough to get tickets for the Ladies Final at Wimbledon!

Our annual tournament takes place on Saturday 7th September when it is hoped that there will be a good turnout of children putting into practice what they have learnt over the summer. Results to follow next month.

Nicola Gardner

As we approach the end of the summer season, nearly all our matches have now been played.

We have had a challenge fielding full teams at times due to injury, holidays or work commitments, and we are grateful to the players who have stepped in at the last minute. Most of teams will finish mid table this year, which is probably a fair reflection of the results. However, we have enjoyed the tennis – which is really what it is all about, the enjoyment of the game!

In July we had an open day sponsored by Nature Valley where we welcomed some new faces to the courts, and we hope they will join us on a regular basis at club nights.

Coming up we have the junior tournament – and Nicola has sent in a separate report for this.

We also have our Race Night at the Red House on 5th October. It would be great to see as many of you as possible – look out for the poster.

And finally, we would just like to say a thank you to some ladies who wrote to us recently. They know who they are, and we appreciate them thinking of us. If you would like to try tennis or return to tennis, please get in touch.

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

Guide Dogs for the Blind Purton Support Group

I am playing 'catch up' with my magazine entry this month. During the Open Gardens weekend, we had a stall in Doreen Freegard's garden and we raised £89.23, I have received a cheque for £40 in payment for the last lot of used stamps, donations of £20 and £100, £240.50 from Hilliers Funeral Service in Memory of John Stump, and another donation of £100. Our grateful thanks for all your support.

Brian Davies. On behalf of Purton Support Group



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**For further details without any obligation simply ring:
Chris or Justyn on 01793 814888**

Purton Village Diary - September 2019

Su 1	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church.
	10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
	12.30pm	Purton Cricket Club 1st XI v Calne
	2.00pm	Annual Parish Walk from the High Street layby
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
W 4	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery Tour with pub lunch
Th 5	10.30am	Communion at the Vicarage
Sa 7		Age Concern Jumble Sale at the Village Hall
	7.00pm	Purton Stoke Charity Ball at Greenacres
	7.15pm	Mamma Mia Night at Christ Church, Old Town in aid of Breast Cancer Now
<hr/>		
Su 8	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Primary School
M 9	7.00pm	Purton Historical Society Art Appreciation course (for next 4 consecutive weeks) at Silver Threads Hall
	7.00pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
Tu 10	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at the Red House lounge for a talk entitled 'Organisation of Time'
	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
	2.00pm	Harvest Festival at Silver Threads Hall
Th 12	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
F 13	9.00am	Age Concern Minibus to Millets Farm
<hr/>		
Su 15	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
M 16	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk from Sandra Simmonds entitled 'Life under the veil'
Tu 17	8.00pm	After 8: 'My Sonic Screwdriver' at Sandra's
W 18	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
Sa 21	2.00pm	Silver Threads Jumble Sale
<hr/>		
Su 22	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	3.00pm	Brass band will be performing at the Red House
	4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm School
M 23	7.00pm	Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity meeting at the Village Hall

Tu 24	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at the Red House lounge for a talk entitled 'Islands on the edge'
	2.00pm	John and Margarte entertain at the Silver Threads Hall
Th 26	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society 'Loss of the Titanic and a Wiltshire Family' at the Village Hall
F 27	9.00am	Age Concern Minibus to Cirencester
	10.00am	World's Biggest Coffee Morning at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support
	7.30pm	Purton & District Gardeners' Guild 'Mini show' at Silver Threads Hall
Sa 28	10.00am	Coffee morning at 2 Ringsbury Close in aid of St Mary's Church Renewal Fund
	7.30pm	Thamesdown Ladies' Choir & Purton Peartree Pealers handbell ringers concert at St Mary's Church
	7.30pm	Murder Mystery night at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall

Su 29	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church

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		Purton Probus meet in the Red House lounge
3rd Monday		St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church
3rd Tuesday		Royal British Legion meet at the Red House
3rd Wednesday	2.15pm	Rhyme Time at Purton Library for babies, toddlers and their carers



beetles. Yep, the presence of the dung beetle in your cow poo means you've got good soil health. That's really simplistic, but you get the drift. Sally-Ann Spencer from Ashbury, near Swindon, has made it her life's work to educate people about insects. She runs entomological workshops for schools called Minibeast Mayhem and has a research area at her farm called Berrycroft Hub. She was fascinating to listen to and we now inspect our cow poo every time we walk in a field!

The third farm walk was a private affair with Jonny and Rachel Rider from Horton, near Devizes. He has 600 cows: 400 milkers and 200 cows that rear calves. It's an impressive operation with virtually no mechanisation. He grazes the cows over 1200 acres. All the calves are reared, some to 9-12 months and sold as rosey beef, and the heifers are weaned at nine months before the cows calve again. He has 12 homebred stock bulls that run with the herd for a few months. They're very busy during the few weeks of calving and he's timed it to coincide with school holidays so the kids can help. Seeing how he grazes his cows was impressive to say the least and we learnt a lot from the few hours driving around his farm.

We also went to Cornwall at the end of the month. Of course, we had to visit a few farms and ended up buying a heifer from a farm at Gweek, near Helston. She's a Brown Swiss called Big Ears. Anthony used to be a herdsman near Morton-in-Marsh, from where we purchased Toffee, Fudge and Mrs Brown. On the way back, we visited Seb who rents a farm overlooking Chagford, near Newton Abbott. He started selling raw milk in early July, but the most impressive thing he's doing is using his two horses, Fripon and Figaro, to make hay. We spent a good few hours just looking at his livestock and listening to his plans.

Ragwort. Only a short while ago this prolific weed was known by most people as they would have had a member of the family involved in farming. It is highly toxic to ruminants and horses in its dry state. Increasingly, I find myself getting off the

tractor to pull it up. It's the bright yellow flowering plant that you see pretty much everywhere now. Those of an age will remember it being a rare plant to see. I know my father used to get quite upset if he found any on our farm and would stop on the road to pull it up from a verge if he saw some. I'm sure very few people know what it is or indeed that it's dangerous to animals. I spent a few hours this week pulling up an infestation at our Restrop Fields. There were so many it filled the back seat of my Discovery!

I promised last month to give you an update on the blood tests we had done. What I've done instead is ask Ian who had them analysed to say a few words about how it all came about. I think it best that he describes over the next couple of issues what he found and what I've had to do to correct them. It involves a couple of surprises and a complete change to my lifestyle!

Jonathan Cook



From Farm To Fit - A Farmer's Journey

A quick introduction. I'm Ian Vout. Moving from Central London recently and being a Personal Trainer and Naturopathic Nutritionist, I am (as you can imagine) very picky about the quality of food I choose. London has it all but at a cost (not just financially) as it has to be transported to the big smoke, so whatever you buy is not as fresh as it could be.

In this case it was raw milk I was after. I have been an advocate of raw milk ever since learning the nutritional benefits of it around 15 years ago. Now, being in the

countryside, it is only available from select farms and I managed to track down Dora's Dairy via the BBC of all places!

