

# Purton. Magazine

October 2019



Local artists, crafters, gardeners and bakers exhibited at the Purton Annual Flower, Arts, Crafts and Produce Show, raising funds for the Royal British Legion. See page XX.

50p

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## Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2-5pm; Tuesdays 2-7pm; Wednesdays 10am-5pm; Fridays 2-5pm)</i>		
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Beth Farnham, 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>		
<b>Schools &amp; Playgroups</b>		
Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Pear Drops at Playclose	Sarah Grigg	950159
Pear Drops Pre-School (formerly Under 5s')	Sarah Grigg	978536
St Mary's Primary School	Secretary	770239
<b>Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary</b> <a href="http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk">www.stmaryspurton.org.uk</a>		
<i>For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.</i>		
Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: 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	
<b>Methodist Churches</b> <i>For information about services in Purton, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine. Braydon: Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship</i>		
Minister: Revd David Perkins	Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT	
<b>Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett</b> <a href="http://www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk">www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk</a>		
Priest: Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues Tel: 852366		
<i>Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm</i>		
<b>Catholic Church - St Mary's Church, High St, Cricklade</b>		
Priest: Father Michael Robertson Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church		
<i>Services: Holy Days 7.00pm, Sundays 9.30am Mass.</i>		

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# Purton. Magazine

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**Copy & advertising deadline:** 10th of each month, please to: Purton Magazine,  
c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton SN5 4AR

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**INTouch**  
Design & Print

## From the Editors

Yet again this issue of your magazine is crammed full of words. No change then, you might be thinking and to an extent you are correct. However, the difference this month is that your magazine has a much greater focus on the words themselves and how, amid so many different options and opportunities, words are put together.

Let's start on page 20 where we learn about a surprise visitor to Purton library on a mission to visit libraries in all regions of the UK. The visitor was a writer and poet specialising in poetry primarily aimed at young readers and a playwright whose plays have been produced successfully in numerous theatres round the country.

His use of words in a book called *Werewolf Club Rules* have won him the Clippa Award in 2015 and that book includes a short poem about an aardvark. When, dear reader, did you last come across that word? The last poem in another of his books is called "There are things that lurk in the library" – but do aardvarks lurk?

Words have been examined and explored by St. Mary's Primary School in their search for a new vision. We learn that lots of groups connected with the school were asked about the values that they thought were most important for the school. Those responses were discussed and analysed, especially in a local context. From that, a concise and exciting vision making an excellent use of just six words has been created – as you can see on page 27.

Words in a medical situation can sometimes be misinterpreted or misunderstood. For example, when might a minor injury become an emergency and who would provide the most appropriate NHS service? Similarly, when is it best to phone the NHS helpline 111 as opposed to making an appointment with a doctor? On page 23 you can find a chart that will help readers to choose the most appropriate NHS service.

Usually there are more words about angels than there are from angels. Plans for an Angel festival at St. Mary's church are outlined on page 39 where there are also details about two workshops where readers can make an angel to take part in the festival.

Finally, when you think that you might have got a bit of a handle on this glorious and often absurd language of ours, try reading the poem on page 49 out loud!

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67.6

Miles (or 108,779 metres) of Rights of Way (excluding roads) in our Parish – see page 24

567

Entries at the recent Purton annual Flower, Arts, Craft and Produce Show – see page 42

1787

The year the Purton Friendly Society was founded at The Angel – see page 59

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## **Parish Walk – Thank You**

Sunday 1st September, it was a nice afternoon and 29 walkers set off from the layby on the Annual Parish Walk. The route was part of the circular stile free walk around the village developed by The Footpath Team, this time taking in Mud Lane, the edge of Ringsbury Camp, Upper Pavenhill and our newest footpath 161 to Hoggs Lane, the distance being just over 3 miles. We hope everyone enjoyed the walk and thank you to all for joining in. If anyone is interested in a map of this walk please contact the Parish Council offices. Kind regards “The Footpath Team”

## **Up coming Memory Walk**

Purton is holding its very own Memory Walk. Saturday 12th October starting at 10am at the Village Hall. 3.74km (1 hour average pace), 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.

## **Next round of Dementia Friends sessions**

Wednesday 23rd October and Wednesday 27th November @ 10am at Pips Community Cafe, Station Road, Purton - ALL WELCOME

## **Post Office times of operation**

We were advised on Friday 6th September that the Post Office will be changing their times of operation from Tuesday 10-12 to Tuesday 13.45-15.45.

### Overview

We will be restoring Post Office services to the community of North Road - Yate, with the introduction of a temporary Mobile Service.

To accommodate the above Mobile service, there will be some minor changes to the current opening hours at Chalford, Purton, Amberley, Brimscombe, Whitminster and North Nibley. In addition to these changes, the current Mobile service at Avening will operate from a new location and there will be some minor changes to the current opening hours.

These changes will commence from week commencing Monday 09 September 2019.

Please note the adjacent dates relate solely to the notification period for this communication. Please refer to the information letter below for further details about these services.

Closes 27 Sep 2019

Opened 6 Sep 2019

Contact

[comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:comments@postoffice.co.uk)

<b>Purton Mobile Service</b> Purton Village Hall Car Park Station Road Purton SN5 4AJ	<b>Current Opening times</b> Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00	<b>New Opening times</b> Tuesday 13:45 – 15:45
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## **Who's your Community Hero?**

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. <https://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/News.aspx>

## **Village Hall Car Parking**

Thank you to all those using the facilities for your patience and understanding during the renovation works at the Co-op and the use of charity facilities. A reminder to residents, this is not a public car park – the charity kindly agrees to short term parking whilst visiting the dentists or local shops and pick up drop of from schools, however it is not a car park facility for residents who do not have their own spaces. Please respect the charity and the users who pay for the use of this space.

## **Community Engagement From Chairman Ray Thomas**

### **How do I become a Parish Councillor?**

There are 15 seats in Purton. When a vacancy arises the post will be advertised for 14 clear days by Wiltshire Council and if no one registers their interest in this period we have the opportunity to co-opt the post through internal means. There are two main lawful requirements. You must be 18 years or over in age and have lived in the Parish for a minimum of one year. You will be required to complete a form to register your interest. These forms will be given to full Council for consideration and a suitable date arranged to meet (forms are available from our offices or on our website).

Once the meeting has taken place the Council will at the next available full council meeting vote on your co-option. The majority vote will be taken and the Council do not have to accept you as a Councillor if they feel your application does not meet the needs of the Council and community. No reasons are required as to why an application is not successful.

### **What does a Councillor do?**

Parish Councillors are volunteers who wish to make change and enhance the lives of all those living within the community using the powers that are available to them. Regular meetings are held where business is discussed and voted on. Items can be brought to the table by all Councillors in advance of the meetings, not on the day of the meeting. The Parish Council has limited powers to act, however they have the ability to work with outside bodies to achieve change where feasible.

### **How long is the term of office?**

An election is held every 4 years and each Councillor co-opted or elected must put an application in for the post of Councillor independently. If the spaces are

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uncontested (15) then it is automatic acceptance and enrolment. However, if there are more applications than vacancies, an election will be held and the candidate will be required to canvas for votes. A Councillor can leave office at any given time provided they give written notice to the Chairman of Council.

### ***How many meetings are there?***

Council meetings are held the second Monday of each month. Sub committees are held on another Monday in the month and although any Councillor can attend, they cannot vote unless they are allocated to that committee. You can, as a Councillor chose which committees you wish to join, apart from the Staff Sub committee which has strict guidelines on attendance due to the nature of the sensitive information discussed.

The Parish Council is also sole trustee to three charities. As a Parish Councillor you are automatically enrolled as trustee to all three.

### ***What are the benefits of being a Councillor?***

An opportunity to make change within the community you live and be involved in future planning and development in the Parish, whilst continually working towards the enhancement of lives and services.

### ***Councillor Vacancy***

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

Please always speak to the Clerk of the Council, Deborah Lawrence with any queries, as there maybe options available. [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or call on 01793 771066

### ***Road Closure***

A road closure application has been placed for the Remembrance Sunday service to be held on

Sunday 10th November at the Cenotaph from 2.15pm until 3.45pm. Those direct residents who will be affected by the road closure will receive a letter shortly. Please support this event by kindly honouring those that have fallen and being patient during this time.

### ***Countryside Public Footpaths***

Purton is fortunate to have 161 countryside footpaths which are the responsibility of Wiltshire Council and the land owner to remain 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>

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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 land owner issues. 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 forms part of a two stage letter process before Wiltshire Council enforcement is engaged. The Parish Council do not have jurisdiction over footpaths and are only acting as a mediatory 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](mailto:paul.dempsey@live.co.uk) or call the offices and we will pass on your details.

### ***Highways Maintenance***

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

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

### ***Donations - Working With The Community***

Purton Parish Council are permitted under Section 137 (1) 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 have increased their budget to incorporate a larger fund for such groups. A form is available from our website, our offices or via email. For more information please do not hesitate to speak to the Clerk. Donations are considered twice yearly in February and July. [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Financial-Details.aspx](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Financial-Details.aspx)

Next round of applications will be heard in February 2020. Application forms are available on our website or from the Council offices. [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Financial-Details.aspx](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Financial-Details.aspx)

Grants have been awarded in (June 2019):

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

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

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

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

### **Councillors 2019-20**

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

### **Council Meetings, commencing at 7pm at Purton Village Hall**

Recreation Committee meeting	Monday 7th October
Burials committee meeting	Monday 7th October 7.45pm
Council meeting	Monday 14th October
Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity	Monday 28th October

### **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](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### **Planning Permission, Approved Applications**

02932/FUL 19 The Farm, Ridgeway. Rear Conservatory.  
19/04780/FUL Folly Down Farm, Packhorse. Two-storey side extension, single

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	storey front extension and single storey rear extension.
19/05122/FUL	37 Station Road. Erection of two-storey rear extension.
19/05862/FUL	17 Reids Piece. Rear two-storey extension, single-storey roof to side and other alterations (Resubmission Of 19/03641/Ful)
19/06755/FUL	Folly Down Farm, Packhorse. Erection of new two-storey office.
19/05929/CLP	2 Long Acre. Erection of conservatory. Refused Application
19/05575/FUL	1 Buffer. Garage conversion linked to new single-storey flat-roofed extension.

### **Charities**

Murder Mystery Night – Friday 4th October starting at 7.30pm, doors open from 7 - £12 per person including a luxury cheese board. Pre-booked tickets only available from the Council Offices on 01793 771066 or email [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

THANK YOU to CYCLE CARE of Purton for donating a wonderful ladies bike to raffle for the Village Hall charity funds. The raffle was held on Saturday 24th August at Redfest and raised an amazing £335.00.

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/](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/)

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

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

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

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

### **Facebook, Twitter and Website**

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

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

## Events

**Minibus Shopping Trips** - Hazel is organising a shopping trip on Friday October 11th to Marlborough and will have her normal trip to Cirencester on the 25th 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 - On Wednesday 2nd October leaving the village around 10am. £15 for pensioners and £17 for non-pensioners or people who live outside the village. As usual, numbers in to Tony and money to Arthur and Maureen by 20th September please. Always worth a call in case there are tickets still available.

We managed to surprise everybody on the 4th September with our Mystery Tour; nobody guessed where we were going. Everybody seemed to enjoy the day and we ended up in Nuneaton at a very nice pub that had a selection of food on offer. Unfortunately I misjudged the route home and we got back into Purton at 6.10pm so we all got value for money. It didn't look that far on the map! The feedback was good so no harm done. Who knows what will happen on the October one.

**3Bs Evening** - On 4th October we are having another 3Bs evening which starts at 7.30pm (you can arrive from 7pm), 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. 4 tickets left.

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

## Latest News



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



Purton & District 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.



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

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Saturday 30th November - Party at Silver Threads Hall

Saturday 7th December - Party at Village Hall

### **Information**

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

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

**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 more 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/](http://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.

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

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

**Website** - Visit our dedicated website [www.purtonageconcern.com](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/purtonageconcern) and Twitter: [@Purton\\_AC](https://twitter.com/Purton_AC) Please visit our social media sites and let us know what you think.

We still have 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.

