

# Purton Magazine

June 2019



Revd Judith Wells receiving flowers from Marion Hobbs in recognition of the time she's given to Pram Service, the weekly gathering for pre-school children at Purton Methodist Church see page 38.

50p

---

## Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2-5pm; Tuesdays 2-7pm; Wednesdays 10am-5pm; Fridays 2-5pm)</i>		
Luncheon Club	Pat Suddaby	771331
<i>(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon, Silver Threads Hall)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Beth Farnham, bethaney23@icloud.com	
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Brenda Cook	770431
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, (10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Health & Wellbeing Champion	Ellen Blacker	07557 922020
Pips Community Café	Duty volunteers	07498 526872
<i>(Tuesday-Friday 9am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm) <a href="http://www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/">www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/</a></i>		

### Schools & Playgroups

Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Pear Drops at Playclose	Sarah Grigg	950159
Pear Drops Pre-School (formerly Under 5s')	Sarah Grigg	978536
St Mary's Primary School	Secretary	770239

### Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary [www.stmaryspurton.org.uk](http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk)

*For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.*

Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: <a href="mailto:vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk">vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk</a> Tel: 770077, 773031 (emergencies only)
Curate: Revd Judith Wells	email: <a href="mailto:judithwells36@googlemail.com">judithwells36@googlemail.com</a> Tel: 770627

Wardens	Sandra Horsnall: Jane Smith: 770157 772422
---------	---

Administrator: Rosie Harris [administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk) Tel: 773035

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

Minister: Revd David Perkins Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw,  
Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT

### Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett

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

Priest: Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues Tel: 852366  
*Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm*

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

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

---

---

## Contents

10 Years Ago .....	20	Methodist Women's Fellowship .....	35
A Book I will always Remember.....	32	Millennium Garden .....	33
Advertiser Index .....	70	Open Gardens 2019.....	33
After 8 .....	24	Parish Council News.....	6
Age Concern.....	16	Peartree Pealers .....	39
Andy Le Poidevin prints.....	24	Pips Community Café .....	21
Annual flower, arts, crafts and produce show .....	30	Post Bag.....	31
Beneath the Wool .....	23	Pram Service .....	38
Bowls Club .....	34	Prayer for Purton.....	31
Bradon Forest School .....	48	Probus Club.....	63
Cedars Care Home .....	41	Profferings.....	33
Christian Aid thank you .....	34	Purton Contacts.....	3
Cricket Club.....	40	Purton Placard .....	60
Cricklade Country Market.....	27	Purton Surgery PPG.....	15
Cricklade Cricket Club.....	67	St Mary's Bible Study course .....	14
Cricklade Revealed .....	44	St Mary's Church Tower Captain.....	51
Diary Pages.....	36	St Mary's Primary School .....	42
Gardeners' Guild.....	50	Tea Party at the Maharajah .....	30
Girlguiding.....	28	Tennis Club.....	27
Girlguiding international .....	29	The Other Side of the Gate .....	46
Great War Project .....	52	We Record .....	40
Guide Dogs support group.....	35	Wessex Community Action consultation. .....	68
Health & Wellbeing Champion.....	20	Wiltshire Big Pledge .....	67
Historical Society.....	45	Women's Institute.....	49
Memorial at the Red House.....	15		

---

# Purton. Magazine

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:

The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

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

**INTouch**  
Design & Print

## From the Editors

We have received some requests concerning the proposed reproductions of Andy Le Poidevin's watercolour paintings and have calculated initial cost estimates for both an A4 and A3 reproductions of all 12 pictures together. We are also estimating the cost of producing a set of 12 postcards each with one illustration which we hope might be of interest – further details are on page 24.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find our usual amazing array of articles and information about recent and future events in and around our village including a very helpful map on page 6 showing the location of litter and dog waste bins around Purton.

Then, there cannot be many other community magazines where on page 45 you can learn about Queen Victoria's knickers – with her emblem, of course – as well as several sock combinations for current day trek training on page 42.

Ladies from two or three generations ago are featured on page 63 where we learn about the Secret Sweeties. They were interviewed at Harrods tea room and selected for their telephone voice to work at Coleshill House for Churchill's Underground Army during the Second World War which included a lady from Purton House. Specific clandestine arrangements required new recruits to go to Highworth Post Office and their training manual resembled an agricultural catalogue with "Highworth Fertilisers do their stuff unseen" on the front cover. Inside were exhausting programmes to learn about using explosives, shooting, knifing and silent combat. Perhaps it is hardly surprising to learn long after the war was over that Ian Fleming was trained at Coleshill. Fictional clandestine activities are also featured in our book that will always be remembered series on page 32 where John Le Carre's famous leading character George Smiley is contrasted with Ian Fleming's famous leading character James Bond and the two could hardly be pitched further apart in any author's imagination. Further personal book reviews are now required to keep this series going, especially as we know that readers do enjoy understanding how and why a particular book has had such a memorable impact on its reader. Contributions need not be very long and we are sure that there are many more personal reviews amongst our readership; please feel free to contact us (details on page 4) if further details would be helpful.

Such a variety of contents must surely contribute to those who "rave about" our magazine.

---

32

Bins can be used to collect dog mess throughout Purton  
– see page 6

45

Years as Captain of the Tower at St Mary's Church; amazing!  
– see page 51

56

Orchids native to Britain, some grown on guarded sites for safety  
– see page 50



## **Welcome To Council**

Purton Parish Council welcome a new Councillor, Mr Gavin James, who is a resident of Purton and joined us on Monday 15th April 2019. The Parish Council is now at full quota.

Dementia Friends Information Sessions: Wednesday 19th June at 11am at Pips Café.

## **Community Engagement**

This month's questions answered by Ray Thomas; Dog mess, what can the Parish Council do to help?

Wiltshire Council employs a dog warden who the Parish Council and Unitary Councillor have been liaising with over the issues within Purton with the minority of inconsiderate dog owners. It is their remit and power to control and stop this behaviour hopefully with a prosecution to ensure the message is loud and clear.

We currently have 32 bins throughout Purton, including one in Purton Stoke area that allow all types of litter including dog mess to be deposited. It does not have to be a dog bin to take dog waste, you can use the usual litter bins. The Ridgeway Farm and Moulden View estates are still under management schemes therefore no formal requests have been received or considered at this point.



Black bin: litter and dog waste, Red bin (grey in this image): dog waste only

As part of the devolution of services from Wiltshire Council we will be reviewing the street cleaning and potential litter collections for 2020. Once we know more of what services the Parish Council will be required to provide, we will then be able to budget, enhance or maintain the current services.