I met Jon at Quarry Farm and quizzed him over his production techniques (I'm a geek I know). Jon humoured me and was very friendly and knowledgeable so I have become a frequent patron at Dora's.

After a couple of subsequent visits, it seemed we were on the same mission, just from different angles. Me doing the bit from plate to well... the toilet and Jon doing the bit from soil to shop.

I personally have a very holistic view on health and fitness. There is a wide variety of information out there and you need to know where to look to get the good stuff. Through this I have developed rules on where to get good information from, my first being if you teach it you have to 'walk the walk and talk the talk!' Which is a test 95% of health or fitness 'experts' can't pass.

Side note: I attended a Functional Medicine conference recently, with the cream of the advanced health care world in attendance... and out of 500 people I would say maybe ten were really living what they taught... scary I know!

Anyway... Jon and Sarah were interested in my take on their health. They were experts on animal health and the growing food bit, but had been round the block with different diets, none of which have made them feel or look their best and all of which made them feel more confused.

This, as it happens, is my specialty and taking the guesswork out of getting results is my *raison d'être*. I have a broad experience in understanding the inner workings of the human body, which helps me identify what exactly is holding an individual back from achieving good health or a change in their physique.

So I enrolled them into one of my comprehensive tests, which includes a 50 point blood test, looking at their true body fat (not the dreaded scales) as well as hormonal balance check.

With Jon and Sarah being physically active and of course having access to some top quality food I was quietly confident that they would be in the high 80% of healthy people....

I will update you on Jon and Sarah's journey and the challenges they face in the next Purton Magazine as well as what simple lifestyle or diet changes can do to help change any areas that need addressing.

Ian Vout, Performance Coach, Perfect Performance Coaching

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

Forthcoming events for the All Saints Church Lydiard Millicent Roof Appeal

Murder Mystery Evening – ‘The Munich Mystery’

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

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

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

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

Jazz Concert – Fretless and Friends

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

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

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

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

Purton Profferings

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

- Two white round bolsters - brand new. 36” long, 8” diameter. Tel: Jean Robson 01793 771390/07765 962902

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.

Sympathy for Sylvia

Mary (Hodges), Shirley (Bevington) and respective families would like to thank everyone for the cards, kind thoughts and messages of sympathy they received following the death of their mother, Sylvia Mary Glass. Such overwhelming support and kindness has been a great source of comfort and very much appreciated.

Thank you to Purton Open Gardens

Purton Scarecrow Team would like to say a great big thank you to the organisers of Purton Open Gardens for their generous donation of £900 towards the maintenance fund for the community access defibrillators at the Royal George and the Village Hall.

We raise money every other year towards ongoing costs and maintenance

(and potentially eventual replacement). Replacement items such as pads and batteries are very costly and have a limited shelf-life. However, we are pleased to maintain these items.

Keep an eye out for more information about another defibrillator awareness session later this year or early next, and in early 2020 for details about the next Scarecrow Trail. Once again, thank you so much to the Open Gardens Team for their donation.

Ali Davies

Retirement thanks

Thank you to the families of past and present St Mary's pupils for all the wonderful gifts and cards I was given on my retirement from St Mary's School. Thank you so much for your kindness.

Shirley Lawrence

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

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

Proceeds from all books are donated to Cricklade Open Door.

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



This month's article is always a strange one to write in the middle of the school summer holidays. Our regular weekly meetings are term-time only and our final meetings of the summer term already seem ages ago. Of course, by the time you read this, the children will be preparing to start the new school year. New beginnings may well be on your mind right now, so do read on to the end to find out what new opportunities the Purton guiding units might be able to offer you.

The end of a term and in particular the end of a school year always provides an opportunity for a celebration. 1st Purton Rainbows took a trip to see the animals at Lotmead, play in the park there and of course to pick themselves some yummy strawberries. 2nd Purton Brownies rounded off the term with trampolining at the Link Centre where they were lucky enough to have the trampoline park to themselves. 1st Purton Brownies enjoyed a sunny evening at Coate Water for crazy golf and games. The Guides had their finale at our county campsite near Wroughton where they did some campfire cooking, enjoyed the outdoor space with games and had a promise and award celebration.

There have been parties too. The eldest girls in both Brownie units organised parties as part of their farewell before moving on to Guides. 1st Purton had a disco themed evening, complete with glitter ball and plenty of sparkly outfits and headgear. 2nd Purton Brownies' party was

based around the music festivals which are organised by Girlguiding for its members. The Brownies organised music, lights, food and what girls would need to take with them for a festival.

2nd Purton Rainbows also finished with a farewell party, but in their case it was a farewell for leaders Rachel and Zoe who have been running the unit for the past year and a half. A big thank you goes to both of them for the fun they've given the girls. We're very pleased that Chloe Eastman has volunteered to join the leadership team from September which will also comprise Janet Abbott, a leader from Cricklade, with additional support from Kay of 1st Purton Rainbows.

New girls will be joining our units in September, either brand new to the guiding adventure or making the move from one age group to the next. As you've already read, we have a new adult volunteer for 1st Purton Rainbows, but there is space for more and maybe that could be your new opportunity? Adult volunteers are always welcome and roles are flexible across our Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger units. Some people volunteer two or three times a term, others every week. Some people volunteer while their daughters are members of a unit; others have no family connections with guiding. Some people volunteer for a year; others have 30+ years under their belts. The one thing which all our volunteers have in common is a sense of fun and adventure which they share with the girls in the units. Girlguiding is about

empowering girls and giving them new experiences but it's equally rewarding for its volunteers; we wouldn't keep doing it if we weren't getting something out of it too! If you're interested in volunteering, have a chat with one of our existing volunteers, or contact district commissioner Janet Abbott by phone on 07454 384763 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest in joining at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

Following a late cancellation by the speaker for our July meeting we were both relieved and thankful when Peter Biggs from Wanborough Herb Nursery offered to step in and present a talk entitled 'Filling the Summer Gap'.



We were doubly thankful when, on the night of the meeting, we learned that Peter had only just returned home following an unscheduled stay in hospital, but had not wanted to let us down.

Accompanied by his father, fondly referred to as his 'gofer', he gave a brief account of the beginnings of the herb nursery in 1991 when Peter had just finished 6 years at Horticultural college and his father had access to the land. The Nursery was set up to grow herbs, herbaceous, unusual and hard to find plants and as many of the plants as possible are grown using peat free composts and with no chemicals.

Although the nursery is currently not open, due to major changes to the site, it is still represented at Brinkworth, Royal Wootton Bassett and Bradford upon Avon markets throughout the year.

Peter discussed how the garden comes to life in the spring with the amazing burst of growth and colour provided by spring flowering shrubs and bulbs. As May and June arrive and bulbs die down and shrubs lose their flowers the initial burst of colour fades as summer takes centre stage.

This he explained is the time for biennials to come to the fore, plants such as Foxgloves, Canterbury Bells, Sweet William, Wallflowers and Ami Major being of particular note.