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*



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## Purton Library

### **A Surprise Visit to the Library...**

Sue Relfe and I were just putting the world to rights when Ali Killeen, Library Manager, from Wootton Bassett appeared to say that a young man was on his way to visit us because his mission was to visit libraries in all regions of the UK and he had somewhat mistakenly thought that Purton was allied to the Swindon library service. She had barely had time to explain the background to us when Joseph Coelho appeared radiantly cheerful and delighted to be in Purton even though we were not remotely connected to Swindon! It turned out that he is a writer and poet specialising in poetry primarily aimed at young readers and a playwright whose plays have successfully been produced in numerous theatres round the country. He produced a very comprehensive folder of library tickets already collected – and what a dazzling collection they were! It made us aware of the particular challenge that designers have to face to make a small library ticket a work of art and a pleasure to have in its own right.

Before he left to face the challenge of visiting all the libraries in the London area the next day, he left us copies of two of his poetry books one of which was Winner of the Clippa Award in 2015. An example from that book – *Werewolf Club Rules* – is called *Aardvark*

I know an aardvark  
He works in a prison  
as a guardvark  
He spends his whole day  
Walking round the yardvark.  
The work's not easy,  
its very hardvark.

And I particularly like a poem called *Last Day of School* though there's only room for the first and last verse (he generously gave copies of his books to the library service so they should be available if you want to read more!!)

Come back taller  
Come back with a recipe  
Come back stronger  
Come back with a story.....  
Come back with a new taste  
Come back with a pine cone  
Come back with something traced  
Come back with how proud you have grown.

And the last poem in his collection “*Overheard in a Tower Block*” is called “*There are things that lurk in the library*”. How exciting is that!!

*Caroline McLean, Volunteer Librarian*

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

Our 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) are now available from Purton Surgery.

**'Flu Clinic – Saturday 5 October**

The 'Flu Clinic for those over 65 will be on the morning of Saturday 5 October (please refer to the posters in the surgery for those under 65). As in previous years we will have raffle tickets (£1) for two Hampers during the 'Flu clinic.

**Evening with Village Voices - Friday 15 November, 7.30pm**

More fundraising for an automated door for Purton Surgery ... we will be holding an evening of entertainment with Village Voices on Friday 15 November – 7.30pm in Silver Threads Hall, Purton. We also have Katy Sirr who re-enacts stories from Beatrix Potter. Tickets are £10, to include light refreshments and there will also be a raffle. Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

**Surgery update**

The workload on our Surgery continues to increase with around 100 new patients a month being added to the list. In addition this workload situation has been exacerbated recently due to a substantial increase in telephone calls regarding the difficulty patients have had in getting their medication because of the problems experienced by Lloyds Pharmacy. We have been assured that the Lloyds dispensing service will shortly return to normal. In any case please remember to reorder your repeat prescriptions in good time before you are likely to run out.

Our Surgery is committed to providing the best possible service to all patients, your attention is drawn to the NHS 'Make sure you choose the right NHS service' (please see below).

**Dr McKemey**

Many of you will already know that Dr McKemey retired at the end of August after many years at Purton Surgery. Many patients over the years have benefitted from his care and dedication.

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](mailto:groupforpatients@gmail.com)

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

# Make Sure You Choose the Right NHS Service



## NHS 111

Call 111 if:

- You need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency.
- You think you may need to go to A&E or need another NHS urgent care service.
- You need health information or reassurance about what to do next.

NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobiles – dial 111.

## GP

Visit your GP when:

- Illnesses aren't responding to self-care or advice from your pharmacists.
- When you're suffering from a persistent illness.
- When you have a 'flare up' of a long standing illness.
- When you're in need of any vaccinations.

## Minor Injury Unit/Walk In

- No appointments needed.
- Can treat a variety of injuries such as sprains, strains, minor cuts and fractures.

Walk In Centre, Carfax Street, Swindon  
Tel: 01793 428524

Minor Injuries Unit, Chippenham  
Tel: 01793 456403

NOTE: Minor injury units cannot treat problems such as chest pain, breathing difficulties, pregnancy problems and allergic reactions.

### Sexual Health Clinics

Carfax Street, Swindon  
Monday – 15:00 – 17:00  
Tuesday – 16:30 – 18:30  
Drop in Only, No Appointments.

The Great Western Hospital, Swindon  
Appointment Required.  
Tel: 01793 604038

Health Centre, West Swindon  
Tel: 01793 877233  
Wednesday – 18:00 – 20:00  
Friday – 14:00 – 16:00

Community Hospital, Chippenham  
Mondays – 18:00 – 20:30 (01225 831593)  
Wednesdays – 18:00 – 19:30 (appointment only) (call 01249 456502 between 1pm - 3pm for an appointment)

## Self-Care

### Self-Care

- The best choice for minor illnesses.
- Try the online symptom checker:  
[www.nhs.uk/symptomchecker](http://www.nhs.uk/symptomchecker)
- Keep a well-stocked medicine cabinet, guidance can be found at:  
[www.nhs.uk/1vetwell/Pharmacy](http://www.nhs.uk/1vetwell/Pharmacy)
- Visit [www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk) which is an online resource loaded with tips and advice on the different self-care options and how to go about treating your minor ailments.

## NHS 111

## Pharmacists

### Pharmacists

- Talk in confidence, without appointments.
- They offer expert advice on minor ailments such as coughs and colds, earache, skin rashes and sore throats.
- They can provide services such as Chlamydia testing, emergency contraception and stop smoking services.

### Royal Wootton Bassett Chemists:

- Jones – 01793 854450
- Boots – 01793 852364
- Lloyds – 01793 852472

### Purton Chemist:

- Lloyds – 01793 770294

### Cricklade Chemist:

- Boots – 01793 750226

## GP

## Minor Injury Unit/Walk In

## A&E/999

### A&E/999

Visit A&E or call the 999 ambulance service for emergencies that are critical or life threatening. Such as:

- Loss of consciousness.
- Persistent severe chest pain.
- Acute confused state.
- Fits that are not stopping.
- Severe bleeding that cannot be stopped.

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# Ten Years Ago...

In October 2009 Purton Magazine contained plenty of statistical information. A detailed description of a measuring chain in the Museum included the fact that an acre is the area enclosed by a chain times a furlong. We will soon need to relearn such long-forgotten truths as, once these political shenanigans come to an end, we are told, on the 31st of this month, one imagines we will be in full nostalgia mode. The Metric System will be swept away, replaced by pounds and ounces, inches and miles, quarts and gallons. And what next? Pounds, shillings and pence? British Railways? The Book of Common Prayer? Rationing? Conscription?

We were not told how or by whom they were measured, but Purton Council reported that the parish had an “impressive” total of 108,779 metres of rights of way (not including roads). Forewarned of the changes outlined in the previous paragraph, it usefully added that this equated to 67.6 miles. Has anyone walked them all?

The Cub pack had been active. One of them gave an account of its camp at Burbage. One highlight was that he “enjoyed arranging because I don’t get to arrange things very often”. Ten years on he should be becoming a pillar of village society. But beware, he didn’t like going to bed at 11.00p.m. “because it made me very grumpy in the morning”.

At the age of 15, Craig Miles was not only Sportsman of the Year at Bradon Forest but also received his age-group cap for playing cricket for England. He is now a professional with Warwickshire. This is being written the day after the dramatic conclusion of the Headingley test. After England’s poor start in the series, I had wondered if the selectors could find him a place in the full team. But now? Well, maybe next year.

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2019

**Saturday 26 October until Saturday 9 November**

Please contact Shirley Lawrence on 01793 771084 if you are able to help with this year’s Poppy Appeal either in the village or on our collection days at the West Swindon Centre. Many thanks.

### 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.

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## St Mary's Primary School

We welcome everyone back to the start of a new Term at St Mary's after the summer break. It is lovely to be back in school and to see the children settling in so well.

As we start our new school year, we are very pleased to announce our new vision. Last academic year we asked stakeholders (including children, teachers, parents, St Mary's church, school Governors and the local community) about the values they think are the most important for our school. Following this, groups of children, staff and Governors worked together to develop this into a vision by which we can all live by at St Mary's. Taking inspiration from the fact that the famous fifth Astronomer Royal, Nevil Maskelyne (1732-1811), is buried at St Mary's Church, we felt our ethos could build on an astronomical analogy. We have summarised this as:

### **'Faith in Everyone to Shine Brightly'**

We feel this phrase encompasses our strong belief that everyone at St Mary's has the capacity to shine brightly in all they do. We believe that all St Mary's children are stars who can shine through their talents, attitude and efforts.

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

I would be delighted to show you around our school should you be considering St Mary's. We do not hold open events, as we prefer to show parents/carers around individually. We warmly welcome visits should you wish, prior to submitting the application. Visits can be arranged through the school office [admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk) or by phoning us on (01793) 770239.

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

Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher

### Church Floodlighting

Oct 10 The church will be floodlit in memory of **Andrew James Totterdell**. 1977-2016. In our hearts and sadly missed. Loved always Mom Jean, Brothers Mark and Simon and Sister Becca.



*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.*

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## After 8 Summer Walk

“Its summer time and time for wandering”

We rendezvoused at the Village Hall, and made our way down the hill led by our guide, Sandra.

It was a lovely sunny day, with a welcome breeze. We turned down the bridle path, and walked across the fields together, chatting, and enjoying the views, passing through many ‘kissing gates’ some with memorial signs. A herd of sheep ignored us, too busy grazing.

We crossed over Collins Lane by the level crossing, said ‘good morning’ to dog walkers and made our way over the fields with the houses from The Hyde on the hillside. An interesting looking bull, with no ‘ladies’ to protect, let us pass by, with just a glance in our direction.

As we made our way over the road at The Fox, and along the track by the farm, a herd of good looking Charolais cows were gathered at a gate, and mooed at us as we passed by. We neared the cricket pitch, (leather on willow) where children were enjoying a game.

We walked through a small wood with lovely damp bark under foot, and dappled shade from the trees, and crossed the road by The Tithe Barn making our way to the top of the village, where we stopped to inspect some very large puffball fungi. We continued down a narrow path by the side of houses, and came out where we said, “This is where Thompsons garage used to be.”

We weren’t finished yet, we made our way down Hoggs Lane, and Vasterne Hill, passing boxes with ‘Help yourself’ apples. We crossed into Vasterne over the fields into Waite Meads close, and came out opposite the Old Saddlery then on to Pips Cafe for a delicious lunch which was enjoyed by all of us.

Wonderful food prepared by the lovely volunteers, which finished off our village jaunt perfectly.

*Diane Williams*



### We Record ...

#### **Weddings at St Mary’s Church**

17 August Barry James Manning and Philippa Sarah Jones

4 September Sherwood Kenneth Malcolm Bletso and Sandy Bletso

#### **Funeral at St Mary’s Church**

5 September Bryon Kerslake (82)



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## Purton Artists Exhibition 2019 and Silent Auction

Our exhibition this year is going to be rather special. Not only are we going to offer you the usual high standard of original work from up to thirty local artists, craft stalls and cards as well as refreshments over the weekend on Friday 18th, 6 – 8pm and Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th October, 10am – 4pm. But also we have works of art from the children of St Mary's Primary School and as previously announced, a retrospective exhibition of the work of Andy le Poidevin.

Sadly Andy, one of our founder members and a much loved local artist, passed away earlier this year. In tribute to his connection to the society and his much acclaimed work, within our annual exhibition we are holding a retrospective look at his work, as part of our annual exhibition.

Andy's daughter, Yvonne, has donated one of Andy's original watercolour paintings entitled 'Sunshine and Showers Cotswolds' painted in 1986 for a silent auction. She is also providing a number of limited edition prints of the Weir Pond as well as other originals and Andy's sketch books for all to enjoy.

Thanks to a bursary from the family of Leslie Holland, set up in his memory as another of our founder members, we are able to donate prizes to the winners and a donation to the art work of St Mary's school, which is also showing examples of the children's work.

You may have noticed that we have changed the weekend of our exhibition, hoping that slightly earlier in the year we might get better weather and lighter evenings!

Hope to see you all there!

*Christine Gill*

## Rotary raises funds for worthy causes

The Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett and District held two charity car boot sales at Lower Hook Farm, Royal Wootton Bassett, the first on the 21st July which raised £2300 and the second, last Sunday 8th September, on such a beautifully sunny day, raised £3071. This totals a staggering sum of nearly £5400, which will all be going to



local and national charities. Our thanks go out to all the buyers and sellers who turned up to make these events such a success.