---

It is not the lack of bins that cause issues, it's the lack of responsibility from the few that should pick up and take their dog's waste home. We require vigilance from residents to pass information to the Warden to allow these few to be prosecuted and stopped.

Purton Parish Council are not an approved waste removal service. We are only able to remove the waste from our own land currently and deposit it under licence in our own waste bins. Any changes to the current waste collection will be managed within the remit and requirement of the village. This will all take place once more information has been received from Wiltshire Council hopefully later this year.

### ***Brockhust Meadow Orchids***

The landowner has generously offered to allow walkers to view the beautiful orchids again this year. Access via Footpath 43 please. The only dates available for viewing are from Monday 17th until Sunday 23rd June 2019. Please respect the landowners wishes and only view during this period. Thank you

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

Purton Parish Council are permitted under Section 137 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to provide donations to groups/causes for new projects within Purton and the surrounding areas, that will be of benefit to all or part of the community (not individuals). This coming financial year (2019/20) the Council has increased the budget to provide 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)

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

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

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

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

Don't forget to bring your young children along to the Youth Club held on a Wednesday in the Village Hall from 6.15pm to 7.45pm for Purton resident children only. For more details please contact the Youth Leader Jude Deaman. 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 2018-19**

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
Chair of Play Areas	Vicky McKerrow	01793 778190
Councillor	Julie Ann Hurwood	01793 771066
Chair of Staff Sub	Paul Grigg	01793 771066
Councillor	Sue Relfe	01793 771066
Councillor	Elizabeth Wilson	01793 771854
Councillor	Emily Seabrook	01793 771066
Councillor	Grant Seabrook	01793 771066
Councillor	Jim Reid	01793 771066
Councillor	Gavin James	01793 771066

## **June Meetings**

Staffing committee (not public)	Monday 4 June 2019 7.00pm
Finance & general purposes meeting	Monday 4 June 2019 7.30pm
Council meeting	Monday 10 June 2019 7.00pm
Purton Village Centre and War Memorial charity	Monday 24th June 2019 7.00pm

All held at the Village Hall Purton

## **Public Convenience**

For information the Public Toilets located to the side of the Village Hall are open 6am to 6pm, Monday to Sunday.

## **Memory Stones**

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

## **Planning Permission Granted**

- 19/00144/FUL 76 Witts Lane. Single storey rear extension to extend kitchen and sun room area into one space.
- 19/00572/FUL 49A The Hyde. Rear extension.
- 19/00564/FUL 5 Thompson Court. The installation of a first-floor bathroom window on the side gable for light and ventilation

- 
- 18/09261/LBC The Milk House, Church End. Application for the retention of details and materials that were to be agreed by condition under application N/06/01623/LBC, as well as replacement of three external doors and three windows (retention of).
- 19/00822/FUL 7 Criollo Place. Loft conversion including the erection of a dormer window to rear and four rooflights (retrospective).

## **CHARITIES**

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

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

## **Business Opportunity**

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

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

## **Community Speed Watch**

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

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

Speeding continues to be a concern for many communities. Volunteers receive appropriate training and are supported by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) staff.

If you are interested in knowing more and how you can be a part of this community initiative please either contact Paul Grigg on [paul.grigg@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:paul.grigg@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or Deborah Lawrence on [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or call the office on 01793 771066.

---

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

Telephone number: 01793 771066

Email address: [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

Parish Council's letter box: The 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.

## *St Mary's Bible Study Course*

Last year in two homes here at St. Mary's we ran an 8-week course that explained how the books of the Bible joined up to show why Jesus came to this earth. The

course was enjoyed by everyone, and at least two became Christians as a direct result and are soon to be confirmed by the Bishop of Bristol, again here at St. Mary's.

One of the groups want to put this course on again, this time in the church and reach out to everyone in Purton so that maybe more people might come and join in. The group will serve the attendees by providing light refreshments and getting alongside people to help by answering any basic questions they might have.

Are you unsure of how the Bible fits into life today?

Why not join an 8-week course to hear an explanation?

Starting on Wednesday 5 June at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church.

A relaxed, sit back and listen video-based course that explains how the Bible all fits together for life today in this messy world we live in.

Light Refreshments Provided.

Just turn up or help us by letting Kimberley know you are coming on 07793 070445.

*Bob Seals*



---

## Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



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

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

### **Table top sales**

Thank you to all who support our table top sales in Purton surgery waiting room – £514 has been raised since starting this earlier this year. If you wish to purchase any item from the table please give your money to the Receptionists.

### **Future Fundraising**

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

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

We plan to take part in Purton Open Gardens weekend and have a table with plants for sale at the entrance to Purton Surgery car park.

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*

## Memorial at the Red House

Progress is now being made. Some of the committee have viewed a stone in Marlborough that will be suitable. The stone is kindly being donated to us by a local resident, who is arranging for it to be transported back to Purton and is going keep it until everything is all in order for it to be moved to its final position at the Village Centre.

Quotes are now being obtained for clearing of the site, any repair work to the wall if needed, the plaque and installation of the stone. Our first fundraiser has now been arranged which is a Music Quiz at the Red House Club on Friday 21st June at 7.30pm, for teams of up to 6 people and will cost £2 per person.

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

*Helen Griffin*

**Forthcoming events:**

**Sunday 9 June** - Village Party at the Red House

**Wednesday 12 June** - 10am, Canal Boat Trip at Devizes plus fish and chip lunch

**Wednesday 3 July** - 10am, Coach trip to Webbs of Wychbold

Our second Mystery Trip on the 1st May was a really good day out, working our way through the spring countryside to Fromebridge Mill for a carvery lunch, which was very nice indeed. Everyone commented on the quality of the food and although the weather was not good, the venue with the water mill and waterfall were lovely. The staff were very pleasant and helpful. Our coach driver, Simon, made light work of the route he had been set, taking us down narrow twisting lanes for the best views. Coming home we headed for Minchinhampton Common and he once again manouvered through the hairpin bends with no problem.

I hope that some of you made it to the Maharajah Restaurant on May Bank Holiday Monday for cream teas and cakes and enjoyed the choice of delicious baking. They managed to raise £560 and half of that will come to Age Concern so thank you to Khaliq and Wendy for once again organising this event and for their generosity.

We have various articles in the form of a wheelchair, 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.