Passing around plants from his nursery to support the theme of the talk, Peter extolled the virtues of Perennials for the summer garden including amongst others:

Centaurea, aka perennial cornflower: displaying blue flowers. Simple and easy to manage.

Astrantia: It flowers well even in shade and can be dried as an everlasting flower.

Iris 'Sibirica': It forms clumps of pink, white and yellow flowers and does equally well in damp or dry soil.

Heuchera: They grow equally well in semi shade to full sun.

Penstemon: Regular deadheading ensures a continuous show of flowers with smaller varieties flowering in May whilst bigger varieties flower from July.

Dianthus: A mediterranean plant needing full sun and known to 'live fast, die young'.

Salvia: When it comes to Salvias, Peter gave special note to the varieties 'African Skies' and 'Amethyst Lips'.

Hemerocallis, aka as the day lily: They are pest and disease free and divide easily and last but not least

Kniphofia, aka Red Hot Poker: 'Orange Vanilla Popsicle' with its striking two-toned flower spikes.

When considering garden colour during the summer months Peter reminded us that foliage is of equal importance to flowers, with the leaves of bronze Fennel, and the silver foliage of Luzula highlighting this.

Once again this was a well informed talk from one of our most popular speakers giving each of us ideas for refreshing the look of our gardens during the summer months. It just remained for members to make their purchases from the plants on show.

There were only two entries for the competition 'A garden in a seed tray'. Congratulations to 1st place Maureen Griffin and 2nd place Steve Goodall.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 27th September 2019 in Silver Threads Hall when we hold our 'Mini- Show', a chance for members to show off the fruits of their labours from their gardens and allotments and for those amongst us who wish to demonstrate their baking and preserving skills. It's also an opportunity for all of us to partake of the baked offerings in order to place our votes! Not to be missed!

Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)

Purton Historical Society

Future Meetings

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

We have also booked, in conjunction with the WEA, a 4 session Art Appreciation course which will take place in the Silver Threads hall on Monday evenings commencing 9th September 2019. Full details below.

The loss of the Titanic and a Wiltshire family – mysteries and myths with Lieutenant Commander Geoffrey Carr.

Thursday 26th September 2019 at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

Over one hundred years since she sank on her maiden voyage, RMTS Titanic continues to intrigue and fascinate us. Yet many of the stories about the ship contain errors and speculation that do not do justice to the ship's design, and few combine the technical aspects with the social history of a family that actually took passage in the ship.

The lecture, 'The Loss of the Titanic and a Wiltshire Family – Some Mysteries and Myths' formed the highlight of Melksham History Society's 2008-09 programme, and has since been presented to over one hundred organisations in locations from Plymouth to Thurso, and from Gloucester to Reading, where it has been well attended and received. The illustrated talk intertwines the lives of a family



from Melksham in Wiltshire with the technical detail of one of the worst shipping disasters in history. It lasts 45 minutes and includes a subsequent question and answer period, as required.

Paul Barnett – Disaster waiting - The Severn Bridge Disaster.

Thursday 24th October 2019 at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

Michael Gamble – Wiltshire through the eyes of a Moonraker.

Thursday 28th November 2019 at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall

Christmas Social Evening

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

Art Appreciation

Through a selection of various artworks across mediums (painting, sculpture, printmaking, new media), genres (landscape, still life, figurative, social and political) and historical periods, this course will help participants start to develop a critical awareness and appreciation of art through a process of visual analysis and study. The course will introduce and develop a vocabulary of appropriate terminology as well as distinguish between personal judgement and critical analysis through a process of individual and inter-participant study and discussion. New Members and visitors always welcome

The course runs over four monthly sessions: 09/09/19, 07/10/19, 04/11/19 and 02/12/19, at the Silver Threads Hall, High Street, Purton, Swindon. SN5 4AE

Time: 19.00 - 21.00. Cost: £48.00. Reference: C3530712

Book today: enrolonline.wea.org.uk or call 0300 303 3464

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

Volunteers required to help children in care

An Independent Visitor (IV) is a volunteer paired with a child or young person in care. They go out on social visits, share hobbies and interests and maybe even try new activities. They are a friend and mentor. Above all they have fun! The Independent Visitor Scheme has been running for 19 years, and links young people in care with independent adult volunteers who are able to spend quality, fun time with them on a regular basis. In Wiltshire the scheme currently has 58 volunteers but more are needed to link up with young people and the scheme is particularly keen to hear from men, who are under-represented. IVs are ordinary people who will meet regularly with their young friend and spend time doing things they both enjoy. The IV can also become someone for the young person to talk to if they have worries or problems. Formal qualifications are not required, but volunteers must meet a role description and need to have a DBS check.

For more information please contact Anthony Andrews, Independent Visitor Scheme Support Worker, 01225 713961 or 07423 680983 or email: anthony.andrews@wiltshire.gov.uk. More information can also be found at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/children-young-people-independent-visitor-scheme

Art Appreciation

When: 09/09/19, 07/10/19, 04/11/19 & 02/12/19
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Book today:
enrolonline.wea.org.uk
0300 303 3464



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WEA
Adult Learning
Within Reach

WEA
Adult Learning
Within Reach



Memories of a happy childhood in Purton Stoke, Part 3

In last month's magazine we published the second part of Joan Rowland's life story that has kindly been contributed by her son, Raymond. She wrote about her early life in an exercise book that was only found after her death and this month we continue with her earliest recollections.

When I was nine, my parents moved to Witts Lane at Purton. So, it meant that I had to change schools. At St Mary's School in

Purton, I made a friend with girl called Irene Indge. I have always kept in touch with Irene. When we were nine, we would play in the field opposite her house in Witts Lane. There were often as many as twenty of us playing in the field there. We would wait for the farmer, Mr Taylor, from College Farm. When he spotted us playing in his field, he would come hurrying down the hill to chase us away. There was a big dip in the field at the bottom of the hill. So, by the time he got on to the level ground, we had all vanished. Irene and I would be looking out of Irene's window. When Mr Taylor walked back up the hill to the farm, we would run out into the field again shouting 'Taylor, Taylor, come and get us'. Mr Taylor would come down again, and once more we would vanish. Once we spotted him coming from a different direction. But, there were no flies on us. We were away and gone. Us children thought it was great fun. But, Mr Taylor did not!

I used to go to the Sunday School at the Wesleyan Church in the Play Close. I also belonged to the Sunshine Corner which met on Monday evenings.

I remember that, when I was ten, school began to worry me as we had a very strict teacher called Mr Thomas. We all called him 'Decker Thomas'. He would shout loudly at everyone, which would frighten us. But, most of the teachers were not so bad. There was a lady teacher called Mrs Christy, who was as bad as Decker, and in time, I became ill with a nervous breakdown.

Her son Raymond continues his mother's story

Joan enjoyed the lessons in school, and the companionship of the other children who lived around her. Even in her late-eighties, she still remembered the names of many of the other children in her class and would relate stories of those times, back in the 1930s.