*Linda Locke, Public Relations Officer, Royal Wootton Bassett & District Rotary Club*

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## Latest news from Pips Community Café

It hardly seems possible but PIPs community cafe is now one year old, see elsewhere in this Magazine.



### **Purton Helping Hand**

We were recently given an unexpected boost to our coffers from a really lovely source. In July we received a cheque for £500 from the Purton Helping Hand committee. We will put this towards our outstanding financial commitments from building the kitchen. Thank you Purton Helping Hands and all of who supported it.

### **Free WiFi coming soon**

This will be available soon after 23rd September enabling us to accept card payments and providing a free internet service for our customers.

### **Frances Barrone - Local Area Coordinator.**

Frances will be at Pips on Tuesdays between 10 and 11 am – she will sit at the Talking Table.

### **Dates for your diary**

- Anniversary event - Saturday 19th October
- Dementia Awareness Wednesday 23rd October 10am
- Workshop to make fabric angels for your Christmas tree, Saturday 26 October, 10 am - 1.30 pm. Made from a kit prepared by Jane Smith. All hand sewing. Pay £5 for the kit and bring money for your lunch and drinks. Limited numbers so book early. Contact Libbie 771018 or Jane for further details janersmith1@gmail.com This is all part of the Angel Festival taking place in St Mary's Church on Advent Sunday December 1
- The "Talking Table" – just pop in and chat to whoever is sitting there – what a lovely way to make new friends - Every day from 10am.

### **Other matters**

Do you have any ideas for new groups – a recent suggestion is to meet to do crosswords, what do you think?

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

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

Are you in a hurry?? Do you only have a certain amount of time for your lunch break?

Never fear - you can call the Pips team to place your order. It will be ready and waiting when you are ready to collect. Call 07498 526872.

Opening hours in October will be as follows:

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Remember - Please do let us know if you can spare even a few hours per week or month. It's good fun, full training is given on the easy to use equipment and it's a really good opportunity to meet your fellow villagers.

Why don't you pop in and see for yourself? Contact details are at the end of this article.

***Our opening hours for October will be:***

Tuesday 10am - 5.30pm

Wednesday & Thursday 9am - 4.30pm

Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Saturday 10am - 2pm.

As usual last orders are 30 minutes prior to closing.

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

## *Invitation to celebrate Pips' first anniversary*

Pips, Purton's community café, opened on 6 October last year. To celebrate our anniversary everyone in the village is invited for a free hot drink and biscuit on Saturday 19th October between 10 am and 1 pm. (If you want other things from the menu they will be available to buy). There will be an opportunity to talk to Pips volunteers between midday and 1 pm who will be happy to answer your questions and listen to your suggestions to improve Pips for the village in the coming year. If you can't make the Saturday, there will be post-it notes available all week to ask questions and write comments and suggestions which will be on display for everyone to see.

So one year on how has it gone? Pips has always been primarily about serving the community, a café provided for the people of Purton by the people of Purton. Over the year Pips has excelled at this:

- 39 volunteers have worked at the café, with 21 currently on the rota, and the café has been open for 232 days (we have only had to close once because of lack of volunteers!),
- 16 volunteers made cake and soups (all delicious!),
- On a typical day the café serves 21 customers (averaged over the year), and numbers continue to rise. Our customer have included young families, retired villagers, residents from care homes, tradespeople, walking and cycling groups.
- There is a 'Talking Table' for those coming to the café to make new friends,
- We use local suppliers, e.g. for our bacon, ham, quiche and potatoes.
- We have also listened to our customers to provide new services for the community.
- We have introduced a cooked breakfast and a summer menu, which includes

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salads and a ploughman's, to our menu,

- Dementia awareness training has been given and Pips is now recognised as a dementia friendly café,
- Volunteers run 7 different groups each week, for everything from an after-schools club playing board games on Tuesdays to a crochet group on Fridays,
- Pips has hosted many events including craft sales, baby item sales, seed swaps, lunches for Purton Open Gardens, 'Come and meet your Parish Councillors' sessions, even a lunchtime harp concert.

But as well as serving the community Pips must be viable. Financially we are now generating a small surplus that will enable us to pay back, this year, over a third of the loans provided to build and equip the kitchen. During the year we have taken steps to reduce the heating costs by fitting new double glazed glass doors and by improving the insulation above the ceiling tiles. This investment will also reduce our carbon footprint. We have also recently switched our electricity supplier which will save hundreds of pounds a year.

By any measure Pips has been a success. This has been achieved by the generosity of Purton Club in letting us use their Function Room, and as a result of the dedication of our volunteers (serving and cooking) and all our customers. Pips couldn't do it without you and, on behalf of the whole village, thank you so much.

*The Pips team*

## See your name in print!

For the last three years we have been running a series called "A book I will always remember" which is a series of little articles (perhaps a few hundred words) about how and why a particular book will always be remembered.

Examples can be found in every issue since January 2017 at [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk) (go through to the Dropbox Paper site). Contributions about any type of remembered book; fiction or non-fiction are always welcome.

Books, particularly well-loved stories can take you on all kinds of adventures. On 14 September Purtonians Alice and Heather (AKA Misses Jane and Elizabeth Bennett, or perhaps Misses Eleanor and Marianne Dashwood?) donned their bonnets and Georgian costumes (made by Alice) and joined three hundred like-minded others in a Regency parade in Bath city centre, to celebrate the work of Jane Austen. The parade, which formed part of the Bath Jane Austen Festival gained lots of spectators, particularly international tourists, as it wound its way along the historic streets on a beautifully sunny Saturday.

*Please contact [francis@sheppard.org](mailto:francis@sheppard.org) for further details.*





*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.*

## *John McNab by John Buchan*

Moving straight from school into the world of work, I immediately found myself as a weekday commuter from Woking to Waterloo and walking back across the bridge from the Strand every evening. Although working in a large advertising agency was sometimes even quite exciting, it was soon clear that the drudgery of commuting to and from the capital could easily add to the boring repetitiveness of lots of less interesting or varied jobs.

At that time I came across John MacNab written by John Buchan which only seemed to confirm any long term worries about getting stuck on the commuter conveyor belt well into my 40s. The story is of three very high-flying London professionals who met regularly in their rather expensive gentlemen's club in London and bemoaned their boring lives. From the description of their surroundings I could almost smell the leather from the wing backed chairs mingling with the open wood fire while they sipped their whiskies. If ever I could have afforded it, I worried that membership of such a club might have become one of only a few comforts that a long term future working in London might hold for me.

The three friends all had high profile reputations to protect for the future of their careers. A barrister, a cabinet minister (clearly not in any 2019 Government!) and a banker began to concoct a plan to sharpen their mental and physical senses with a rather daring and self-inflicted challenge to dispel their boredom.

One autumn they moved to a large house in highland Scotland to become part of the hunting, shooting and fishing scene. Having settled in unnoticed, they wrote to three neighbouring estates informing the landowners that between two specific dates and times, a salmon from one and a stag from each of the other two would be poached. Each letter, sent from a local Post Office Box number, was signed by John MacNab and offered to donate a large sum of money to a charity of the landowner's choice if unable to return the hunted prey to the estate sometime the following morning. However, if they were successful, they suggested that the landowner should make a similarly large donation to the same charity.

The responses were varied. One bristled with massive indignation, saying that he had never heard of such impudence. He also said that he would hire numerous

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additional gamekeepers to guard every point of his property to ensure the safety of all his livestock. Another replied rather heartlessly, simply saying that he had informed the local constabulary and looked forward to seeing John MacNab behind bars. The third was a little more sporting in accepting the challenge but simply highlighted the ridiculously high odds of anyone trying to poach from his estate especially as no one had ever been successful in the last 10 years or so.

The story followed the attempt of each poacher and how the support of an exceptionally experienced yet implausibly young-looking gillie was enlisted to suggest some local methods to succeed as well as to help with any errands and deliveries.

You will have to read the book to find out what did happen but I think I remember the closing chapter was again set in their London club, maybe even with the same whisky being enjoyed in the burgundy coloured leather wingback chairs in front of the open wood fire. However, the atmosphere was definitely not the same. Thankfully there were only a very few occasions during my 7 years working in London when my mind slipped wistfully either to the comfortable smells of a posh London club or implausibly, even to the challenging hunting, shooting and fishing areas of highland Scotland.

*Francis Sheppard*

## *Parkinson's Café in Cricklade*

There are more than 1200 people living within Wiltshire (excluding Swindon) who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's and these events are very important to those who require support. We offer our "Parkinson's UK – Cricklade Café" at The Club, High Street, Cricklade SN6 6AY ( adjacent to TESCO ) on the third Wednesday of each month from 10:30 – 11:30 hrs. It is a great opportunity for those who have PD to sit and chat with others, share concern's, share knowledge and make new friends. Likewise, their Carers are also welcome to come along and also share their concerns or knowledge with others who all might benefit from some new ideas.

There are regular attendances from members of the Parkinson's UK team there if you have any real concerns that you wish to discuss in private. It is a drop-in café and so, if you can make it, please come along.

The Club venue is a great place to meet up and their coffee's and cakes hold legendary status! Our regular visitors come from far and wide to enjoy this social event and you will be received with a warm welcome.

If you'd like to find out more about the Cricklade Café or to discuss any other Parkinson's matters, please call Sally Wood on 03442253670

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

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## Beneath the Wool

This past month has been a busy one. Several big jobs have been done as well as some jobs which have been on the to do list for a while. I find sometimes the jobs on the to do list stay there for a while as other more important jobs take priority. The first big job this past month was cutting off all the thistles and dead seed heads of grass in the fields as well as the track leading down to the farm.



This has tidied the farm up significantly but was a time consuming job taking electric fences down to enable me to cut the grass under them. This is an important job as if the grass under the electric fence gets too long the fence earths out on the grass and the amount of electric running through the fence is reduced which then leads to sheep getting out. Keeping an eye on the fields on Collins Lane which were topped the grass has now recovered and is plenty left for the lambs to eat.

Over the weekend coming I am hoping to get the ewes up to College Farm as the grass is getting ever longer out there. A good amount of grass at this stage will get the sheep in best condition ready for when the ram goes in. The more grass sheep have in front of them at this stage makes them ovulate more which then increases the chances of twins at lambing time.

The biggest job of the month was putting up the new fence at the farm as well as a new gate. This was done over the bank holiday weekend and as you can probably remember this was a hot weekend. Especially to be digging two holes to put the gate in. On the Saturday we got the gate in ready, Sunday the wooden fence posts got knocked in and Monday the wire was put up. This is a good job done and has been on the job list for a year now.

*Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton*

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## Trump Raves about Wessex Male Choir

“I love the Wessex Male Choir bigly. As you know, I’m one of the best singers in the world. Maybe even the best, and I think the Wessex Male Choir is fantastic. Great; Awesome! When I hear them they make my hair stand on end better than any of my grooming products. Believe me. In fact I play their CDs before my rallies, just so I can look beautiful. I was just saying to Melania, we have to get a trade deal with the UK so we can import their CDs tariff free. The incredible men and women of the Wessex Male Choir are just incredible. The only thing that could make it better would be if they were a Russian choir. Maybe they could recruit some Russian singers at their next recruitment event?”

Well, whether or not you are Russian, why not come along to our open evening at 7.30pm on 15th of October in Swindon. You can find us at Church of Christ the Servant, Elstree Way, Abbey Meads, Swindon. SN25 4YX. If you enjoy singing or laughing or drinking, you will find something to like. If you can do all three, you will be in estimable company. So if you fancy giving it a try, contact Nick Brown on [membership@wessexmalechoir.co.uk](mailto:membership@wessexmalechoir.co.uk) or on 07956 270354

We don’t think that Mr. Trump, Mr. Putin or Mr. Kim Jong Un will be there, so there should be room for you.



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

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## Changes at St Mary's Church



In the July magazine we described the changes we are planning for St Mary's Church to help serve Purton better and to ensure the Church's long-term viability. As a brief reminder, these changes are: The pews will be replaced by good quality, upholstered wooden chairs and the church heating will be improved. There will be a dais or platform added at the front from which worship can be led or other events staged. A new servery will be added at the back and new toilets installed, including one that is wheelchair accessible. The whole building will be redecorated using traditional materials and the lighting upgraded with energy efficient lights, which in turn will show off the magnificent medieval architecture better. And some of the arches will be glazed to create separate spaces that can be heated and used as separate rooms.