Last month we mentioned that Bradies, now known as Phoenix, is considering changes to their areas, but we are pleased to report that, at the moment, they will continue to cover the Purton area. You need to ring 01249 890794 to book with them, if we don't use it we lose it!

**Future Events**

**Minibus Shopping Trips** - Hazel is organising a shopping trip on the 14 June to Marlborough, and to Cirencester on Friday 28 June and all trips will leave the village at 9am. For more details and to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

**3Bs Evening** - This is on the 4 October so if you would like to attend please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339. Please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 to book your place on the minibus if you need transport.

**Boat Trip** - We have arranged a narrow boat trip at Devizes, a two hour cruise with a fish and chip lunch en route, for Wednesday 12 June with a 10am start from Purton. The cost will be £18 for Purton pensioners and £20 for non-pensioners and people from outside the area. Seat numbers are limited so please contact your street warden as soon as you can.

**Village Party** - This will be on Sunday 9 June at the Red House from 2pm-6pm and

---

will include a brass band along with cream teas and various guessing games and games of chance.

### **Information**

We received an email from Greg Izon, Station Manager - Swindon West, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and he asked if we could mention the service they offer, he says “we are looking at delivering dedicated, free safe and well visits, fitting smoke alarms on a more proactive approach in the Purton area and it would be great if you could raise this during your committee meeting on the 7th of May by way of communicating to all of your members that we want to come out and deliver the safe and well visits, which they can book in through our website [www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/) or by calling 0800 038 2323”.

“Our safe and well visits are free of charge, and involve one of my safe and well advisors or one of my fire crews going to a property to fit smoke alarms and give fire safety advice to the occupant depending on their needs. Statistically we have found that for various reasons, over 65s, particularly those who live alone, are more at risk from having a fire”. So if you need to upgrade your protection then please contact them directly. This scheme runs alongside the Bobby Van service and is designed to make homes safer.

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

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

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

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

**Friendship Club** -The Friendship Club is run by the Silver Threads committee and meets monthly in the Silver Threads Hall from 2pm-4pm. Please contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 for more information. The next meeting will be on Friday 7th June at 12 noon for a two course pub lunch, again ring Jenny to choose your meal and book your place at the table. Transport is available, to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

*Peter Berry*

---

# Ten Years Ago...

The editorial in the June 2009 edition of the Magazine took a more global view than usual. First was a report from Canada about treating “man flu”. It demonstrated that mice given a female human hormone were less likely to succumb to the virus. Thus it followed that if all us men received a female hormone we would all be healthier. I don't think it's caught on.

This led to a discussion on research at Cambridge University on the intelligence of crows. Apparently, the brightest ones come from New Caledonia. Instead of taking a piece of bent wire that the scientists offered for a task (hooking a bucket), they chose to take a straight piece and fashion it themselves.

Not to be outdone, After Eight informed us that the ancient city of Petra was possibly as large as Purton and Cricklade combined. But it must be conceded that its buildings are grander.

Last September, this column noted the tenth anniversary of the financial crash and wondered how long it would be before the consequent recession raised its ugly head. Nine months later was a report from our then Vicar, Jane Haslam, of efforts by local churches being made to ameliorate need. A meeting had been arranged to bring together everyone concerned and, in the meantime, details were given of items wanted for the food bank. Rev. Haslam observed that the food bank had been operating for a long time but ten years on it feels that it will be with us for ever.

Ps & Qs submitted an article on the scourge of fly-posting. Apparently, corporate bodies can be fined up to £2,500 for infringing the law. As this magazine will appear at the end of May, it will be interesting to see how much the law has been flouted by our political parties during the course of possibly two elections.

## Health & Wellbeing Champion

It is with a heavy heart that I have to tell you that I have resigned my position of Health and Wellbeing Champion for the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area. It is not a decision I have made lightly but I feel that now is the right time for me to try to make more time for myself and family.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for welcoming me into your communities and for working with me through referrals etc for the good of the residents.

On a personal note, I still rave about local magazines. I believe they are the lifeblood of rural communities, never underestimate their importance!

Very best wishes, Ellen

*Ellen Blacker, [former] Health & Wellbeing Champion*  
Tel: 07557 922020 or Email: [ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk)

---

## Latest news from Pips Community Café

### **Purton's community café is going from strength to strength!**



It's great to see more and more local groups using the facilities, however to keep the momentum going and to continue to grow we do need more volunteers.

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.

We are particularly stretched during the summer months when our regular volunteers are taking their holidays so; unfortunately, Pips will be closed every Friday in June (July opening times will be confirmed in next month's news.)

We are looking forward to the summer months and will be providing salads, ploughman's as well as our old favourites, paninis, jacket potatoes and a selection of homemade soups.

Of course don't forget our lovely selection of locally made cakes, some of which are gluten free and/or vegan to cater for all dietary needs.

The Pips breakfast is proving to be very popular especially on Saturday mornings - Andrew Hiscock's bacon, egg, tomato, beans and toast all for only £4 - all freshly cooked to order.

### **Dates for your diary**

- Dementia awareness session - 19 June 11am. This session is an informal insight into dementia, how you can recognise the signs and help those affected. Pips is a dementia friendly café as most of our volunteers have been trained.
- Saturday 6 July is Purton Open Gardens. Pips will be open from 10am to 4:30pm (last orders at 4pm) serving our usual menu. If you would like a glass of wine or a pint of beer with your lunch then Purton Club would like to welcome you from midday onwards - non-members welcome.

### **Weekly Clubs and Activities**

**Tuesdays** Knitting group - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (4th June & 18th June) 10am to midday. Board games from 1.30 running into after school chess and board games club - until 5:30pm

**Wednesdays** Hand sewing, patchwork, quilting - 1 to 3pm

**Thursdays** Art - 1:30 to 3:30

**Fridays** Crochet Group - from 10am

If you have any ideas for other groups please don't hesitate to let us know - how about a book club?

---

In good weather well behaved dogs and their owners are welcome to sit at the tables outside the front of Purton club, and we have just bought a bench which will be by the entrance door.

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

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

*The Pips team*

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

10am - 5.30pm Tuesday, 9am - 4.30pm Wednesday & Thursday, and 10am - 2pm on Saturday, last orders 30 minutes before closing as usual. Please note the café will be closed on 29 June as the room is being used for a function.

Contact us: [marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk), 01793 772298, The Pips Team

## *Beneath the Wool*

Since last month we have finally finished lambing. Janet and 00004 who I had been waiting on for about a week decided they would have theirs within 8 hours of each other. All the ewes and lambs are now in the fields down Collins lane, which is giving people walking and riding by something to have a good look at. All the lambs are growing exceptionally well this year, which is helped with the amount of grass that we have this year and also down to the new ram who has impressed me with the standard of the lambs he has produced.