Joan often spoke of the walks that her parents would take their children on, across the fields, to a place on the River Key, which she always called 'Rumney'. Joan also told the tale that when they had lived in Bentham Lane, on summer evenings, when the children had been put to bed, her brother, Bill, would climb out of the window and go out into the fields behind the cottage. The children would always try and cover for him if their parents came to check that all was well. Joan visited the chapel at Purton Stoke again when they had an open day in more recent times, and recalled

the anniversary celebrations.

Later, when they lived in Witts Lane, Joan would go with Irene Ildge for bike rides all around the village and beyond, in those days which were more carefree than the present time. Joan knew many people in Purton and also a lot about them. And, she would often tell stories about those days for the rest of her life.

By the time Joan left school at fourteen, the Second World War was raging. There was a lot of evidence of the war around, as there were many airbases surrounding the town of Swindon at that time. Joan often related the story of the bombing of the local brickyard, when her father went to the window to check that all was well and a low-flying German bomber past over the house, 'so close that her father saw the pilot'.

Joan's first job was as a laboratory assistant at Associated Dental Products, at the Kemdent Works at Purton Stoke. The firm made wax-based dental products and Joan was very much involved with this process each day. Joan was very happy in this job, even though the manager, Miss Whiting, was not very popular with the young girls. Joan's second cousin, Mary, worked there with her too. The wages were fifteen shillings and three pence.



Sometimes the bicycle ride home in the evenings would be difficult, due to the convoys of military vehicles that would pass through Purton, on their way to various bases each day. Joan's friend, Betty-Jean, was a good cyclist. But, she had difficulty getting on and off the bicycle, and had to be helped. Each evening someone would make sure that she left the Dental factory safely, and Joan and others would accompany her along the road. Betty-Jean had to call out to someone when she got home to get her off of the bike! As with many of Joan's stories, there were sometimes hilarious results.

In the evenings, as a teenager, Joan would often go to the Institute dances with her friends Irene Ildge and Kath Tommey. Her brothers would often accompany her. It was at this time that Joan and her friends would also put on a little act for the audience when they would sing songs on the stage and do some dancing. Joan has often sung the song 'The Sailor with the Navy Blue Eyes' for her children, as she recounted the steps she danced too. There were many American servicemen at these events. But, Joan was one of the girls who would dance with them. But, Joan would not get any closer. Joan also wrote about an Old Time Dancing Club that was held at the Institute on a Tuesday evening, where they would be taught new dances. Some Saturdays, Joan would go to Swindon for the Old Time dancing at the East Street Co-Op Hall. She remembered one staff dance that they had at 'the dental'.

Her friend, Irene did some tap dancing, and Betty Jean Bennett sang a song. Mary Biggs and Margaret Hinton did a ballet dance. Joan said that in the interval, she was asked to present the Managing Director, and his wife, with a bouquet.

On a Sunday, Joan would sometimes go with her workmates, to the seaside, in coaches. There would be the singsong all the way there and back, and on the way home they would stop for a drink in a pub. Joan kept several photographs of these outings.

Joan and her friends also enjoyed going to the cinema in Swindon, on the bus of a Sunday afternoon. They would go to the Savoy or to the Regent cinema. Joan recalled that they had to be in the queue at the Institute for the best as early as possible. The bus was a single-decker and when it was full, off it would go. Many a time, many people were left behind. The same would happen for the journey home from Swindon. They would sometimes leave the cinema before the pictures ended, just to make sure that they had a seat for the homeward journey.

There were lots of stories about those trips to the pictures. Like the time when there was a cloudburst and one of Joan's friend's dress shrunk, as they hurried to the safety of a nearby café.

One evening, in 1947, when Joan was in bed, her sister, Bet, who shared the bedroom with her, showed her a photograph of a group of young men who were friends of Bet's boyfriend, Arthur. Joan picked out a handsome young man on the photograph, and Bet arranged a blind date with him. A few days later, at a local show in Shaw, Joan was introduced to apprentice fitter and turner, Brian Rowland, by Bet and her boyfriend. It was love at first sight for both of them.

Soon Joan and Brian were going out together. Joan would sometimes spend weekends, in Swindon, at Brian's parent's house, so they could go to the theatre, the cinema or to dances. Brian's parents gave her a room to sleep in, and they were very kind to her. Joan became very close to Brian's mother and father. She also had a lot to do with Brian's young brother, Keith.

After they courted for a few months, Joan and Brian were engaged in Cleethorpes, and in February 1950, Joan walked up the aisle of St Mary's Church, at Purton, to marry Brian, and become Mrs Joan Rowland. The wedding service was followed by a honeymoon at Boscombe, and they had





many photographs of those times.

The newly-wedded couple were fortunate enough to have a home of their own, in Radnor Street, at Swindon. This house had belonged to Brian's grandparents who were in their late-eighties, and they had rooms in the house with them. This suited Joan, as she had Brian's grandparents to chat with during the day,

whilst Brian was at work. And, there were many members of the family who would call in to see her too. Her parents visited Joan regularly, and she went on the train, or the bus, to Purton to see family there each week.

It wasn't too long before Joan and Brian's first child came along. Joan now had her work cut out looking after Raymond. But, she had a lot of guidance from Brian's grandmother at this time. Joan always recalled that Brian's grandmother loved nursing Raymond and talking to him. She was so very proud to be a great grandmother.

Life set into a pattern for this little family. Brian went to work each day, and Joan stayed at home, to look after her husband and son. But, Joan still kept in contact with her family, and with Brian's family, with her regular visits to see them. People were very important to Joan.

In Radnor Street, Joan had a friend who lived over the road, called Dot. Joan and Dot would often meet for an afternoon cup of tea and chat. She was very friendly with her neighbours, who would chat to her in the street, like Mr and Mrs Andrews. Joan always thought of them as 'a couple of dear old souls'.

In 1954, Joan and Brian's family expanded when Stephen was born. Now, Joan had another baby to look after. Soon, there was a move from the house in Radnor Street, to a larger property in Surrey Road, on what Joan always called 'The Northern Road Estate'.

During the years that the family lived in Surrey Road, Joan began going to Bingo regularly. This all started with the Friday Night sessions, with Brian's mother, at the St Joseph's School, in Queens Drive, and led to the Tuesday evenings at Holy Rood. Joan would have friends to chat to there too.

After their daughter, Janet, was born, Joan and Brian would take the children of an evening to the North Swindon Club, where Joan enjoyed the bingo there. And, over the years, there were regular family holidays to resorts like Weston-Super-Mare, Goodrington and Porthcawl. When Brian passed his driving test, Joan and

the children would be taken to all kinds of places in the car, and there would be the many visits to family that they made. There were Christmases that the family enjoyed too, with the traditional Christmas Day to spend with Brian's parents, and the Boxing Day to go to Purton to be with Joan's parents.

Joan spent a lot of time teaching her children to read, to write, to do sums, and tell the time. She would buy books from the bookshop in the Swindon Market Hall, and sit with them, at the table for hours, as they improved their writing and their arithmetic. All of the children could read and write before they started school, thanks to Joan and her patience with them.