What's been happening over the summer? Having got approval for these plans we have now instructed our architect to proceed with the detailed design work. We have also had an update on likely costs and that's not been good news! We are going to need to raise more money than we thought and probably have to phase some of the work. So, another thing we have been doing this summer is looking at areas of work that we can do ourselves to save money.

When will the main work take place? It's difficult to be sure at the moment but our best estimate is that the main contract on site will start in the late spring next year and finish in time for Christmas events. The nature of the work, involving new lighting circuits throughout and the repair/redecoration of all the walls and ceilings, means that, for both safety and practical reasons, the Church will need to be closed for the contract period. When we have firmer information about the closure period we will let people know.

What happens when the Church is closed? Closure of the Church does not mean that Church activity will cease in the village. We will continue to be involved in Purton as now and Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith and Revd Judith Wells will continue to lead our normal services but at different venues (yet to be decided). Unfortunately, they will not be able to conduct weddings in the Church building during the closure: we do appreciate that this will be a disappointment for those hoping to be married in St Mary's next summer. Another consequence is that it will not be possible to conduct funerals in St Mary's Church during the closure: this may be a worry for some in the village – if this affects you, please do contact Ian or Judith (contact details p3) and they will be able to advise you on what appropriate, alternative arrangements are possible.

And when it's all finished...? We will have a warmer, more energy-efficient, more comfortable, more flexible and better-lit Church where we can provide all our current services in the traditional format while also catering for young families who are attracted to different forms of worship. And, for the village as a whole, we

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hope that the renewed interior, with its medieval backdrop and excellent acoustic, will also prove attractive for a wide range of other events (e.g. exhibitions, plays, concerts etc). We'd welcome any thoughts/ideas on this from groups/organisations within the village.

We hope to run a social/information evening at Church later in the year – more details in next month's magazine. And if you have any questions, concerns or comments please do let us know – email [renewal@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:renewal@stmaryspurton.org.uk) or speak to a church warden (contact details p3).

## Angel Festival In Purton

St Mary's Church is having an Angel Festival during Advent 2019. Would you like to share your angel(s) made of fabric, wood, wool, stone etc with visitors to our Church for 8-9 days? There will be stewards and refreshments on 30th November and 1st December. Please bring your angel(s) to St Mary's Church on Saturday 30th November between 10am and 1pm. Precious Angels can be collected 7pm-7.30pm on 1st December. But if you are happy to leave them unstewarded for a week you can collect them between 1pm and 4pm on Sunday 8th December.



### **Two Angel Workshops... fabric and glass**

We are holding an Angel Festival in St Mary's Church and are hoping angels of all sorts will be on display around Advent time (the beginning of December). There will also be two Workshops, held at Pips on Saturdays, to give people a chance to make an angel.

#### **Workshop 1:**

On Saturday 26 October 10-1.00 will be to make a fabric angel from a kit prepared by Jane Smith. The finished angel will be suitable to hang on a Christmas tree. Recommended for adults with reasonable hand sewing skills. The cost will be £5 for the materials plus bring money for lunch and drinks. Places are limited.

#### **Workshop 2:**

On Saturday 9 Nov 10-1.30pm will be to make a glass angel, suitable for hanging on a tree. Recommended for adults as there will be soldering and sanding involved. The cost will be £15 for the materials plus bring money for lunch and drinks. Places are limited so contact Mary Nettleton for further details and to book a place. [marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk) or [libbie@sheppard.org](mailto:libbie@sheppard.org)

Any excess money from this Angel Festival will go towards the Church Renewal fund for St Mary's

*For more information or to book a workshop 1 place contact Jane Smith: [janersmith1@gmail.com](mailto:janersmith1@gmail.com) or Libbie Sheppard Tel: 771018 [libbie@sheppard.org](mailto:libbie@sheppard.org)*

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## Purton Village Diary - October 2019

2	W	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery Tour with pub lunch
3	Th	10.30am	Communion at the Vicarage
4	F	2.00pm	Friendship Club at Silver Threads Hall
		7.30pm	Murder Mystery evening at the Village Hall
5	Sa	AM	'Flu clinic at Purton Surgery for over 65s
		8.00pm	Purton Tennis Club Race Night at the Red House
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6	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Service at St Mary's Church
		10.30pm	Harvest Festival Parade and Family Service at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's School
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
7	M	1.30pm	St Mary's School Harvest Festival Service at St Mary's Church
		7.00pm	Parish Council recreation committee meeting at the Village Hall
		7.45pm	Parish Council burials committee meeting at the Village Hall
8	Tu	10.00am	Purton and District Probus meet at the Red House Lounge
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	The Co-Op Choir entertain at the Silver Threads Hall
		2.30pm	Purton Methodist Women's Fellowship meet at the Methodist Church
10	Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
12	Sa	10.00am	Purton Memory Walk in aid of the Alzheimer's Society, starting from the Village Hall
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13	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm School
14	M	7.00pm	Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
15	Tu	7.30pm	Wessex Male Choir open evening at the Church of Christ the Servant, Elstree Way, Abbey Meads
		8.00pm	After 8 planning meeting followed by a quiz, venue TBC
16	W	2.30pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Talk on Bowel Cancer at Purton Surgery
18	F	6.00pm	Purton Artists Exhibition opens at the Village Hall
		7.00pm	Age Concern 3Bs evening at Silver Threads Hall
19	Sa	10.00am	until 4.30pm Purton Artists Exhibition at the Village Hall
		10.00am	Pips celebrates its first anniversary with free drinks and biccies
		7.30pm	Fretless and Friends jazz concert at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall
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20	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	until 4.30pm Purton Artists Exhibition at the Village Hall
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
21	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk from Serena Stevens on 'Oak and Furrows'

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22 Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at the Red House Lounge
	2.00pm	Clothing sale with Mandy at the Silver Threads Hall
	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild meet at the Silver Threads Hall for a talk from Jon Mason of Highfield Garden Centre
	8.00pm	PADS pantomime auditions at the Red House
23 W	10.00am	Dementia Friends session at Pips
24 Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at the Village Hall for a talk on 'The Severn Bridge Disaster'
	8.00pm	PADS pantomime auditions at the Red House
26 Sa		Royal British Legion Purton Branch Poppy Appeal starts
	10.00am	Knit-a-square coffee morning and lunch at the Silver Threads Hall
	10.00am	Angel making workshop at Pips

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27 Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
28 M	7.00pm	Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity meeting at the Village Hall

### **Every week**

M	7.00pm	<i>to 8.00pm</i> Purton Village Voices choir practice at the Red House Skittle Alley (term time)
Tu	9.00am	<i>to 11am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	12 noon	Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
	1.45pm	<i>to 3.45pm</i> Post Office van stops at Purton Village Hall car park
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon</i> : Coffee and chat at Silver Threads Hall
	2.00pm	<i>to 5.00pm</i> : 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	<i>to 3pm</i> : Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall (term time)
	2.20pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Purton Methodist Church (term time)
F	10.00am	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Tea, coffee and cake at The Cedars
Sa	10.00am	<i>to 12.30pm</i> : Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)

### **Every month**

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

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## November

Fr 1		Age Concern quiz with fish and chip supper
Sa 2	7.30pm	An evening with Joh Hegley at Brinkworth Village Hall
Sa 9	10.00am	Angel making workshop at Pips
F 15	7.30pm	An evening with Purton Village Voices at the Silver Threads Hall
Th 28	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at the Village Hall for a talk on 'Wiltshire through the eyes of a moonraker'

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

## Moon Phases

- 3rd Quarter: 22 Sep   ● New moon: 28 Sep   ● 1st Quarter: 5 Oct  
○ Full moon: 13 Oct   ● 3rd Quarter: 21 Oct

## Purton Annual Flower, Arts, Craft & Produce Show

There were 567 entries at our recent show, all tables were displayed with a rainbow of coloured flowers, fruit and vegetables, including a couple of giant marrows. A banquet of edible delights, that wouldn't look out of place in next year's Bake off, some extremely amusing and ingenious photographs of circles and trios. The bug hotels were 5 star and booked to capacity, and we obviously have quite a few junior flower arrangers coming up in the ranks. The Scarecrow Challenge was well entered, and the competitors had made excellent use of a wide variety of waste. They came in all shapes and sizes. Our final profit for this year is £612.73, this will be passed on to the Royal British Legion.

Again we were delighted to welcome so many new exhibitor's and on behalf of the Committee, we would like to thank our judges, on the day helpers, and everyone else who publicised, sponsored and donated prizes to our Annual Show. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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



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The Results for this year's Show are as follows:

**The Scarecrow Challenge**

- 1st "Mrs Crisp" Purton & Cricklade Young Farmers
- 2nd "Lady Neila Neptune" 1st Purton Guides
- 3rd "Billy Bradan" Lydiard Millicent Pre-School

The Most Scariest Scarecrow to Predators: "Mrs Crisp" by Purton and Cricklade Young Farmers. The other groups taking up our challenge this year were: Purton Baby & Toddler Group, Purton Evening W.I., Peardrops Pre-School, St Mary's Primary School, and Purton Tennis Club.

**Cup Winners**

- Most points in the Vegetable Section Peter White
- Most points in the Flower Section Pete Griffin
- Most points in the Arts and Craft Section Moira White
- Most points in the Onion Classes Peter White
- Most points in the Industrial Section Ann Hodge
- Most points in the Floral Art Zoe Williams
- Most Points in the Photography Section Zoe Williams
- Best Flower in Show Pete Griffin
- Best Industrial in Show Ann Hodge
- Best Vegetable in Show Peter White
- Best Photograph in Show Zoe Williams
- Most points in all Classes Peter White
- Showstopper Cake Lindsey Hall
- Banksian Medal Peter White

**1st Place in Children's Classes**

- A Face on a Paper Plate Kaishem Wilson
- 3 Jam Tarts William Hodges
- A Bug Hotel Iris Delooze
- Handwritten Thank you Letter Holly Drewett
- Flower Arrangement in a Jam Jar Christopher Cox

I will confirm the date of next Year's show in the November issue.

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



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## *Defibrillator Awareness Session: Date To Be Confirmed Soon.*

Later this year we hope to hold a defibrillator awareness session at The Royal George, Pavenhill when everyone is invited to come along to find out about the defibrillator. A trainer will be on hand to show us how it works and give us a chance to look at and also to handle the equipment.

We will be shown how simple the defibrillator is to use in an emergency situation and how you cannot do any harm if you use it... and you may save somebody's life.

The session will also include some advice and training on basic cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), which is a very useful first aid skill to have. Keep a look out for the November Purton Magazine edition, the Purton Parish Council website, Facebook and generally around the village for the date which we will confirm as soon as possible.

This headline appeared in a recent edition of *The Sunday Times* – “Fundraiser saved by ‘own’ defibrillator.” It was reported that a former mayor of a Wiltshire town came back to life after 15 shocks from a defibrillator bought with money he had raised in a campaign to install the life-saving device. 71 year old Trevor Batchelder was the first patient to use the equipment after he was suddenly taken ill at his home in Wilton near Salisbury. His wife is a retired nurse and when she dialled 999, the controller asked whether there was a defibrillator nearby. She arranged for the machine that her husband had campaigned for through his mayoral appeal to be rushed to her. She gave him 3 shocks and then the ambulance crew administered a further 12 when they arrived. He was then taken to hospital where a balloon pump was inserted into his aorta.

News like this highlights how fortunate we are to have two machines in Purton and this awareness session is clearly an important step for anyone to learn how they can help to save lives in an emergency.

## *Cricklade Revealed Extra Index Book Four: World War 2: More People & Places.*

Topics include:

- Wartime personalities.
- Cricklade's emergency rest centres.
- Inside Nos. 22 & 41 High Street - a baker and draper.
- Cricklade pupils' work at The Dump.
- War work at Parsonage and Fiddle Farms.
- Latton Parish Council minutes and Log book entries.
- Latton village remembered during wartime..
- Local railway and bus services during WW2.

Available now from Cricklade Town Council Office and Cricklade Museum at £3.60 each. Proceeds from all books are donated to Cricklade Open Door charity.