Unfortunately in the last couple of weeks there was a sudden death of two ewes which now means there are two lambs now being bottle fed. The first death was an unfortunate heart attack just as I was turning her and her lamb out to some grass, and the second was a problem with her immune system stemming from the summer last year. This means extra work has been created, although now they are on the bottle well, it doesn't take very long for them to drink it.

Within the next couple of weeks we will be shearing all the sheep, which means Sid Vincent will be visiting again this year. With this spell of lovely sunny weather I can only imagine it being very hot under a big wool fleece so I should think the ewes will be very glad to get rid of them.

I have also finally named my new pedigree ewe lambs, there were two born this time and they had to have names beginning with 'I' this year. The names for pedigree animals start with a different letter each year like car registrations. So I decided to name one Indigo and the other Isabella. When you're next looking over the gate and see lamb number 13 that one is Indigo and number 8 is Isabella.

*Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton*

---

## Andy Le Poidevin Prints

The cover of the April issue of Purton Magazine showing all 12 of Andy Le Poidevin's original watercolour paintings has caused enough interest for estimated costs to be obtained. An A4 card print will be £2 and on A3, £4. Both will be unmounted for display in a frame of your choice. We are also looking at the possibility of reproducing the pictures on a postcard, decision are yet to be made on this and it will depend on local outlets being willing to sell the cards.

It follows that we are continuing to collect indications of interest (without obligation) which should be sent to Heather Ponting-Bather at [heather@intouchpurton.co.uk](mailto:heather@intouchpurton.co.uk) and a further update will be included in the July issue – watch this space and thank you to those who have already been in touch.



## After 8

The subject of our meeting in April was Chinese Horoscopes and Avril began by explaining that the Chinese Zodiac is the oldest in the world and comes from the worship of animals. Whereas our zodiac is based on months and star signs, theirs is based on years and animals. The animals are; rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig, so giving a 12 year cycle, with the Chinese New Year beginning on February 5th from the traditional or lunar Chinese calendar.

With prior knowledge of our own, and our 'other halves' birthdays, Avril was able to tell us which personality types we each were, and whether or not we were living with our ideal partner! However, some pairings seemed to have survived for a long time, despite being allegedly ill-matched!

Individual horoscopes to predict luck, love, career, relationships and love can be made - and these will be influenced not only by the year and month of birth, but also many other factors including blood type!

This year is the Year of the Pig. Those born within this year or previous 'pig years' (such as 1935, 1947, 1959 etc.) will be home-loving, honest, brave, but perhaps naïve. Lucky numbers associated with a pig year are 2, 5, and 8, along with the colours yellow, grey, brown and gold.

Thanks to Avril for an intriguing and lively glimpse into a complicated subject, and to Gwyneth for her hospitality.

Barbara Gosden

---

## Purton Tennis Club

Summer is certainly a lovely time of year if you are a tennis fan. The top players from around the world are playing in Europe – and we can watch in person, or on TV – matches from Paris, Monte Carlo, Nottingham, Eastbourne, Queens and of course Wimbledon.

Here in Purton we continue to play at grass roots level – our juniors members attend the Saturday morning sessions which are run by Nicola and Teresa, and Ben organises coaching sessions during the week. Adults of all abilities also attend coaching and cardio sessions run by Ben.

The summer league matches started at the beginning of May and run through until August. We have entered Men's, Ladies' and mixed teams in the Swindon and District league and hope for some good results this year.

Recently, some of our members went on tour and played tennis against teams in Devon and Somerset. A fun weekend with lots of tennis, lots of food and the odd glass of something! We were made to feel very welcome so we hope to host a return event later in the year.

Coming up, some events of note are the 'Khalique Cup', (sponsored by the Maharajah); our 'Captains Cup' which is a team event in which adults and juniors of all standards can take part to win points for their team. We also hope to run other events during the year where 'new to tennis' players can have a go. Take a look at the web site for updates.

We will also be running a race night at the Red House Social Club in September. This will be a fun night and open to anyone who wishes to come along and there will be more next month.

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

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

## Cricklade Country Market

Friday 28 June, 2-4pm At The Jenner Hall Cricklade

Everything we sell is locally handmade, home cooked or home grown.

This is a local market supplying local things... with a tea room too. Come and see what we have to offer. There is no charge to look!

Future market date: 26 July

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



---

## Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



This term 1st Purton Rainbows are completing challenges from Rustle, Bustle and Squeak, a challenge pack to do with nature and the outdoors. They kicked off by baking worms, but don't panic, no wildlife was harmed in this activity; cheese straws in the right shape look just like worms!

We love a celebration and what better reason in guiding than badge presentations? 2nd Purton Brownies invited parents to attend to see almost all girls receive their first Skills builder badge, whether First Aid, Camp or Lead. They also presented six anniversary badges and three interest badges: Baking and Performing which come from the new programme and Swimmer which is being retired from the 'old' programme at the end of the summer term.

1st Purton Brownies welcomed new Brownies Beatrix, Izobel, Lyra and Misha and have completed a diverse range of Unit Meeting Activities: Snow Goggles involved the girls learning that it's important to protect our eyes from the sun in snowy weather and making their own snow goggles. They wore these to complete an obstacle course whilst wearing cardboard skis. Guiding in a Bubble was about discovering that they are part of a much bigger guiding family worldwide. They blew bubbles within bubbles to represent themselves at the centre with the larger bubbles being their six, the unit, all Brownies in the UK and then all in the world. Finally, for Bottle Mansions, they recycled plastic bottles and newspapers to make homes for minibeasts to put in their gardens – what minibeast wouldn't be proud to live in a mansion?

The Guides have also been focussing on Unit Meeting Activities from their part of the programme. They started the term with the five patrols each selecting and planning Unit Meeting Activities to run for the whole unit during the term. This tested their leadership, creative and communication skills.

The Panda patrol have already had their evening in charge with activities from the Be Well theme. The first was called Message Mayhem and it lived up to its name! All Guides were given a piece of paper to write a message to friend and then asked to stick this to a plastic ball. These were then divided into two buckets, one a danger bucket and one a safe bucket, placed at opposite ends of the hall. Each Guide was nominated as either a friend or a stranger. The aim was to transfer the balls to the safe zone without them being intercepted by 'strangers.' To make the game more difficult, the only way the friends could transfer the messages was by throwing and catching the balls. Strangers however, could walk around with the messages and take them from the buckets too! On a serious note, the game provided a visual demonstration how information can be passed over the internet and how information can be intercepted and used by strangers - a good reminder for everyone about staying safe online.