Joan kept in touch with her brothers and sisters, and their growing families. She still visited her parents, and her in-laws each week, and she knew lots of people around her. She was a member of the Young Wives Group at All Saints Church, and was confirmed in the church in the late fifties. Joan would often walk into town along the cycle track with the children. Here, she seemed to know just about everyone. And, she loved to stand and chat with anyone she met. She was also friendly with a

neighbour, Molly Hollick who would come over to spend time with Joan a couple of times a week.

Sadly, Brian suffered a serious nervous breakdown in the late fifties. After a period of time in hospital, he returned home, and to his work. Joan was incredibly supportive of both Brian, and her family, at this time. Her sons, who remember this time, have always been grateful to Joan for keeping the family together through these dark days, and for her

love that got them through such a traumatic period of their lives.

Joan, and her family would go to Purton to see Joan's family at least once a week. There were the regular Wednesday afternoons that she would go, with her children on the train, to see her parents. When the station closed in 1964, Joan and her family still went across to Purton in the car, usually at weekends.

When the Surrey Road years came to an end in 1964, the family moved to a larger house, in Moredon Road. The house required updating, and Joan and Brian set about doing this as soon as they moved in. During the three years that they were in Moredon, Joan gave birth to their second daughter, Gillian, who completed their family. In Moredon, Joan played skittles in the Rodbourne Cheney Workman's Club ladies team. Again, Joan knew many people as a result of the skittles, and her friend Lil Leitchner would call in for tea and a chat.

But after three years in Moredon Road, Joan and Brian were on the move again.

This time they moved to a large detached house in Croft Road, at Old Town. Joan transferred her skittling skills to the High Street Club, where she would go, with Brian, to the Bingo sessions of a weekend. As Gillian was still a little girl, she often went with them. Just as at the other clubs, Joan knew lots of people.

With Gillian at the Lethbridge Road School, Joan met up again with Dawn Kostecki, who she had known as a teenager. They would often meet for a cup of tea and a chat.

As time passed slowly by, Joan and Brian's sons left home to pursue independent lives, and brought daughters-in-laws, Deborah and Linda into the family. Both Jan and Gill undertook University courses. Joan was very proud of all of her children's achievements, in the many and varied fields that they have studied and worked over the years.

In 1980, Joan became a grandmother, when Michael was born. During the next few years, Victoria and Amy came into the world. Joan loved being a Nanny to her grandchildren.

By now, Joan, Brian and Gillian had downsized to Portsmouth Street. Here they went to the Swindon Town Supporters Club for their Bingo. They would still enjoy their holidays to Porthcawl, and continued to be in touch with the Roberts family, who they had met on a holiday some years before. Joan and Brian had a lot of contact with Joan's extended family. She was an auntie to many nephews and nieces, and was always delighted to hear from any of them. Joan would also visit her mother-in-law, Alice, who lived close by, and as Alice became less mobile, Joan was a great help to her.

Joan and Brian would visit the allotment that they had nearby, and grow vegetables there. And, Joan would still walk go into town, where she would see people who she would enjoy chatting to. This was the time that Joan and Brian had a lot to do with a local Old Folks Club, at Euclid Street. They also had a pet cat, called Phoebe, which everyone remembers. Joan was very fond of Phoebe!

In the early-nineties, Janet married Tim and settled in Walton-on-the-Hill, in Surrey. Joan was so pleased when her next batch of grandchildren arrived when Charlotte, James and Alex were born. And, Joan and Brian would visit Janet, and her family, from time to time.

But soon Brian's health deteriorated and he was unable to work. They continued with their familiar pattern of life for a few years, until Brian went into hospital, for surgery on his knee, in 1994. In hospital, Brian suffered a severe stroke. He returned home to Joan. But, he needed a lot of care, which she gladly gave to him. But, as the months wore on, and with Brian needing more intensive care, Joan had to accept that he needed to live in a specialist care home.

Joan was now in her mid-sixties, and had to adjust to an independent life after more than forty years of married life with her beloved Brian. She visited him regularly, as his situation continued to get worse. Brian passed away in 1997.

Joan was now on her own and remained in Portsmouth Street, where she had a friend, called Dawn. She continued to be friendly with many neighbours and others living around her. A few years later, she met Audrey, and it was with her that Joan started going on coach trips. After a few trips in this country, Joan and Audrey ventured further afield. Over the next few years, Joan visited many different countries around Europe. She even travelled to Croatia. Her favourite destination though was the Norwegian Fiords. Joan would also enjoy the tinsel and turkey trips just before Christmas most years. Joan would also go each Thursday to the Bingo at Even Swindon Community Centre, where she knew lots of people. And, there was the regular visit to the Tuesday luncheon club, at the Emmanuel Church Hall, in Upham Road.

Gillian married Julian in 2003, and in the years that followed Joan's youngest grandchildren, Adam and Natalie came into her life. Joan visited them often at Weston-Super-Mare, on the train, and enjoyed seeing her grandchildren growing up. They also came to see Joan regularly.

Joan was soon going to her grandchildren's weddings when first Michael married Kate, and then Victoria married Ian. This meant that Joan's family was to increase even further, when her great- granddaughters, Grace and Alice, were born.

From Portsmouth Street, Joan moved to a flat at Woodspring Court, where she made many new friends. Joan continued to go into town, play bingo and spend holidays abroad. But, her routines changed in more recent times, as she became more frail. Even so, she still remembered so many things from her long life, and would often tell stories of her younger days. Only a couple of days before she died, Joan mentioned Caddy Liddell, whose shop was in Station Road.

Joan would want us all to remember her as a lady who would talk to anyone and everyone. She would be thrilled that we remember that she kept in touch with her family throughout her long life. Even at her ninetieth birthday in October 2018, many of her nephews and nieces came to celebrate that real milestone. She was always very lucky at her Bingo sessions, where she won many prizes over the years, and, of course met up with many people there to chat with. The special years that Joan shared with Brian, her love for her children, and her family, and the many times that she has enjoyed on holidays, and on trips to so many different places, will always be what will come to mind, when we think of, and remember Joan.



Purton in the time of Victoria

Part 2: Succession and Power

Victoria's accession to the throne wasn't a straightforward affair. Usually the throne passed from father to son, or in the case of our present Queen from father (George VI) to daughter (Elizabeth II) with the grandson Prince Charles being heir apparent.

King George III died on 29 January 1820 leaving 7 sons and 6 daughters. The eldest son, George, had been Prince Regent during the King's illnesses and succeeded his father as George IV as King of the United Kingdom and Hanover. George IV had no legitimate heirs and the next eldest brother, Frederick, died in 1827 without heirs. So, when George IV died in 1830, the throne passed to the next younger brother who ascended the throne as William IV.