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## Purton Amateur Dramatic Society News

### **PADS Panto 2020 – Sleeping Beauty**

Pantomime rehearsals will begin in earnest early November, following readings for parts, which will be held at 8 pm on Tues 22th and Thurs 24th October, at The Red House in Purton. If you are interested in performing or being involved in some other way, put these dates in your diary and come along and join us - we are always looking for new talent!

Following last year's very successful production of Jack & The Beanstalk, directed by Caroline Nadin and Lynda Wright, we have chosen another traditional panto for 2020 – Sleeping Beauty - directed by Celia Binfield and Lindsey Hall. Performances will be held on Thurs 6, Fri 7 and Sat 8 February 2020.

We always welcome new members. Even if you have never performed before, and fancy doing a bit of acting, singing or dancing, please come along to one of our readings in October. All ages welcome, but under 16's must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

We are a friendly non-profit making group, with no membership fees, who have been entertaining Purton for well over 40 years. Apart from acting, there are many other skills required to get the "show on the road". We cannot put on our performances without the help of all the back stage crew, who should be recognised for all their hard work and support. Without a whole team of people working behind the scenes on props, costumes, make-up, scenery, special effects, lighting, refreshments and front of house, we would be unable to stage our productions.

If you are interested in joining us, in any capacity, and want to know more, come along to one of the panto readings in October, and tell us how you would like to get involved, or call me or contact us on our Facebook page.

*Kate Bath Tel: 771442*

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

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## Purton Tennis Club

Firstly our thanks go to Nicola Gardner and Teresa Miles who have given up their time throughout the summer, in order to run our very successful and well attended, Saturday morning tennis sessions for our junior members. Nicola has sent in a separate report for you to read.

The adult season has been rather topsy-turvy. In the Swindon and district league, some of our teams have had some easy wins followed by some heavy losses. This could be due to the change of players on the day – for both the home and away teams; however, we are pleased to say that our Mixed B team came top of division 4 and will be collecting some silverware at the presentation night in the autumn.

We are currently organising our teams for the winter league. The winter format is slightly different to the summer: 2 sets of mixed doubles followed by 2 set of ladies & men's. We are lucky to have all weather courts at Purton which enables us to play all year round.

Coming up soon is our Race Night at the Red House in Church Street. Saturday 5th October is the date and we looking to have a full house for a fun packed evening. Please do come along and have a flutter or buy a horse on the night – if you haven't bought one in already! Posters are in this magazine and around the village.

Should you wish to join us at any time during the year, we would be very pleased to hear from you. We have flood lights and all weather courts. Currently our social evenings are on Fridays – sometimes followed by a cheeky curry!

So if you would like to try tennis or return to tennis, please get in touch.

*Janet Saunders, Secretary (01793 772146), email: [janetcsaunders@gmail.com](mailto:janetcsaunders@gmail.com)*

*[www.purtontennisclub.com](http://www.purtontennisclub.com)*

Our annual Junior Singles Tournament took place at the beginning of September where there was a good turnout of children putting into practice what they have learnt over the summer.

The girls' event pitted 12- year- old Jess Williams against 14-year-old Catherine Knights. I was extremely surprised by the match that they played with both girls showing the improvement they have made over the summer and a determination to run down every ball! Several long rallies ensued and the first set was incredibly tight with there only ever being one game between them until Catherine edged it by 6 games to 5. Although the second set also saw many deuce games Jess won it by 6 -2. A match tie-break (first to 10 points, 2 clear) was then played to decide the winner. Jess ran away with this and became the champion with a 10-4 victory.





The Senior Boys event saw only two entries so Jack Kendall and Harrison Black played a best of three set match. Jack always had the edge and ran out a 6-3, 6-2 victor.



In the Junior Boys event nine boys took part. Many of the boys were playing their first competitive matches and as with the girls I was impressed by the way in which they played. They were split into two groups, one of four and one of five with the top two in each to go forward to the semi-finals. Group B was clear cut with Matt Burrows and Louis Giles qualifying for the semis but Group A was incredibly close. Lewis Starkey won the group with three wins but the other three boys won one match each meaning the runner-up was decided by the number of games won. Evan

Black had 7, Charlie Marshall 10 and Raif Gunton 11, thus Raif went through to face Matt in the semi-final.

Matt overcame Raif 4-0 and Louis beat Lewis 4-1 to set up a re-match of a match played earlier in the day which Matt had won.

The final was a close affair with several good rallies. The first four games were shared but then Matt began to hit a few winners to complete a 4-2 victory.

Many thanks to Teresa Miles for her help and to Miles Gunton who helped with the umpiring.

*Nicola Gardner*

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

### **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

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

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

It will be held in the Lydiard Millicent Parish hall, starting sharp at 7pm, breaking at 8.15pm for a Puddings and will resume half an hour later. We hope to finish by 10pm. There will be a prize for the highest and lowest score of the evening.

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

Tickets are £5 for adults and £2.50 for children under 13. You are welcome to bring your own drink, although tea and coffee will be available with the supper. There will also be a raffle.

Tickets available from Pam Bennett, [pamjbennett26@virginmedia.com](mailto:pamjbennett26@virginmedia.com), 01793 330017 or Tina Wheeler, [tina.w.asc@gmail.com](mailto:tina.w.asc@gmail.com), 01793771989.

*Pam Bennett*

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# Purton Post Bag



The editors reserve the right not to publish letters received where space and content dictate. No correspondence can be accepted for publication without the proper name and address of the correspondent being supplied. However, these details may be withheld from publication if requested.

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## **Cake; just what the doctor ordered!**

A huge thank you to our family, friends and neighbours for all the kindness, phone calls, visits, cards, flowers, meals,

and help given, during our recovery after surgery, not forgetting the wonderful cakes to help me gain weight! It has been very much appreciated.

*Maureen & Graham Quincey*

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## Why English is so hard

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,  
But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes.  
Then one fowl is goose, but two are called geese,  
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a whole lot of mice,  
But the plural of house is houses, not hice.  
If the plural of man is always called men,  
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

The cow in the plural may be cows or kine,  
But the plural of vow is vows, not vine.  
And I speak of a foot, and you show me your feet,  
But I give you a boot — would a pair be called beet?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?  
Then one may be that, and three may be those,  
Yet the plural of hat would never be hose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,  
But though we say mother, we never say methren.  
So our English, I think you will agree,  
Is the trickiest language you ever did see.

*Anonymous*

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## Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



Did you meet Lady Neila Neptune, the Guides' scarecrow at Purton's produce show? The Guides confidently rose to the challenge of creating a scarecrow from recycled/upcycled materials. Lady Neila celebrated Girlguiding's Future Girl theme as well as the 50th anniversary of the moon landing.

While the Guides were getting creative, the Brownies were getting active. Eight Brownies and two leaders spent a wonderful pirate themed day travelling from Great Bedwyn to Hungerford on a narrowboat. They worked the locks and swing bridges, steered the boat and spotted kingfishers and herons too.

In contrast to the peace and quiet of the Kennet and Avon canal, an action-packed trip to Youldbury was the next Brownie adventure. A coachload of Brownies visited the Scout activity centre near Oxford for a day of zip wire, abseiling, climbing, bouldering, 3G swing, go karting, aerial trek and archery. One Brownie said, "It was the first time I'd done high ropes. It was quite scary, but good scary." The Brownie units were very grateful to have received a community grant from St James's Place which, along with a bequest from a Purton resident, covered the cost of the coach.

We're now just resuming our weekly meetings and welcoming new members, starting with a shout out to Matilda, Poppy, Jess and Sophia who have joined Brownies.

We are now also a year into the new guiding programme, the old programme having been officially retired in the summer after the transition period. Some girls have taken the opportunity of time in the summer holidays to work towards interest badges. The interest badges are now done exclusively at home, with time in meetings spent on Skills Builders and Unit Meeting Activities. Ist Purton Brownies were fascinated to see Olivia's presentation of what she'd done for the Aviation badge. Could you name 40 things which fly? Could you use a bicycle pump to project a home-made rocket sky high? Olivia can!

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](mailto:braydondc@wncounty.org.uk). You can also register interest in joining at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/).

### Purton Profferings

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

- Wanted: Metal filing cabinet for Purton Museum contact: Marion Hobbs Tel: 01793 770185, Email: [roy.marion@btinternet.com](mailto:roy.marion@btinternet.com)

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## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Sally Oates was our speaker for August on the subject of seed saving techniques. Sally started by telling us about a variety of pea that she had grown for years in her garden. It was a firm favourite of hers, producing prolific amounts of tasty peapods on healthy plants. One year the entire seed crop failed and it was no longer sold by the seed company. Lost for ever. This inspired Sally to join the Stroud Community Seedbank.

Set up in 2016, a group of keen gardeners (called seed guardians) grow vegetables, flowers and herbs in their own gardens, allotments and community plots and harvest and save seed for the local community. During 2018 over 700 packets of seed were produced.

Sally emphasized how important good fertile soil is for healthy plants. All waste from her garden is placed in compost bins and the resulting compost is spread on her garden. A fantastic free material. improving drainage and fertility.

Sally explained that gardeners and farmers have saved and shared their own seeds for thousands of years. Since agriculture has become more mechanized and supermarkets have replaced local greengrocers, plant breeders started creating varieties that were uniform in size, ripened at the same time, robust enough to stand mechanical harvesting and last well on supermarket shelves. The EU have regulated the industry requiring each country to register a list of all their different vegetable varieties. It is illegal to sell any varieties not listed and new varieties have to undergo expensive and rigorous testing. This has resulted in many heirloom and local varieties being lost.

The seedbank offer their packets of seed in exchange for a donation.

As well as being free and plentiful, saved seeds produce plants that over time adapt to the local climate and they also germinate much quicker.

To save your own seeds, cut ripe seedheads on a dry day, placing them in a large paper bag or envelope. Don't forget to label!! After a few weeks, the seeds can be separated from the pods and are then best stored in envelopes in a dry, cool place until it's time to sow them.

I'm sure Sally has inspired us to start saving our own favourite varieties of flowers and vegetables. More detailed information and instructions for particular types of vegetables can be found on the Real Seeds website – [www.realseeds.co.uk](http://www.realseeds.co.uk)

We are delighted that Jon Mason from Highfield Garden Centre is the speaker for our next meeting on 22nd October. Jon was very entertaining when he last visited and this time his subject will be

Autumn/Winter baskets and containers. Our monthly competition is for a variety of squash. We meet as usual at the Silver Threads Hall, 7.30pm. Visitors always welcome.

*Moira White (Chair)*

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**Future Meetings**

**Thursday 24th October 2019, 7.30pm in Purton Village Hall  
Paul Barnett – Disaster waiting - The Severn Bridge Disaster**

In line with commemorative activities to remember the 50th anniversary of the structures' demise - Disaster Waiting gives a comprehensive overview of the bridges construction, its daily operation, and eventual destruction at the hands of two run away tankers. The talk uniquely seeks to unravel several bridge myths and presents recently unearthed documentary evidence which assist to lay to rest this sad chapter of Gloucestershire's Maritime Past.

**Thursday 28th November 2019, 7.30pm in Purton Village Hall  
Michael Gamble – Wiltshire through the eyes of a Moonraker**

**Friday 6th December 2019, 7.30 pm in the Silver Threads Hall  
\*Christmas Social Evening\***

The Historical Society's Christmas Social is always a very friendly festive evening. This year, back by popular request, we have booked The Whitehorse Folk Group to provide our entertainment. In addition there will be a buffet supper, a quiz, a raffle and a lucky ticket number. We supply the food and you are welcome to bring drinks of your choice. Full detail of ticket price (which is always very reasonable) and where to obtain tickets will be available very shortly on our posters, at our meetings, in the museum and in future magazines.

**Thursday 23rd January 2020**

**Sarah Finch Crisp – St Mary's Church Lydiard, Conservation Project**

New Members and visitors always welcome

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

*Museum Update*

Commemorating the beginning of WW2, an exhibition commenced on the 4th September and will continue until late in November. This includes information on the Purton Defences and artefacts. "One man's war" Joe Ricketts WWI memorabilia continues to be on display until the museum closes for the winter, when the artefacts will be returned to the Ricketts family.