Pandas followed this with an activity called Road Trip. This involved Guides being

---

pedestrians, a traffic light or cars. The 'cars' drove recklessly and the hoodie-wearing pedestrians attempted to cross the road whilst listening to music through headphones and tapping out messages on 'mobile phones' (calculators). It was a real challenge for their senses and awareness and resonated with the Guides about how important it is to be free of distraction whilst crossing roads.

The principle of Guides leading Guides worked well and Panda patrol have set the bar high for the other patrol evenings yet to come.

If you walked by the Millennium Hall on 30 April, you would have been forgiven for thinking woodpeckers had invaded Purton! The sounds were in fact the Guides practising their DIY skills. A range of hammers, panel pins, wood discs and thread were all used to make some seriously awesome string art pictures. Many taps, a few 'ouches' and some frustration later, the Guides produced some very creative and colourful pieces of art ranging from Guides' initials to stars and flowers.

For more information about guiding locally, please contact district commissioner Janet Abbott by phone on 07454 384763 or by email at [braydondc@wncounty.org.uk](mailto:braydondc@wncounty.org.uk). More volunteers to join our team are always welcome. Register interest in joining at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/).

Find us on Facebook too: [www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision](http://www.facebook.com/GirlguidingNorthWiltsDivision)

## *International opportunities with Purton Guides*

My name is Arabella and I go to 1st Purton Guides. Last summer I applied to go on the International Community Experience. On the 28 September 2018 I attended one of the selection weekends at the Maud Heath Guide Centre. On Saturday 29th September 2018 we went to the Wilts and Berks Canal and helped the volunteers by cleaning bricks, digging out weeds where they had started building a children's play park and collected willow for the play park. We learnt lots about nature around the canal and the canal itself.

I was extremely lucky to be one of the 24 selected out of 38 girls to go on the international trip this Easter to Amsterdam. I got to meet the other 23 Guides selected during February half term when we went to Foxlease in Lyndhurst where we did another community project. This time we baked cakes for a local care home in Lyndhurst and delivered them to the residents and spent the afternoon with them.

On Tuesday 9th April I got onto the coach at Chieveley services at 07:15 and we travelled to Dover. When we got to the port my bag was one of the six chosen to be checked; the Guide Leaders were pleased it wasn't the bag with all our secateurs and gardening gloves! Eventually we caught the ferry to Calais. The whole journey to Amsterdam took 13 hours.

The second day we went to Anne Frank's house and learnt about how they hid during the Second World War, we also went on a canal boat trip and learnt about the history of the canals.

---

The third day we did another community project this time at Buitenzorg Baarn, the Scout centre where we were staying. We cleared the nettles in the camping area in the morning and in the afternoon we collected leaves from the fire pits. Collecting the leaves was fun but clearing the nettles was difficult.

Our last day before travelling home we got to go to Efteling theme park it was fun and reasonably warm I would like to go back and spend more time at the theme park.

I am really grateful that the Guide leaders arranged this trip it was a wonderful experience I enjoyed it very much and would recommend it to other Guides!

## *Bank Holiday Monday Tea Party at the Maharajah*

A big thank you to everyone who either supported the tea party by baking cakes and donating them or attending the party and contributing to the many very generous cash donations. Many of you actually did both, so an extra big thank you to you!

A magnificent £560 was raised on the day - one of our best totals yet - and these proceeds will be split between Purton Age Concern and the Special Needs Hostel Udaipur.

The hostel in Udaipur always make good use of our money and this year they will be using it to purchase new beds for the children to go in the room with the new roof, a project to which we contributed previously! Age Concern also always has many good projects that the money can contribute towards.

Special thanks must also go to Khaliq's staff who gave up their afternoon off to help out.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

*Khaliq, Ashish, Wendy and the team*

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

Our Scarecrow Challenge invitations have now been sent out. There is still time to enter though, just ask. Schedules will be available towards the end of June. These will be available at various locations, from all Committee members, and via email.

In the Arts and Craft section we have a class for the sewing enthusiasts "A piece of patchwork/quilting", we hope this gives time enough for you to create something stunning.

We would like to encourage all entrants this year to enter as early as possible, and would greatly appreciate entries before show day (although on the day entries will still be accepted). It makes life less hectic for us, if they are processed before Saturday 31st August.

*Lorna Robinson-Wardle, Secretary. Tel: 01793 778013 or 3rwardles@gmail.com*

---

---

# 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.



---

## Ringsbury Camp

Making a visit to Brockhurst Wood to view the bluebells I could not help but make the following observations when leaving Harvest Waters via the kissing gate that bears the new Ringsbury Camp and Brockhurst sign. It is evident the hedgerows have been damaged. One arrives at a gaping hole that used to divide the next field by means of a five-bar gate and a kissing gate that literally has been torn out and thrown in the hedge. The entrance is potentially dangerous as are the fields that have deep ruts (most certainly because cattle have been grazed throughout the winter and inclement weather). Upon arrival at the camp a corral(?) has been erected across a second kissing gate. Fortunately someone has removed the barbed wire from across the gate. Entering the camp, an incredible amount of fencing and prohibitive signage have been erected, the camp has been decimated because of tree felling, and this has had a knock on effect on the wildlife habitat being lost. The pond is a boggy mess and more

barbed wire and prohibitive notices stop me walking around the camp, which I have walked for many years.

Having lived here for fifty three years it saddens me to see the deterioration of the area and I am sure the Pagintons (the previous owners) would be horrified.

*Wendy Downs*

## Dear Purton Post Bag

I know this has been mentioned in the magazine before but why oh why does the area by the entrance to the cricket field have to be mowed to within an inch of its life. Cowslips, Cornflowers, Scabias and varieties of grasses etc etc would grow there happily, but every year they are mown down.

We are encouraged as a nation to grow as many wildflowers etc as we can for the bees and insects but every year that natural wildflower area is callously mutilated, and the reason... cars. Surely there is enough room for parking without having to mow that area too.