Unlike his rather dissolute brother George, William was well-liked in the country and was nick-named the 'sailor prince' after joining the Royal Navy as a midshipman, serving at the Battle of Cape St Vincent, and being arrested with his shipmates after a drunken brawl in Gibraltar. Many years after, as Lord High Admiral, he abolished the cat-o'-nine tails for most offences other than mutiny, attempted to improve the standard of naval gunnery and required regular reports of the condition and preparedness of each ship. He commissioned the first steam warship and proposed the building of more of them. The picture (right) shows him in his Coronation robes.



William died in 1837 and with no succeeding male heir, the crown passed through the line of his late younger brother Edward, Duke of Kent, to William's niece Princess Alexandrina who immediately dropped that name in favour of her second name, Victoria.

There will be more in later chapters about the beginnings of the reign of Queen Victoria, but for now I want to return to the constitution. Very few, even in 1837, would have been aware that the accession of a woman to the throne of the UK was totally unacceptable to the dynasty of Hanover (note 1). The Hanoverian succession passed to William's younger brother Ernest Augustus who had been the Duke of Cumberland.

No longer having Hanover, Victoria would be Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Although her powers were limited, they were more than Queen Elizabeth II has today. Powers we wouldn't expect the monarch to have today would include the blocking of Catholic emancipation by George III (Roman Catholic Relief Act passed in 1829); William IV's dismissal of his Prime Minister Lord Melbourne over Melbourne's choice of Speaker of the House of Commons; and Victoria's retaining Lord Melbourne's administration despite no confidence in

Parliament. In 1886, she blocked Gladstone's choice of War Secretary, Hugh Childers, in favour of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.

Today the Queen has no powers and, although she has the right to be consulted, must act on the advice of the Government.

However, in the 1820s, perhaps more people were concerned about the day-to-day workings of power. Parliament had been a good, new and bright invention in its inception, but still unrecognisable by today's standards. By the time of the Civil War it had proved its supremacy, but in the intervening period had become very corrupt. Rotten Boroughs, with very few voters, and Pocket Boroughs, where enough voters could be 'bought', were rife. Purton for example came within the Parliamentary Borough of Cricklade which, with a combined electorate of about 1400 still elected two Members to Parliament. Old Sarum near Salisbury in Wiltshire also sent 2 MPs to Parliament although it had a total electorate of just 5, none of whom actually lived there. Meanwhile many of the larger towns and cities in the country had little or no representation.

Reform of the system was long overdue and perhaps came to a head when a meeting in Manchester's St Peter's Field on 16 August 1819 was called to protest about lack of representation. The peaceful meeting was violently broken up by the army, the local yeomanry and constabulary with a horse charge, drawn swords and muskets. 18 people were killed with estimates of between 400 and 700 injured. This brought the representation issue to the forefront of politics when Princess Alexandrina Victoria was barely 3 months old, but wasn't resolved until the Great Reform Act of 1832, by which time she was just into her teens. The Act was proposed by the Whigs, led by Prime Minister Lord Grey and eventually passed due to public pressure against the opposition of the Tories and the House of Lords. Under the Act, the large industrial cities gained representation, the 'rotten boroughs' were abolished and the electorate raised from about 400,000 to 650,000. About one in five adult males were eligible to vote, the test being the ownership of land or long-term tenancies on land or property.

Cricklade constituency remained and still returned two MPs. In 1831, in the parliament that passed the Great Reform Act, the MPs were Thomas Calley and Robert Gordon, both of the Whig party. The Whigs originated from the Roundhead party of the Civil War and had been the instigators of the 1689 accession of William III; they supported the supremacy of parliament and reform. They later merged with free-trade Tories into the Liberal Party. The Tories originated from the Cavalier faction and had been Jacobite, favouring the Stuart line and the retention of royal prerogatives: they eventually became the Conservative Party.

More reform was to come as we shall see later, mostly driven during Whig/Liberal administrations.

Purton does have a story to tell in the royal succession story. Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon (right), served King Charles II from 1658 (two years before the

Restoration) and was the King's chief minister from 1660. He owned College Farm in Purton High Street and was the maternal grandfather of both Queen Mary II (co-regnant with William III) and her younger sister Queen Anne. Queen Anne's Gate is a Grade I Listed structure in the High Street wall of College Farm House, although it was moved stone by stone during works to straighten the High Street in the 1960s – the old road ran through what we now know as the layby between Purton Vets and the Silver Threads Hall. Edward Hyde's title lives on in the name of Clardon Lane, but not however in The Hyde which is an area of land referenced in the Domesday Book (completed 1086). Nor is he related to Hyde Park in London, also an area of land referenced as the Manor of Hide in the Domesday Book.



Clarendon, as Chief Minister, couldn't stay in the King's good books with the triple blows of the Great Plague of London (1665), the Great Fire (1666) and defeat in the Anglo-Dutch War (1665-67). He died in exile in Rouen in December 1674, but was buried in Westminster Abbey in January 1675.



Picture: Queen Anne's Gate in Purton, from a postcard in the author's collection (1907). The gate is shown open and in its original position on the High Street with College Farm House visible through the gate.

Note 1: While Hanover couldn't stomach a female monarch, Britain had a long history of them: Mary I, Elizabeth I, Mary II, Anne, and we could add Matilda to that list from the time of King Stephen. What Britain couldn't tolerate was a Catholic. After the Civil Wars, the Restoration placed limits on the constitutional powers of the monarch. James II's conversion to Catholicism led to the overthrow of the Stuarts and the Bill of Rights in England and Wales (1689) which limited the right of succession to protestant heirs as well as further limiting royal powers. Although the English and Scottish crowns were joined, the United Kingdom didn't exist in 1689, so the Claim of Rights

Act was passed in Scotland in the same year. The Act of Settlement (1701) in England confirmed that the English and Irish crowns could only be passed to Protestant heirs. The next Protestant in line to the throne was the Electress Sophia of Hanover, a granddaughter of James I of England and VI of Scotland. The United Kingdom of Great Britain joined England and Wales with Scotland in 1707. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was formed by the Acts of Union of 1800.

Next month: Poverty & Taxes

Rick Dixon

Hello from The Cedars Care Home

Que será, será



Everyday we enjoy our usual activities of music, singing, chatting plus arts and crafts etc. This month we have included a trip to the local coffee morning at Silver Threads, and we thank them for their warm welcome. We recently attended a pamper day at our Ridgeway House care home in Royal Wootton Bassett, where residents were treated to foot and hand massages and beautifully manicured nails. This along with a sensory table of wonderful herbs and oils to smell and imagine, was thoroughly enjoyed by all. When residents were asked to smell herbs and say what they reminded them of, roast lamb came to mind for a few when smelling the mint and rosemary. A few recognised some of the oils, especially the little tub of Vicks rub which brought back childhood memories for me too!

When we can, we encourage and assist residents to have a walk around our lovely garden but sadly this month our outside activities have been hampered by it either being too hot or too wet - the British weather at its best!

Whatever will be, will be

Our second canal trip was a brilliant success accompanied as it was by one of the hottest days of the year. One of our residents enjoyed much of the trip sitting next to the tiller. We couldn't have had a more perfect day for messing about on the river.