Step down memory lane and see "Signs of Times Past" exploring the origins of our road names. Browse over Roy a'Court's photograph albums that span over half a century of village gatherings.

There is "A quiz for curious minds" and "find the mice" for the tiny tots. Something for all ages in Purton Museum.

Open Wednesday 2.00pm to 5.00pm and Saturday 10.00am to 12.30pm. Admission

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free. There will be a friendly volunteer available, who enjoys answering your questions. Webpage [www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com)

Marion Hobbs: Tel: 01793 770185 E mail: [roy.marion@btinternet.com](mailto:roy.marion@btinternet.com)

## Purton Cricket Club



The season ended with the 1st XI producing a convincing win over Calne. Purton finished in the last two in the league and the club is still waiting to hear if it will be relegated to the Wiltshire League. The 2nd XI finished mid table and the club is encouraged by the progress made by many of the younger players.

The 2nd XI produced fine results in July with three victories in succession, beating Bathford by 200 runs, Erlestoke and Coulston by 38 runs and Westbury by 97 runs.

One of the 1st XI's wins also came in July with a tense 11 run victory against Potterne 2nd XI where Callum Wright recorded an invaluable 86 runs and then Patrick Whittaker produced an inspired spell of bowling to claim 5 wickets for 40 runs. On a personal level Callum has had a good couple of weeks recording 2 wickets for 44 in his 10 overs and then patiently compiling 60 runs in the defeat to Westbury. Jack Clarke also deserves a mention with his 26 in a 70 run partnership with Callum in this match.

Notable individual performances in the 2nd XI have come from Thisara Gedara with his maiden century for Purton (111) against Bathford and captain Fraser Conway's 73 and Luke Roche's 4 for 16 against Westbury.

I will let Fraser describe the win against league favourites Erlestoke: -

"Big Ken (Thomas) smashed 115 of 90 balls displaying his own great technique of...set a base and whack it! Ken and Maz Hussain (51 runs) shared a 2nd wicket partnership of 157 runs in just 22 overs. Then Joe Dunn with another unreal performance with the ball taking 6 wickets helping us to win by 38 runs. Also, a special mention to U13s' Adam Davison who scored two fours off the last two balls and Teddy Hallett who got the first wicket with a great run out inside the ring."

### **From the Archives**

In 1895 a novel cricket match was played in the cricket field between teams captained by Miss K. Hudson and Mr J. Williams, the gentlemen to use broom sticks and bat and field left-handed; the gentlemen won by 23 runs. The Misses Hudson batted and bowled well.

## Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Witfield Close, Glevum Close, The Common, Locks Lane, (and from Moulden View) Bretton Close and Bashkir Close*

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# Bradon Forest School

## Results Day 2019

Once again, Bradon Forest students have performed extremely well at GCSE and produced another excellent set of results.

- 73% of students achieved 4+ pass in both English and Maths
- 49% of students achieved 5+ pass in both English and Maths
- 81% of students obtained a 4+ pass in English
- 77% of students obtained a 4+ pass in Maths
- 21% of our results were at grade 7, 8 or 9. A real highlight!
- 45% of our students got at least one grade 7



Mrs Dickson, Headteacher, said on results day, "On behalf of the staff at Bradon Forest School I would like to say congratulations to all our students receiving results today".

Term 6 was a busy term for Sporting achievements. The school finished in Bronze position in the overall Wiltshire and Swindon School Games tournament!

Wiltshire and Swindon School Games is an



annual programme which provides a platform for young people to compete in internal school competitions (level 1) through to district competitions (level 2) through to County competitions (level 3). This is coordinated by Wiltshire and Swindon Sport (WASP) in partnership with the Local Organising Committee (LOC)

and Management Group and delivered by working with partners across the County including the School Games Organisers, Local Authorities and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

### **Sports Day 2019**

Five school records were broken on Sports Day this year! Congratulations to Henry White, Year 10 student, with a throw of 41.6 metres in the javelin. Amy Warre, Year 9, broke the long jump record with 4.95 metres and the hurdles records in 11.72 seconds. Year 9 Declan O'Neill broke the 300 metres record in 42 seconds and year 10 Takuma Yokoyama broke the 800 metres record in 56.16.

Ringsbury House won the most points during Sports Day.

### **House Cup Winners 2018/19**

Every house point awarded for excellent work, demonstrating the Bradon Forest values, sporting achievements or working beyond target level were added up to find out the winners of the academic year 2018/19. Congratulations to Battlewell for amassing an amazing 34,334 points! Well done Peartree, runners up, with 32,459 house points and Ringsbury with 28,329.





## BRADON FOREST SCHOOL



### OPEN EVENTS

**AUTUMN OPEN EVENING**  
Thursday 26 September 2019  
6.00pm - 8.00pm  
Formal presentation at 7.30pm

**OPEN MORNING TOURS**  
Monday to Friday  
3D September to 4 October 2019  
9.15am - 10.30am

**OPEN SATURDAY**  
Saturday 5 October 2019  
9.30am - 11.00am

Book your FREE place here:  
[tinyurl.com/BradonForest2019](http://tinyurl.com/BradonForest2019)

[www.bradonforest.org.uk](http://www.bradonforest.org.uk)

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## The other side of the gate

In September we attended the first Raw Milk Producers Association AGM. It was held at Bungay in Norfolk - Norfolk is so far away, and then a bit further. The committee and guest speakers met for dinner the night before at a local pub; I had the pleasure of entertaining the two guests, Russ Carrington from Pasture for Life Association (PFLA, of which we are members) and Aled Davies from Pruex. He's one of the funniest men I've ever met! He is a Nuffield Scholar and did his study on Alternatives to Antibiotics in Agriculture. His findings are incredible, but so obvious! I won't tell his story here, but you will hear a lot more about him in the coming months. A quick internet search will find him and if you're an allergy sufferer, he's found a way to help you! His work with farmed animals is his passion. He explained to me that we've taken cows out of the fields to live and calve in sheds, fed them a carbohydrate diet (cereals and maize) and made them drink water from tanks. All three things are not natural to the cow! He realised that soil bacteria was the missing element. Soil bacteria is so important for life and we removed their access to it! Right from birth when the calf hits the floor it is subjected to healthy bacteria. His mantra is healthy floor, healthy air and healthy water. He achieved all three when the cows are housed by inoculating the bedding and water with soil bacteria. The results are incredible and I'm excited to see how they work here during the winter months. I shall keep you updated.

We had our annual bTB (bovine tuberculosis) test on the 19th August. It's a very stressful week for cows and farmers. Our raw milk sales rely on the farm retaining its bTB free status. Happy to report we have, however we had one inconclusive. Poppy will be retested in October - fingers crossed she goes clear next time.

Winter bedding was on the agenda in August. I'd arranged for Neil Webb to bale straw for us at Wroughton. We need about 300 bales to get us through the winter.



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Neil started baling and quickly sent me a text to say the straw was smashed up! Wheat straw when overripe gets brittle like glass. The farmer was using a rotary combine harvester (imagine a tumble dryer to separate the seeds from the ears) and they're so aggressive. If the straw is very short (this was about 0-5 inches), it doesn't have what we call bones to bind it together. The cows push it in to heaps and so it is not a good bed maker. By the time I got there he'd baled 90 and nearly finished the first field. I didn't want anymore so we agreed he'd finish the first field and then pull out. I now have 107 bales of straw that won't be much good. Luckily I found some more near Castle Eaton (trying to find straw is very difficult when the harvesting is a week off finishing!). So, after agreeing a price with Spencer (£12/bale), he also agreed to store them for me. I have too little barn space! Another investment needed there in the future.

After the success of the bonfire we had at Restrop last year, we will be repeating it again this year. Same place on the 5th November. No fireworks, just a big fire and good Quarry Farm produced burgers and sausages with milkshakes too!

We have a couple of beautiful eating apple trees in the garden. The usual beneficiaries of these are a few friends and the pigs. This year, Sarah took a load of bags to Stephen Tuck at Brinkworth who made 35 bottles of apple juice from them. It is delicious and we are selling them in our shop. To say they're a hit is an understatement - I think I'll be shaking that tree some more!

One of the things we get asked regularly by our customers is if they can meet the cows. Sarah and I love giving tours and I love talking about the different characters and also about how we farm and the changes we're making for the better. The cows always perform, especially Pinky, but it does take a lot of time. We've decided to do regular organised tours, probably twice a month on a Saturday and/or Sunday. Look at our website and Facebook pages for announcements.



Talking of tours, we were contacted by Russ Carrington (PFLA) who is also involved in the International Young Farmers movement. This year they hosted the international rally and needed interesting farms to take them to visit. We had 35 mainly European young farmers meeting our cows and seeing our system. Lots of great questions and they all spoke such good English - fortunate as my Finnish and German is a bit rusty! Beforehand, they had been to see Lizzy Dyer at Just Kidding (kid meat and hides and just the most entertaining kids!) and Abbey Home Farms at Cirencester, before going on to Pennyhooks Farm at Shrivenham where they use farm animals as therapy.

*Jonathan Cook*

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## From Farm To Fit - A Farmer's Journey, part two

Last month Jon and I sent his blood test off so we could identify any areas that would make him look and feel better as well as achieving optimal health.

The results came back and were less than ideal... there were a few red flags and almost a third of the results were sub optimal so we have some work to do! Unfortunately this is not abnormal even in the so called 'healthy population', which includes Gym goers and personal trainers. I tested 15 trainers in a London club recently and only two had healthy results; sadly you could tell who it was just by looking at them. As I said last week, there are few in the health and fitness industry that truly walk the walk and talk the talk!

### **Lab Results**

To interpret results back from a lab correctly, you need to understand that the human body is a system of systems and ALL the test results are connected, so you MUST look at the related systems to be sure of the cause of any issues. Unfortunately the norm is to order one or two targeted tests and make a diagnosis; a diagnosis which does not see the whole picture can have serious repercussions for long term health.

### **Priorities**

Red flags are the first to be dealt with and in Jon's case blood sugar was the winner. An elevated blood sugar or insulin level is not just a great way to grow love handles but is fast becoming the quickest way to get a disease. The problem with managing blood sugar is that everyday 'healthy food' can increase it, unbeknownst to the majority of people. Did you know rice cakes have a higher glycaemic index than sugar! Meaning its worse for your health than eating a spoonful of sugar yet is promoted as a health food!

### **Action points**

For better blood sugar management the best place to start is the diet. Start by reducing or eliminating all simple white sugar from the diet. Start looking at the packaging on foods and understand what the information is telling you – i.e. 4g of sugar is a teaspoon, you should have no more than 10 teaspoons a day the average right now is 40! Stop drinking fruit juice, this has as much sugar as fizzy drinks but in fructose (fruit sugar) form, which is worse than sucrose (refined sugar from cane or beet) for your body. Reduce or eliminate processed food. If it comes in a bar, box or it goes out of its way to tell you how healthy it is, it is probably not. Check the sugar content and ideally make another choice.

In the next chapter of Jon's story I will address other somewhat surprising red flags we found.

*Ian J. Vout Perfect Performance Coaching  
www.perfectperformancecoaching.com @PPC Instagram or PPC Facebook*

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# Purton in the time of Victoria

## **Part 3: Poverty and taxes**

Friendly Societies are mutual associations, owned by their members, and their beginnings in the 18th century were very local and started within villages and towns where pooled funds provided small amounts of insurance to members including loss of property or sickness. Some provided funds to enable out-of-work members to travel to another part of the country to look for work. The Purton Friendly Society was formed in 1787 at The Angel in the High Street.

Societies came into existence around the time of the American and French Revolutions. The government was suspicious that they were secret revolutionary organisations and in the Friendly Societies Act of 1793 attempted to licence them. Societies had to register under the Act and regulations were imposed on them.

As time went on, Societies needed to grow and attract new members. They developed a sense of a brotherhood and with that they introduced costumes, songs and secret rituals that only the members knew and, with members outings and events, created a bond between them.

Purton Museum holds a Ceremonial Sash from the Purton Friendly Society dating to around 1888 and would have been worn across his shoulders by the Chairman of the Society at public meetings (pictured right). It measures 145mm wide x 2.25m long (5¾in x 7ft 4in) and appears to be made of blue and white ribbed silk with silver wire tassels on each end. There is an embroidered “badge” on it consisting of an eight-



pointed star in silver wire and sequins with a domed centrepiece consisting of a gold or brass wire cross on a pommel of blue and pink silk and with silver wire tassels. It looks very imposing but the badge doesn't appear to have any specific motifs or connection to Purton, suggesting that it was bought as a stock item from a company that dealt in regalia for small societies.