*Yours Sincerely, Christine Jefferies*

---

## Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: Purton Stoke, Bentham, Hayes Knoll, Braydon, Cross Lanes, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Hill View, Newman's View and Upper Oxhill



## A Book I will Always Remember

*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,*

*the copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on Page 4.*

### Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy by John Le Carre

Every year one reads at least one book review proclaiming that some author is the new 'Le Carre' only to be disappointed by the book when you read it. John Le Carre was an excellent author, with a great command of the English language coupled with creativity and ingenuity aided by a most unusual background. He was born in 1931, abandoned by his mother when he was 5, whilst his father made and lost fortunes, was jailed for fraud and later declared bankrupt; he was also a known associate of the Kray twins. He had a public-school education and after studying languages at Berne University joined the Army Intelligence Corps in 1950, interrogating refugees in Austria. In 1952 he went to Oxford working covertly for British Intelligence. However left Oxford in 1954 when his father was declared bankrupt and taught at Milford School before returning to Oxford graduating in 1956. He then taught at Eton before becoming an MI6 intelligence officer in 1958.

Le Carre's real name was David Cornwell; he wrote his early works whilst still working for British intelligence and was not allowed to publish under his own name, so he chose to write under the pseudonym John Le Carre (or John the square in French). He had 2 books published before the third of which was 'The Spy Who Came in from the Cold' (1963) became a best seller. He left the intelligence service in 1964 following the betrayal of British agents' covers by Kim Philby to the KGB.

I have read all of his published works, all of them were good, some very good and Tinker Tailor Spy is in my opinion the best espionage novel ever written. It was published in 1974, with George Smiley as the central character and a most unlikely hero. He is described as small, podgy and at best middle-aged. He was by appearance one of London's meek who do not inherit the earth. His legs were short, his gait anything but agile, his dress costly but invariably ill fitting and his wife is a serial adulteress, but Smiley's strengths are his intelligence, loyalty and integrity. A complete contrast to James Bond who was in fashion at the time...

The plot is intricate and at times challenging. I read the book twice before I understood fully how it was proven that there was a mole within the intelligence service and how he was uncovered, but it is well worth the effort. It is thought that Le Carre depicts Philby as the upper-class traitor Gerald in the book. This is a great

---

author writing about a period into which he had a unique insight and whilst the book has been serialised by the BBC and has also been made into a film, neither do the book full justice. It is well worth a read.

*Jeff Diggle*

## *Purton Open Gardens*

The Open Gardens weekend has been running in Purton for 20 years, raising money for local causes. We have a mix of gardens: some open for just one day, many over the whole weekend. Our gardens are different sizes, at different stages of development, and with various challenges. None of us claim to have pristine back yards, but we are all enthusiastic. Several gardens will be selling refreshments and will have stalls raising money for their own favourite charities.

Other organisations are supporting the event. The Bowls Club will be open and local youngsters are involved by growing plants for public planting in the village. There are several places that will be open for food and/or drinks - thanks to Dora's Dairy, Pips, Purton Club, The Red House and The Angel (Opening times in the programme).

Entry by programme, available in advance from venues around the village, or buy your entry programme on the weekend from any of the participating gardens. Cost £5 per adult covering both days. Accompanied under-16s free. Programme proceeds will be given to the Jubilee Gardens Project and the Purton Defibrillator Maintenance fund.

This is always a very enjoyable village event, and we hope you can join us in our gardens in July.

## *Millennium Garden*

The planters set up by St Mary's School Gardening Club, have been a joy this spring. Now the Cubs are joining in too, growing sunflowers to plant out before July. If you have any spare seedlings or plants the children could use to spruce up this public space, please contact Diana Meares on 770046

This garden is for all to enjoy, tucked away opposite the war memorial. It is maintained by a very small band of volunteers and it is lovely to have the help of the children. Come along to see what they have been doing.

*Diana Meares*

## *Purton Profferings*

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

- Free to a good home: Fellowes Power Shredder W11C - Small shredder for domestic use. Tel: 01793 770525 after 16 June.

---

## Purton Bowls Club



May has seen the start of our league matches and also county competitions for both men and ladies. The weather has been a mixed bag, but generally favourable with not too many damp games played so far.

The green is looking in excellent condition and is bowling well. Many clubs around the area use professionals to maintain their green but ours is done by a handful of our members on a voluntary basis. They work tirelessly to ensure we have a fabulous surface to bowl on and they are an asset to our club.

We look forward to welcoming a number of clubs to our green throughout the season and we hope they enjoy playing on our green as much as we do.

We are always on the lookout for new members so if you fancy having a go then we run coaching sessions on a Friday evening from 6pm, all you need is a flat pair of shoes. Alternatively please feel free to pop in if you see a game going on. For further information then please visit our website: [www.purtonbowlsclub.co.uk](http://www.purtonbowlsclub.co.uk)

*Alison Fail, Secretary*

## *Thank you for all who have supported Christian Aid Week*



Thank you so much to all Purtonians for the wonderfully generous support we have received for Christian Aid Week fundraising.

There have been people buying the 'infuriating' Quiz; shopping at the Cake and Plant sale; enjoying the Curry Night at the Maharajah; eating a delicious Breakfast and Lunch at the Methodist Church; contributing to the little red envelopes; buying and selling at the Sale of baby items at Pips. It has been a full-on week! And at St Mary's School (and at Ridgeway Farm School) the children have listened to an assembly based on Christian Aid work and have organised a fund raising cake stall.

Many people have been involved and we are SO grateful. It is not easy to go around with the envelopes, delivering and collecting them up: but we know that, here in Purton, we usually get a warm reception. And the Guides are wonderful because they deliver hundreds of envelopes for us...thank you Guides. Thanks are due to the venues that had been used for various events...colleagues at the Methodist Church, Khalique and staff at the Maharajah; Pips Community Café; staff at St Mary's and Ridgeway Farm schools; and the shops that have sold our Quiz including Hiscock's the Butchers, The Farm Shop, Shear Success and the Vets. Also thanks to Purton Magazine that has generously provided space for all our announcements and fundraising details. Thank you all.

*Libbie and Mary Hodges on behalf of the Christian Aid Team: 771018*

---

---

## Guide Dogs for the Blind Purton Support Group

On Thursday 25 April, the amazing Cricklade Band gave us (what has become) their annual concert for our benefit, which this year thanks to the generosity of the Steward, took place in the Red House Club. The first part was by the up and coming members of The Band Academy (lots of talent waiting in the wings) after which the full band played for the rest of the evening. We were treated to a wide variety of music, during which some of the sections and individuals had solo spots. A most enjoyable evening's entertainment for those of us who were able to be there, as it appears there were three or four other activities on in the village that night. But despite that we still raised £107 towards another guide dog that will enable someone to have the ability to get out and about more freely. Our sincere thanks go to all of you came, our supporters, band members parents, and club members. All made possible by the Club Steward and his staff, and the members of The Cricklade Band and The Academy.