As mentioned last month our Cheese and Wine evening and Country & Western event preparations are well underway. We are looking forward to the wonderful M4 Stompers showing us some more line dance moves and entertaining us with their great music. All we can do is hope for dry weather so some of our games and attractions can be outside. Hopefully we will have a few pictures to share for the next issue but the weather will be what it will be!

We hope your summer plans haven't suffered too much from the variable weather but as we frequently say, or rather sing at The Cedars

Que será, será
Whatever will be, will be
The future's not ours to see
Que será, será
What will be, will be.

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

Purton Placard

Purton Tennis Club
Race Night



**Red House Club, Church Street,
Purton, SN5 4DT**

Saturday 5th October 2019
first race 8pm



Great Prizes

A fun night for all!



- Buy a horse
- Have a flutter
- Cheer on the winners
- Enjoy a drink
- Have fun with friends

PURTON SURGERY
Talk on Bowel Cancer

Wednesday 16 October, 7.30-9pm, at
Purton Surgery

Speakers: Gastro-Intestinal Oncology
Nurses at Great Western Hospital
speaking about Bowel Cancer,
screening and symptoms

Although this is a free event, tickets
are required due to limited seating
and are available (from 2 September)
from Purton Surgery, tel 770207.



MAMMA MIA!
— HERE WE GO AGAIN —

CHRISTINE BARANSKI PERSE BROSNAN DOBHINE COOPER COHEN FIRTH AMY GARCIA JAMES LEEY
AMANDA SEYFRIED SHELLEN SKARSGÅRD JULIE WALTERS CHER SHERY STREEP

JULY 20

MAMMA MIA NIGHT

Saturday 7th September 7.15pm

Tickets £15

Venue – Christ Church, Old Town

Greek supper

Complimentary drink on arrival

Bar available - Raffle

Watch the movie – sing and dance-a-long

Retro 70's dress encouraged

Supporting 'Breast Cancer Now'

Tickets available from
eunice.salmon@btinternet.com



Purton Stoke Charity Ball

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

Black Tie, 18 yrs and over only

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

Tickets £65 each or
tables of up to 10

Available from Lindsey 07811 294108 or
lindseyhall642@gmail.com

Bookings now being taken

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

In aid of Mind & Prospect Hospice

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Friday 27 September 10am-12 noon
at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall

Being part of the Macmillan Coffee
morning is an opportunity for us all
to meet with friends and neighbours
and raise funds for Macmillan Cancer
Support. please join us we look
forward to meeting you there.

Vilma Munro tel 771259

PURTON AGE CONCERN

Mystery Tour with Pub Lunch

Wednesday 4 September, 10am

Jumble Sale at the Village Hall

Saturday 7 September

PURTON SILVER THREADS

Jumble Sale

Saturday 21 September, 2pm
at Silver Threads Hall

ST MARY'S CHURCH RENEWAL FUND

Coffee Morning

Saturday 28 September,
10am-12 noon at 2 Ringsbury Close
Cakes, raffle, tombola, Bring & Buy stall

Concert

Saturday 28 September, 7.30pm
at St Mary's Church.
With performances from Thamesdown
Ladies Choir and the Peartree Pealers
handbell ringers, with refreshments
afterwards

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

Purton and District Probus Club



At the meeting on the 9th July, David Head, an RAF Veteran, gave a talk on The Arctic Convoys during WW II. These were the sea convoys which sailed from the United Kingdom, Iceland and North America to the Northern ports of Russia, Archangel and Murmansk, under a Lend/Lease programme agreed between the Western Allies and Russia. The convoys have, in the UK, been referred to as the "Forgotten Sacrifice", but were much better appreciated in Russia, where medals have been awarded and regular anniversaries are celebrated. Apart from the necessity to defend the convoys from enemy attacks, conditions for the sailors, particularly during the sub-zero temperatures of the Arctic Winters were extremely threatening. The continuous build-up of ice on the rigging and super structures of the ships had to be constantly combatted and a number of ships were totally lost by becoming top-heavy and capsizing.

On 30 November 1939 the Soviet Union, aware that Finland could be used as a base to attack Leningrad, decided to overrun Finland, starting the Winter War. The Finns, vastly outnumbered with few tanks or planes, held out for three months, but losing ground, appealed to Germany for support. In April of the same year, Germany occupied Norway creating a totally hostile coastline and obliging the convoys to steer well to the West and take routes via the Arctic Ocean. The Baltic Sea was, particularly dangerous after Barbarossa, a no-go area for the Allies.

From 1941 to 1945, about 1,400 merchant ships, escorted by the Royal Navy, the Royal Canadian Navy and the U.S. Navy, delivered close to 4 million tons of essential supplies (tanks, fighter planes, fuel, ammunition, raw material and food) to the Soviet Union with a 93% successful delivery rate. The convoys ran from Iceland to Archangel when ice permitted in the summer months, shifting south and sailing from Scotland as the pack ice increased. Outward and homeward convoys were planned to run simultaneously; a close escort accompanied the merchant ships in local waters to and from the port, whilst a covering force of heavy surface units was provided as far as the crossover point to guard against enemy attack by battleships and submarines.

The first convoy sailed from the UK in August 1941, two months after Germany attacked Russia. By the spring of 1942 twelve more convoys had made the passage with the loss of only one of a 103 merchant ships. German opposition now increased; the battleship Tirpitz was moved to Trondheim, joined later by cruisers Scheer and Hipper. Battleships Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and the heavy cruiser Prinz Eugen would also be destined for fjords in Arctic waters. On June 27th 1942, Convoy PQ17 sailed from Iceland for the port of Archangel. First Sea Lord Dudley Pound, acting on information that Tirpitz had left port, ordered HMS King George V & USS Washington away from the convoy and told the convoy to scatter. It was a grave mistake, the Tirpitz raid never materialised. The merchant ships were attacked with torpedoes by the Luftwaffe and U-boats. Of the 35 ships only eleven reached their destination. Convoys were now suspended until September, when aircraft escort carriers were introduced.

By the end of 1943 British Intelligence was breaking the Enigma code and reading the Kriegsmarine communications. When Konteradmiral Bey, on the 25th of December, set out with the Scharnhorst and five Narvik-class destroyers to attack the convoys to Russia, Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, responsible for the safety of the convoys, saw an opportunity to neutralise the Scharnhorst. Using Fire-controlled Radar and with mid-winter gloom he was confident of surprise. Convoy JW55B (outward) would cross with RA55A (homeward) above the North Cape of Norway. Light cruiser, HMS Belfast and cruisers HMS Norfolk and Sheffield were sailing with convoy RA55A out of Murmansk. Admiral Fraser conducted a pincer attack with the 3 cruisers driving the German South away from the convoy, and his flagship HMS Duke of York, with cruiser HMS Jamaica, blocking the retreat of the Scharnhorst to its Norwegian port. The battle of the North Cape lasted from 09.00 until 18.20 when a shell from the Duke of York destroyed the boiler room of the Scharnhorst. Torpedoed by destroyer 'Scorpion' and exiled Norwegian 'Stord', the battleship sank at 19.45 hours. 36 survivors were saved. Tirpitz was destroyed at its mooring on 12th November 1944 by 29 tallboy block busters dropped by Lancaster Bombers. The death toll was about 1000. David's talk enlightened us on the important roles of the RAF, the US, Canadian and Royal navies, in guarding the supply convoys of World War II.