Some Societies developed Lodge systems expanding into other towns but still pooling the overall funds. By the end of the 1800s there were estimated to be some 30,000 Friendly Societies in Britain, some with over a million members, but others had only a handful such as village Cow Societies or those funding funeral costs.

With the introduction of State benefits from the early 1900s, Societies were among the organisations approved to distribute sickness benefits. However, in 1948 the State took over this role and the number of Societies declined from 2,740 in 1945

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to around 290 today as some folded and some merged. Of those still in existence, many of the best known are big: The Liverpool Victoria, The Foresters, and The Shepherds Friendly Societies to name but three. Others still exist as Commercial Unions or Housing Associations. These days they are controlled under the Friendly Societies Commission as part of the Financial Services Authority.

In the early 1800s, life was hard for many in the community. After the Battle of Waterloo (1815), pressure on the old Vestry system operation of the Poor Laws increased to breaking point. The parish had a duty to care for the infirm and the unemployed but returning soldiers and sailors, often with war injuries and all without jobs to return to, made things unworkable. In 1815, Parliament enacted the Corn Laws, imposing tariffs and trade restrictions on imported grain and food. The idea was to keep grain prices high to favour local produce, but instead it favoured land owners and forced prices up to unaffordable levels for the population. That meant that those who were not rich had little to spend on other things which impacted on manufacturers. Only the dealers became wealthy.

From the 18th century, much of the government's income came from customs duties and taxes on imported tea, cloth, wines and spirits. With the tax burden on these items as high as 30%, smuggling prospered and became big business all around the British coast but especially on the Channel coast with its closeness to France. Smuggling gangs were prepared to use violence against the primitive law and excise forces. Local populations helped carry goods, such as brandy casks, up from the beach and hide them or allow smugglers to use unlocked barns and cellars. Duties were reduced by Prime Minister William Pitt in the 1780s, making smuggling less profitable. The end of the Corn Laws put an end to the major smuggling trade. Smuggling can be considered a crime created by tax systems and government protectionism.



The Purton Wiltshire Moonrakers were inaugurated in March 1910. The picture from Purton Museum shows them outside The Hope Inn, latterly Elm Grove Saddlery. The Moonrakers story in Wiltshire is an interesting one. There are variations on the legend of the Moonrakers and the location is claimed by many places in Wiltshire and a few outside.

The best-known story is that a band of smugglers saw an Exciseman (revenue agent) on the road ahead of them on a bright moonlit night. They dumped their kegs of smuggled French brandy into a nearby pond so he wouldn't see what they were up to. When the Exciseman left, they used hay rakes to try to get the barrels back out of the water. But the Exciseman came back and asked what they were doing. They said it was obvious. They were raking the big cheese out of the pond. The Exciseman

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exclaimed they were stupid – that it was only the reflection of the moon. He rode off leaving the “moonrakers” to laugh at the Exciseman’s naivety and they continued to recover their kegs!

Variations include the smugglers coming from Bristol, Bishops Canning and elsewhere but Devizes seems a popular place for the enactment. The period tends to be ‘a while ago’, which is usually acknowledged as being the 18th century, perhaps 1787.

So, what were the 1910 Purton Wiltshire Moonrakers? A band of smugglers? A secret society? A cheese fraternity? None of these. They were formed at The Hope beerhouse in Station Road and, although they probably enjoyed a brandy occasionally, they were a group of Swindon Town football supporters who would dress up in smocks and carry rakes to Town matches around the country. You could get locked up for that these days!

The Exciseman is now Her Majesty’s Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and we endeavour today not to get locked up by them either.

A picture of early Victorian times is represented by a book written in serialised form between 1837 and 1839 by Charles Dickens – *Oliver Twist: or the Parish Boy’s Progress*. The workhouse system, beggary and crime gangs underlying a wealthy elite are very representative of that time in England. Britain wasn’t alone in this; Victor Hugo wrote *Les Misérables* (1862) about the period from Waterloo to the Paris Uprising of 1832. Both ‘*Oliver*’ and *Les Mis* have been musicals, films and TV dramas which few will have missed.

Before 1845 the potato had become a staple food crop in Ireland and much of Europe in general. Because most of the potatoes were of a single variety, they became susceptible to a blight disease which rotted the tubers in the ground. The resulting Great Famine (an *Gorta Mór*) of 1845 to 1849 saw mass starvation, disease, and emigration. About one million people died, a million more emigrated, and Ireland’s population fell by 20-25%. Together with the Napoleonic Wars, the Great Famine produced the greatest loss of life in 19th-century Europe. Relations between the population of Ireland and Britain were already difficult and the after-effects of the famine heightened ethnic and sectarian tensions, and boosted Irish nationalism.

There have been several times in British and, before that, English history when coin of the realm was in short supply, usually in time of war. During the Napoleonic Wars, Parliament had instructed the Bank of England to stop redeeming its bank notes in gold and the gold saved was used to finance the war. The Bank then issued notes of £1 and £2 values. By 1820, gold coinage was restored and these notes were withdrawn. However, this caused a deflation and an economic downturn in the early 1820s. There weren’t enough smaller coin denominations to go around nationally which caused chaos in trade. John Lamb of ‘*Purton Bazaar*’ (latterly *Harford House Stores and Best One*) at Lower Square was enterprising enough to have his own coinage tokens minted locally.

Purton Museum has a few of these in its collection. (right). The obverse (front)

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shows a figure of a lamb and has the words “JNo Lamb Purton & Cricklade - Draper & Grocer”. On the reverse (back) is a figure of Britannia in the guise of Prosperity and with the words “Importer of undress’d Irish Linen”. These tokens would only have been used locally and only for a comparatively short period so the token is in good condition.



Lamb token



Saunders token

Another token in the collection (left) is older and has seen a lot of wear and damage. Although I personally cannot make it out, it is supposed to be a 17th century Edward Saunders token farthing. The big emergency in the 17th century was of course the English Civil War (Charles I and Oliver

Cromwell) and I have to guess that was the cause of coinage shortage resulting in the minting of this token.

Next month: Road Transport

Rick Dixon

## Ridgeway Farm Public Art Project update

### **Early days and still lots of opportunities to get involved**

Earlier this year we talked about this exciting project which Wiltshire Council Arts Service and Taylor Wimpey have initiated with Residents of the Ridgeway Farm and Purton Community and local artist Melissa Cole .

Local people are invited to get involved and work to create a piece of public art for a communal space on the new housing development at Ridgeway Farm. Everyone is welcome, especially if you have any kind of interest in: Local history, craft, wildlife, photography, art, walking, trees or nature.

Melissa’s first walk and talk session took place on 11 August 2019. Everyone was invited to show Melissa the public open spaces and share how these spaces could be used in the future. It was an opportunity to explore and share the space together as well as see who else shares it; bats, birds, bees, foxes, frogs, dogs, deer, mice ... Melissa 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.

Read more about August’s walk and talk session at <https://melissacoleartistblacksmith.blogspot.com>— community orchard, bat box making, seating, way marking a nature trail are just some of the ideas from the families that joined Melissa for this first sharing.

There’ll be more Walk and Talk sessions for you take part in. The next one takes place on Sunday 27th October 2019 – more details will be released nearer the time.

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Do get involved – Melissa is keen to hear if 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 that might be able to help.

The next project event is a workshop at Ridgeway Farm Academy on Wednesday 25th September with Iain Green of Wildlife Wonder. Melissa and Iain will be working with year 5 pupils on the school playground and hopefully exploring the larger off-school site gathering information about the wildlife on your doorstep and getting art work for a map.

Other after school workshops for parents with their children are planned as is a cubs/scouts workshop. If you would like to be involved please contact Melissa and get on the mailing list for further information: email [melissa@melissacole.co.uk](mailto:melissa@melissacole.co.uk)

Follow <https://melissacoleartistblacksmith.blogspot.com/> to find out more about the project and/or sign up for regular updates! Please share this with as many people in the Ridgeway Farm, Purton community as you can.

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](mailto:melissa@melissacole.co.uk)

## Our Community Matters Survey

I'm getting in touch to ask you to complete a very short survey which has been developed as part of a review of local priorities and to inform the next round of "Our Community Matters" events planned to take place in the Spring of 2020:

Your Local Area Priorities 2019/20, The needs of our local community are at the heart of what we do.

We want to make it easy for everyone in Wiltshire to participate and engage in their community and influence decisions that will affect their local areas. Please help us to get a positive response so we can be sure we understand your views and those of your friends, families, clients and colleagues. Follow this link and complete the short survey.

<https://surveys.wiltshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=156838465703>

The results from this survey will be used to help inform local priorities for the next 3 years through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Wiltshire Area Boards.

The Survey ends on 13th October.

*Jane Vaughan, Community Engagement Manager, Wiltshire Council*

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## Hello from The Cedars Care Home

### **Food glorious food ...hot sausage and mustard**



Our Country and Western theme, mentioned last month, was a huge success. With a 'Western' themed quiz and the M4 stompers strutting their linedancing stuff, it was great fun. Enjoyed all the more by staff and residents who dressed up in jeans, check shirts, stetsons and other appropriate Western attire. We all enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs, fries, fried onions and sauces; washed down with beverages from our saloon bar.

### **While we're in the mood**

September has been a full month of trips, themed events, music and craft activities. By the time this goes to press we will have been to Cotswold Wildlife Park with our friends from Ridgeway. We will have attended our OSJCT autumn craft fare in Melksham, displaying some dry clay pottery that our talented residents have been working on, along with other arts and craft produced during activities.

We've also been working hard to introduce new experiences for our residents to enjoy. If all goes to plan, we will have held a French themed day, including French food, a bit of wine tasting, and a quiz ("So lizzen very carefully I will say ziz only once".... Can you name the programme this line was from?). I'll let you know how that went next month!

### **Cold jelly and Custard**

Many of our residents are from farming communities and so celebrating this time of year is very poignant to them. Therefore we will have had our own harvest festival with our cookery club and crafts group, creating harvest themed food and decorations. Hopefully our residents and their families will share harvest themed pictures with us and that our festival will stir fond memories. To help stir the memories we will create a spread of freshly baked bread, bowls of fruit and blackberry and apple pies. But with fresh cream.... rather than cold custard and no in-di-gestion suffered, just ...

Food glorious food  
Wonderful food,  
Marvelous food,  
Fabulous food....

I'll post pictures from our activities next month, in the meantime do contact us if you have a skill to share or would like to know more about our activities and how you might help.

*Our Full time Activities Co-ordinator is Christina Deriu EMAIL: [C.Deriu@OSJCT.CO.UK](mailto:C.Deriu@OSJCT.CO.UK) or Jane Pitcher [j.pitcher@osjct.co.uk](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 AGE CONCERN

### **Mystery Tour with Pub Lunch**

Wednesday 2nd October 10am

### **Three Bs evening at the Silver Threads**

Friday 4th October, 7 for 7.30pm

### **Quiz Evening with Fish & Chip Supper**

Friday 1st November

## **Purton Artists Exhibition 2019** 18-20<sup>th</sup> October at Purton Village Hall

**Open Friday 6-8pm**  
**Saturday & Sunday 10am-4.30pm**  
**Refreshments available**

# Purton Placard

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**  
CHANGE ATTITUDES.  
FIND A CURE.  
JOIN US.



## CRICKLADE PARKINSON'S CAFE

10.30am - 11.30am on the third Wednesday of  
the month at:  
The Cricklade Club, High St, Cricklade SN6 6AY

Join us for coffee and a chat: 17 July, 21 Aug, 18 Sept, 16 Oct, 20 Nov, 18  
Dec 2019

Contact Sally Wood on: 03442253670

Registered charity in England and Wales (258197)  
and Scotland (SC037554). © Parkinson's UK, 13/18 KS2514

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## KNIT-A-SQUARE

### **Coffee Morning & Lunch**

Saturday 26 October, 10am-2pm at  
Silver Threads Hall

Tombola, cakes, bric-a-brac, raffle.  
Tea/coffee £1, lunch £6.