*Brian Davies. On behalf of Purton Support Group*

## Purton Methodist Church Women's Fellowship

Our April get-together was a "do-it-yourself" event and we were encouraged to make Easter flower arrangements for a table or sideboard. A selection of bright and colourful flowers and an assortment of greenery were on hand and arranged into the pots and oasis provided. Small wooden crosses were also included to remind us of the true meaning of Easter. A buzz of animated conversation took place between us as we worked. The completed arrangements, lined up along two long tables, made an excellent and colourful picture. Our annual members' meal was held at our meeting in May, and consisted of a buffet-style spread followed by a choice of cheesecakes, fruit salad and cream. Our next get-together on 12th June at 2.30 p.m. at Purton Methodist Church is entitled "Sing-along with Sylvia". We look forward to seeing any ladies who would like to join with us. The Age Concern minibus is usually available.

*If you would like further information please contact Linda Tinson (telephone: 771282)*

### DISCLAIMER

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

---

## Purton Village Diary - June 2019

1	Sa	1.00pm	Purton 2nd XI v Westbury at Purton Cricket Club
		3.00pm	Purton Carnival Hog Roast and live music at the Red House
2	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
4	Tu	2.00pm	Talk from Sue Giles at Silver Threads Hall
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting – finance and general purpose at the Village Hall
5	W	7.30pm	The Bible Course at St Mary's Church
6	Th	10.30am	Communion at the Vicarage
7	F	6.00pm	Purton U13 v Swindon at Purton Cricket Club
8	Sa	12.30pm	Purton 1st XI v Hinton Charterhouse at Purton Cricket Club
9	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
		1.00pm	Purton Age Concern Village Party at the Red House
10	M	7.00pm	Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
11	Tu	10.00am	Purton Probus meet at the Red House Lounge
		11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
12	W	10.00am	Age Concern Canal boat trip at Devizes with fish and chip lunch
		2.30pm	Purton Methodist Women's Fellowship meet for a 'sing-along' with Sylvia at Purton Methodist Church
		7.30pm	The Bible Course at St Mary's Church
13	Th	11.00am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
15	Sa	1.00pm	Purton 2nd XI v Biddestone 3rd XI at Purton Cricket Club
		7.00pm	Sing 4/4 Community Choir 10th Anniversary summer concert at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade
		8.00pm	Binomial play live at the Red House
16	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
		1.00pm	Purton U13 v South Wilts at Purton Cricket Club
17	M	<i>until 23rd</i>	Brockhurst Meadow open to the public to view the orchids
		2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a meeting entitled 'The Historical Jesus' with John Little
18	Tu	2.00pm	Purton Entertainers at Silver Threads Hall
		8.00pm	After 8 meet at Diana's house for a discussion 'Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn' – books and films I have loved

---

---

19 W	11.00am	Dementia Friends Information session at Pips Community Café
	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
	7.30pm	The Bible Course at St Mary's Church
21 F	3.30pm	St Mary's School PTA summer fayre
	8.00pm	Fundraising music quiz at the Red House
22 Sa	12.30pm	Purton 1st XI v Devizes at Purton Cricket Club

---

23 Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30pm	Purton U11 v Burbage at Purton Cricket Club
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Primary School
24 M	9.15am	Bradon Forest Open Morning Tours
	7.00pm	Parish Council meeting - Village Centre and War Memorial Charity
25 Tu	9.15am	Bradon Forest Open Morning Tours
	10.00am	Purton Probus meet at the Red House Lounge
	7.30pm	Purton and District Gardeners' Guild meet at the Silver Threads Hall for a talk entitled 'The art of topiary and ornamental hedges'
26 W	6.00pm	Bradon Forest School open evening
	7.30pm	The Bible Course at St Mary's Church
29 Sa	1.00pm	Purton 2nd XI v Buscot Park at Purton Cricket Club
	7.00pm	Purton Carnival Quiz at the Red House

---

30 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
	1.00pm	Purton U13 v Burbage at Purton Cricket Club
	4.00pm	Messy Church at Ridgeway Farm Primary School

**Every week**

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

---

---

Sa 10.00am to 12.30pm: Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)

### **Every month**

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

### **July**

5 F 7.30pm St Mary's School PTA Family Barn Dance at Purton Village Hall  
6 Sa 10.30am & Sun 7 until 4.00pm Purton Open Gardens  
12 F 2.00pm Meet your Parish Councillors at Pips Community Café

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: 26 May ● New moon: 3 June ● 1st Quarter: 10 June  
○ Full moon: 17 June ● 3rd Quarter: 25 June

### **Pram Service**

Pram Service takes place on Thursdays in term time at 2.20pm for preschool children at Playclose Methodist Church. Revd Judith Wells took responsibility for the service when Revd Brian Fessey retired in 2003, but she has handed over the baton to Marion Hobbs with support from the staff at Playclose Preschool.



In recognition of over 15 years service, Judith, Moira, Sylvia and Mary Hodges came to the Pram Service at the end of term. When the children re-enacted "Jesus riding on a donkey into Jerusalem" waving branches and shouting "Hurray for Jesus".

The children presented Judith, Moira and Sylvia with baskets of flowers and Judith with gifts and an Easter card as tokens of appreciation.

*Marion Hobbs, [facebook.com/pramservicepurton](https://www.facebook.com/pramservicepurton)*



## Purton Peartree Pealers

Founded in the 1990s, the Peartree Pealers are a group of handbell ringers based in Purton, who are pleased to support Prospect Hospice through their collections at performances in the local area, particularly in the weeks leading up to Christmas when they ring in stores, garden centres and at the late night shopping evening in Royal Wootton Bassett. Some members of the group have had friends or family who benefited from the care Prospect provides and they are delighted to have raised over £9,000 for the charity through their handbell ringing.

There are currently a dozen ringers in the group who meet up for practices twice a month in the lovely village church, St. Mary's, or in the home of one of their members. During the year, they perform at a variety of different events and venues. These have included concerts at village halls, Lydiard Park, performances for residents in local care homes, the W.I., the church, a local school and even the wedding of a relative. This September, the Peartree Pealers hope to join the Thamesdown Ladies for their next concert.