Our Assistant editor (with a keen interest in the subject) continues the story: Although Finland never signed the Tripartite Pact, it was allied with Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union. The Finnish Army pushed beyond the 1939 borders in to the USSR and conquered Eastern Karelia. Finnish forces were within about 20 miles of Leningrad before their advance was halted. As a consequence, Britain declared war on Finland in 1941. As stated, Finland and Germany were allies and involved in joint military operations. Germany supplied arms and resources to Finland but did not occupy it. There was an attempt by the Soviet Union to set-up a Finnish puppet government in 1939, but this was unsuccessful. Finland retained an independent, democratic government throughout the war.

The Soviet Union launched a successful counter-offensive in 1944, driving the Finns from most of the territories they had gained during the war. A ceasefire was called in September 1944, and the Moscow Armistice was agreed with the Soviet Union (and Great Britain) on the 19th. This agreement largely restored the post-Winter War borders, forced Finland to pay reparations and to legalise the Communist Party of Finland, as well as to disarm and expel all German troops from its territory. The German Wehrmacht had anticipated this and the initial evacuation was peaceful enough. However, the Soviet Union applied pressure on Finland to do more to disarm the evacuating German troops, which it had been initially reluctant to do, and which the Wehrmacht resisted. This escalated in to the short Lapland War, starting in September 1944. Fighting intensified, but the war effectively came to an end in November 1944, by which time most of the Germans had retreated to Norway. However, it wasn't until April 1945 that the last German soldiers left Finland. This is the only point between 1939 and 1945 that Finland and Germany were in conflict. At the Paris Peace Conference, the Allies classified Finland as an ally of Nazi Germany and Finland was forced to pay reparations.

On the 23rd July, Brian Hinton, a Retired Serviceman from Christian Malford, gave a talk entitled "9Lives" Surviving 36 years in the R.A.F. The theme of Brian's talk

was that of surviving a succession of dangerous and sometimes near fatal incidents throughout his Service Career.

Officers who flew in the RAF received flying pay, which was obviously higher than that of ground staff; the reason being that, among those that flew, the statistics indicated, on average, ten fatalities per year. Brian's whole career was flying. Whilst stationed at Leuchers in Scotland, he was part of the Quick Reaction Alert (QRA), responsible 24/7 for identifying hostile (Russian) aircraft which probed British airspace.

Flying in the McDonald Douglas Phantom FGI, they were called on to escort a Russian Bear, Tupolev Tu 95, out of the area. The dangerous part was flying in such a way as to be able to record the identifying number on the underside of the forward nose wheel cover. The aircraft flew close enough to photograph the faces of the respective crew members and make derisory gestures! To conceal the weapons loaded under the British fighter, the pilot would do a barrel-roll around the Tupolev. After some extended patrols, bad weather, low cloud or fog, could oblige the pilot to seek a landing at other than his home base. There were several occasions when consideration was given to using the Ejector Seats; one at Waddesdon, when it was necessary to 'Blow down' the nose wheel landing gear. During the Falklands campaign, the Super Etendards of the Argentines flew at 30 feet above the water. To fire air-to-air missiles it was necessary to fly above them at a dangerous height (50 Ft), where enemy radar could lock on. Flying out of Mt Pleasant one day, and above the cloud layer with Pilot Andy Green, they were horrified to observe black smoke rising from a partner aircraft which, after descending through the clouds, had ploughed into a mountain side. Brian's career included many more hair-raising incidents caused by misfortune, accident or neglect; from those during training (due to inexperience), to the unexpected forces (G6-G9) encountered when manoeuvring at Mach 2. A near-catastrophe occurred whilst weapons training during a posting to Akrotiri in Cyprus. Canon fire cut the target loose from the Canberra and Brian's plane hit a structural piece of the pennant at high speed. Luckily the damage was minor and did not affect the performance of the engines. In Zimbabwe flying in a Hercules, they were required to make very short, difficult landings, sometimes on totally unprepared ground. Brian's talk, like that of Peter Jinks (August Magazine), reminds us that, in times of war and in consideration of Defence, "Health and Safety" is not always the highest priority.

A stalwart Probus Member and General Secretary of the club from 1999 until 2012, Leon Slee announced, at the meeting on the 9th, his intention together with Marlene to move to Elgin in Scotland to be near their daughter. At the end of the meeting on the 23rd, the President gave a short farewell ceremony to wish Leon and Marlene every good fortune in their New Home. Hopefully, Leon will continue with the humorous emails that we have all become used to!

The Probus Club meet in the Red House lounge at 10am every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. New members welcome. September programme: 10th - Organisation of Time, 24th - Islands on the Edge.

Bob Stevens

New partnership will help keep Swindonians Safe and Well

This week, First City Nursing & Care have announced a new partnership with Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service which could save lives and help people live independently in their own homes by providing help and advice when they need it most.

The two organisations have agreed a five-point referral plan, in which First City Nursing & Care will refer people who might benefit from a visit from the Fire and Rescue Service under their Safe and Well Service. The visits are completely free and aim to help keep individuals and their family safer and healthier in their home. As well as providing advice on safe use of electrical and cooking appliances, the service can fit free smoke detectors and identify further support, where needed.

“First City have been commissioned by Swindon Borough Council to provide all the adult domiciliary care across Swindon and they interact with over 1,400 people who need some form of support each year, so they are ideally placed to embed our Safe and Well referral route across Swindon,” said Ian Jeary, Area Manager at Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service. “We expect that up to 1,000 individuals will be referred for our help, by First City Nursing by the end of next year.”

The partners have identified five critical points and triggers, when individuals would particularly benefit from a Safe and Well visit from the Fire and Rescue Service team, such as when they are first discharged from hospital, or when their personal support plan is agreed.

Whilst Safe and Well services exist across the country, the involvement of a private sector organisation is unique.

“We pride ourselves in working differently at First City Nursing & Care,” explained Stephen Trowbridge, managing director of First City Nursing, based in Swindon. “We work proactively, to help individuals live as safely and independently as they are able. This not only gives people the freedom and independence which they want, but is part of what we see as our social responsibility to reduce costs to tax payers, when there are significant pressures on public spending.”

Along with the referral service, the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service will deliver driving safety training to First City Nursing staff, who are out delivering care to vulnerable adults daily across Swindon.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service offer Safe and Well visits to the most vulnerable in our communities. If you know anyone who has who has care and support needs, hoarding or mental health needs, reduced mobility, lives alone, is over 65, smokes or drinks then they can be referred to the service by calling 0800 038 2323.

For more information on First City Nursing, visit www.firstcitynursing.co.uk or call 01793 434222. For more information on the Safe and Well visit scheme, visit www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/ or call 08000382323