Minibus available.

Tickets from Jude Sullivan, Bernice  
Seviour or Sylvia Freemantle



## THE GUILD OF WILTSHIRE ARTISTS

### **Autumn Exhibition**

Saturday, 12 October to  
Thursday 31 October 2019

John Bowen Gallery, Malmesbury Town  
Hall, SN16 9BZ

Public Opening times:  
Monday to Thursday 9am to 4.50pm,  
Friday 9am to 4.20pm,

Saturday 10.00am to 3.50pm,  
Sunday closed

Admission is Free.

## 2nd NOVEMBER NEW & SELECTED POTATOES

### John Hegley

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

'Marvellous, joyful fun'  
*The Telegraph*

'An incurable entertainer'  
*The Guardian*

## BRINKWORTH VILLAGE HALL



Bar 7.30pm Show 8pm.

01666 510545 or 01666  
510045 Tickets £12, £10 conc  
& £5 Child (Age 9 +)



Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade and surrounding villages

Talk on

# Bowel Cancer

Wednesday 16 October

7.30—9pm

Purton Surgery, Purton

Speakers:

Gastro-Intestinal Oncology Nurses  
from GWH

speaking about Bowel Cancer, screening and symptoms

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

PURTON SURGERY

**'Flu vaccinations**

Starting Saturday 5 October  
(am) at the surgery.

## Whist Drive

Wednesday 27 November,  
7.30pm at the Silver Threads Hall  
Entry £2.50

In aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance



The only museum of American decorative and folk art outside the  
United States showcasing American arts and culture  
in the UK since 1961



## The Merchant's House

Invites you to join us for a day out at the  
American Museum and Gardens in Bath

Thursday 3rd October 2019

9am—3pm

Tickets £40 each

Available from the shop or online — coach included

Email [lucyf@merchantshousetrust.co.uk](mailto:lucyf@merchantshousetrust.co.uk) for a breakdown of the day

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

This event is being held to raise funds for the Merchants House Trust. Charity no 1010902

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

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## Purton and District Probus Club



Our speaker on August 13th was Nick Baxter; his subject 'Marlborough by Gaslight'. Members enjoyed a talk on life in Victorian and Edwardian Marlborough which proved to be a real tour de force as we were given a lively lecture on varying aspects of the town's history backed by some interesting slides. Of the 11th century royal castle only the motte or the mound remains as a tree covered earthwork in the middle of Marlborough School.

The town was an important coach stop on the London to Bristol road; at its busiest forty-four coaches passed through daily. The Kennet and Avon Canal had bypassed Marlborough when it was constructed at the end of the 18th. century so horse power was still needed to bring goods to the town from Burbage Wharf, some three miles away and a heavy haul over the Downs. When the railway came to Savernake on its way to Devizes, Marlborough was again bypassed and until the Marlborough Branch was built in 1864 the mail was brought in daily by coach from Swindon.

Marlborough School dates back to 1843 and was built for the sons of clergy. Close by was the town prison which closed some ten years later which in its turn closed to become a police station. Some of this building can still be seen incorporated into the College gym. Of the many buildings that make up the famous school is a former 18th. century mansion which before the school was built had been turned into a coaching inn.

The High Street, said to be the second widest in England after Stockton-on-Tees, holds a twice weekly market; a right given by King John in 1204. In 1812 some semi-permanent buildings existed in the main street including a weighbridge situated approximately opposite where Waitrose now stands. There are photographs from the end of the nineteenth century that show the weighbridge with a small associated building. Waitrose itself was the site of the Corn Exchange. Every High Street building seems to have a history.

The talk very much concentrated on the rich history of Marlborough's buildings but two residents might be mentioned. First is Eglantyne Jebb (1876 - 1926). She taught at the St. Peter's School in the town but was famous as a social reformer. In 1919 she was taken to court in London for demonstrating against Britain's support for the allied blockade which resulted in widespread famine in Germany and Austria. The judge was so supportive of her plea that he paid her fine.

A slightly less worthy resident in 1829, the local Post Office manager, was caught embezzling the office he worked for and was deported to Australia.

At the Probus meeting, August 27th, the talk scheduled, 'Fracking & Gas', was replaced at short notice, by Ken Ingamells talk entitled "Earnest Shackleton". Ken is a retired Weather-man, with considerable personal experience of the Arctic and Antarctic.

Earnest Henry Shackleton, OBE, FRGS & FRSGS, was born to an Anglo-Irish family in Kilkean, County Kildare in 1874. When he was 10 years of age, his father, a GP,

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moved the family to Sydenham in South London. As a day-boy, he was educated at Dulwich College. Not an outstanding academic, he loved poetry and could recite the poems of Shelley and Keats. His early career training consisted of a Cadetship in the square-riggers of the Merchant Navy. He became, with Robert Falcon Scott, one of the great names of 'The Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration', and was eventually knighted by King Edward VII. While on the 'Discovery' expedition (1901-1904), he set out with Captain Scott and Medical Officer, Edward Wilson to explore a route from Ross Island towards the Pole. They had not cleared the Ross Ice-shelf before all three of them began to show signs of Scurvy and they were obliged to return to camp. Shackleton, very weak, walked alongside whilst the others pulled the sledge.

Shackleton's first expedition as leader was 'The British Antarctic Expedition', 1907-1909. The ship was The Nimrod, and by this time Shackleton had developed some expertise in provisioning and stowing a ship for arctic exploration. In January 1909, he, with Jameson Adams, Frank Wild and Eric Marshall, reached the Antarctic latitude of 88 degrees, 23 minutes, less than 100 miles from the Pole, beyond the Beardmore Glacier and more than 400 miles further than Scott's survey of 1902. This expedition also established the position of the Magnetic South Pole and members of the team were the first to climb Mt Erebus.

Shackleton is best remembered for an incredible feat of endurance which, although it gathered a great deal of scientific understanding, did not actually achieve its original objective. In the last few days of 1911, Roald Amundsen had reached the South Pole, followed on the 18th of January 1912, by Scott and his companions, who, fatefully did not survive the return journey. Shackleton, in August 1914, launched 'The British Imperial Tans-Antarctic Expedition', intending to cross Antarctic from the Caird Coast to Scott's Camp on the Ross Ice Shelf. His ship, The 'Endurance', after calling at Grytviken on South Georgia, entered the pack-ice of the Southern Summer on December 7th 1914. The ship reached the Caird Coast, but the Weddell Sea, by mid-January 1915, was unseasonably freezing over and Endurance was trapped in the ice. Over the next 10 months, the ice-shelf, influenced by the clockwise rotation of the current of the bay, carried the ship in a northerly direction for more than 500 miles. All efforts to release the ship had failed. In late October it was crushed and abandoned. A camp was made using the three upturned life boats. The crew were now living on Penguin and Seal-meat, the dogs being the last sacrifice. During another 5 months, as the ice began to retreat, the whole party managed to survive the dangerous break-up of the ice-flows and finally rowed the boats to Elephant Island where, it was hoped, known stores were still available. Shackleton had no means of communication and decided that salvation lay at South Georgia, 800 miles away. On April 24th 1916, in the only sea worthy boat (22.5 ft long), strengthened and rigged, he and five of the crew set off in heavy westerlies to face the 60ft waves. After 16 days they miraculously reached the southern cliffs of South Georgia, but took 3 more days to find a safe landing spot. Leaving the others, Tom Kean and Shackleton now climbed over the 13000 foot mountain range to reach the Whaling

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Station at Stromness. 'The Boss', as he was known, mounted four separate relief expeditions and succeeded in saving every member of his crew. Those on Elephant Island came home via Chile.

Ken's talk was illustrated, not only by pictures from official expeditions but also by his personal collection from visits to the Antarctic Weather Stations.

Probus meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the Red House lounge. Programme for October: 8th The most dissolute man in London, 22nd The Gunpowder Plot.

*Bob Stevens*

## Prospect Hospice

Fans of the annual Starlight Walk around Swindon will be excited to learn that the charity behind the event is introducing a new version of it just for children.

The Kids Starlight Walk, which is open to the whole family, follows the success of Prospect Hospice's flagship Starlight Walk event, which sees hundreds of adults walking the streets of Swindon in their brightest and most colourful attire.

"We're really excited about this new event and we're thrilled to have received lots of interest already," said Amy Francombe, events and community manager at Prospect Hospice. "We receive lots of enquiries from supporters wishing to bring their children along, so we've launched a new event that's suitable for all ages.

"Our Starlight Walk event is always so popular and has been a brilliant fundraiser for the hospice. Over the years it's raised over half a million pounds and we're confident this new event will be a great success too, introducing our fundraisers of the future to the work of the hospice."

The new event will see families taking part in a sponsored 5km circular walk through Swindon, finishing at the town gardens, which will be decorated with illuminated surprises and all walkers will be treated to hot chocolate and cake after they've been awarded their completion medal.

The event takes place on Sunday 9 February 2020 and begins at 4pm, giving the fun feel of a night time walk without children staying up past their bedtimes. The event is open to children of all ages and one adult can accompany up to four children. Book now to take advantage of the early bird rate of just £8 per child. Tickets will increase to £12 thereafter. Accompanying adults are priced at £5 each. Minimum suggested sponsorship is £50 per child. For more information about the event or to book your place visit [www.prospect-hospice.net/kidsstarlightwalk](http://www.prospect-hospice.net/kidsstarlightwalk) or call 01793 816161.

### ***Could you become one of our amazing box collectors, permanently or temporarily?***

We are currently looking for fabulous volunteers to become box collectors in the Greenmeadow, Park South, Liden, Purton, Gorsehill, Lawn and Lechlade areas! Our box collectors are an extremely important part of our volunteer team, as they

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collect the household boxes in their neighbourhoods, allowing us to generate more income from within the community. Not only does it make it more convenient for people to donate, it also allows those who are limited in mobility to still be able to collect using their household box.

If you think you are able to help or would like some more information in this role, or are able to offer temporary cover, then please give Alex a ring on 01793 816163 or drop an email to alexandracooper@prospect-hospice.net.

## 13 is Lucky for Mad March Hare

Yes, it's our 13th year and preparations are well underway. The Organising Team have already had their first meeting of the season and are raring to go! The event has been running since 2008 and is fully funded by sponsorship and donations which means 100% of the entry fee goes straight to Breast Cancer Now.



Our popular Quiz Night on Friday 1st November heralds the launch of the 2020 event when registration will open. Venue for the Quiz Night is the Swindon Town Football Club from 7pm. The Quiz Night is open to all and is popular with regular serious quizzers as well as those looking for a fun evening out. Tickets for the event which include a Ploughman's Supper is £7 per person. Teams can be of 6-8 members. There is a prize for the winning team and a raffle with all the proceeds going to support the Mad March Hare event.

Our event this year saw over 580 runners, walkers and joggers, buggies and four legged friends turn out on a beautiful sunny morning to take part in the friendly walk/jog/run event over 5 and 10k routes in West Swindon. This year saw a rise in virtual runner with walks and runs taking place across England and around the world in support of the event which raised over £10,500.

The team are proud that the event has contributed to the achievement of Shirley Garman's £1m goal. A celebration dinner in honor of Shirley is to be held on Friday 15th November. Shirley sadly lost her fight in 2009 after a 15-year battle with breast cancer. Friend, Mad March Hare team member and Breast Cancer Now Swindon fundraiser Eunice Salmon said 'A huge thanks to the good hearted people of Swindon and beyond for rising to the challenge and helping us achieve this goal this year.' Eunice reminds us that the aim of the Mad March Hare is twofold – 'to encourage people to invest in their health by getting active and to raise funds for Breast Cancer Now. I know Shirley would be very proud of the achievement.' For more details of the celebration dinner visit the Facebook page of Breast Cancer Now Swindon or contact Eunice on eunice.salmon@btinternet.com

Next year's Mad March Hare event will be held on 22nd March so get booked on from 1st November. To take part or volunteer please log on to [www.madmarchhare.org.uk/](http://www.madmarchhare.org.uk/), email at [info@madmarchhare.org.uk](mailto:info@madmarchhare.org.uk) or call 0845 6808064.

*If you want to sign up to the quiz night please email [quiz@madmarchhare.org.uk](mailto:quiz@madmarchhare.org.uk)*