For more information about the group, you can find them on Facebook or at [peartreepealers.com](http://peartreepealers.com). New members would be welcome, so if you can read music and would like to join their friendly team, please do get in touch to arrange a meeting at one of their practice sessions. You can email them at [mary@peartreepealers.com](mailto:mary@peartreepealers.com). They look forward to hearing from you!

---

## Purton Cricket Club

The 2019 season began on one of the windiest days of the year when the 2nd XI travelled to Sherston Magna for a league match. Purton were dismissed for 112 did not look likely winners but dismissed the opposition for 70. The two stars for Purton were sexagenarians Dave Allen scoring 43 and Joe Dunn taking 5 for 16. On the following day the U13 XI travelled to Burbage where another excellent win was recorded; Burbage scoring 151 for 2 from 35 overs with Purton responding with 153 for 3 from 25.2 overs – A. Duram 72 not out and Tim Hallett 41.

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

Saturday 1st June - 2nd XI v Westbury 1.00  
Friday 7th June - U13 v Swindon 6.00  
Saturday 8th June - 1st XI v Hinton Charterhouse 12.30  
Saturday 15th June - 2nd XI v Biddestone 3rd XI 1.00  
Sunday 16th June - U13 v South Wilts 1.00  
Saturday 22nd June - 1st XI v Devizes 12.30  
Sunday 23rd June - U11 v Burbage 10.30  
Saturday 29th June - 2nd XI v Buscot Park 1.00  
Sunday 30th June - U13 v Burbage 1.00

### **From the Archives – 25 Years Ago - 1994**

Saturday 1st XI Captain - Mark Gardner  
Saturday 2nd XI Captain - Nick Yalden  
Sunday 1st XI Captain - Mark Collier  
Sunday 2nd XI Captain - Nigel Brown

In 1994 the club had 44 individual sponsors and having moved up a league to play in the Inchs County Alliance League managed to win only two matches out of thirteen played.

*Joe Gardner 770681*

We Record ...

### **Funeral at North Wiltshire Crematorium**

12 April 2019 John Henry Colin Brealey (74)

20 March 2019 Ann Elizabeth Despres (74)

### **Memorial Service at St Mary's Church**

21 April 2019 Celebration and Thanksgiving Service for Peta Ruth Blake (73)

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

28 April 2019 Emma and Charlie Le Guilcher

28 April 2019 Barnaby William Furze

28 April 2019 Hunter Paul Songhurst



---

## Hello from The Cedars Care Home

### **Maypoles, flowers and Bank holidays**



Although the weather went back to normal after Easter, we've managed to plant more flowers in our raised wooden planters and enjoyed a few sunny days out in the garden. May Day was marked by making a mini maypole and chatting to residents about their memories of May Day. I was taken back to my school days with talks of country dancing! Some residents talked about ballet classes and other forms of dance that they enjoyed. Dance and music are such great memory joggers for many of us and its proven to help with dementia, so every week with our activities we try to include both.

### **Talking of dance – what's your favourite style?**

We have a core of residents who join in with our keep fit/music/singing and dance activities. We have a bit of disco dancing each week where a few residents will get up and join us and some will even chair dance which is great fun. However, it would be nice to introduce some different dance styles that may encourage more of our residents to join in where they can. So, do you belong to a Jive, Lindy Hop or another type of dance group? Would you like to share your talents with us? If so, then please do get in touch.

### **Events and outings**

Our trip to Studley Grange Q Ceramics produced some beautiful ceramic animals and residents who made the trip were very happy with their work. Our Mad Hatter's Tea Party was a huge success with staff and residents decorating the dinning room, dressing up and enjoying the delicious high tea provided by our lovely Lyn who works wonders in our kitchen. We've just returned from a successful outing to Roves Farm where our residents were able to watch, touch and feed the baby lambs, enjoy a tractor ride and have lunch with tea and home-made cake to round of a lovely day out. Our next outing is to Trowbridge for an OSJCT Swing dance event when both staff and residents get to dress up. We have plans for various outings and events in June culminating on Friday June 28 with an open event at Cedars where we welcome families, residents and YOU to pop in and enjoy a few hours of fun and refreshments. It's also an opportunity to learn about dementia, caring and what it all entails. Please see local notice boards and Facebook or call us for more details nearer the time.

Don't forget if you have an idea for activities to share with us we'd love to hear from you.

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

---

## St Mary's Primary School

We have nearly reached the end of another busy term. We have lots of exciting school trips planned for Term 6 and the Year 6 children are working hard preparing for their SATs. We wish them well with these. Our Sports Day is on Wednesday 5th June and we really hope that the sun shines on us for this event. We will be holding the KS2 event at Bradon Forest School this year, as they have kindly given us permission to use their sports facilities. We also look forward to welcoming the new Reception children in September, with various induction activities planned over the coming weeks. We do still have spaces in Reception for September 2019, so if have not yet finalised a school place and are interested in your child joining us here at St Mary's, please do get in touch.

### **Diary Dates:**

We have our PTA Summer Fayre scheduled for Friday 21 June at 3.30pm and then the PTA are holding a Family Barn Dance in the Village Hall on Friday 5 July at 7.30pm. Please see the placard page for more details.

### **London Marathon Success**

Mr Payne, our Deputy Head (pictured), has successfully completed the London Marathon in a fantastic time and we are all very proud of his achievement. He tweeted the following message when he came into school the next day:

“Well, my legs are a little achy but yesterday was a wonderful day! The support I knew I had from family, friends and St Mary's staff, parents, carers and children, kept me pushing on even when the going got tough (around the 20 mile point to be precise!). Knowing so many people were tracking my progress on the marathon app and had donated so much money also spurred me on.

I was very pleased to complete the marathon in 3 hours and 7 seconds. I'm even prouder of the £4500 raised for CLIC Sargent: our school community have played a huge part in that incredible amount and I cannot thank you all enough. This money will make a very real difference to the lives of the children CLIC Sargent supports”.



---

### **Early Year Foundation Stage Success**

We are thrilled to announce that our 'Early Years Foundation Stage' have been awarded The Bristol Standard again for 2019-2020. The validation group commended "the opportunities and learning experiences that children access within your school," and added that St Mary's staff, "demonstrate a strong insight in the children and families you have."

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

We are delighted to announce that our dancers have progressed to the finals of the Darcy Bussell Dance Fitness Competition which will take place on Friday 31 May in Salisbury Cathedral. We wish all our dancers luck and will report on this next month.

### **Netball Festival - Wednesday 24th April**

St Mary's competed in the North Wilts Cluster Netball Festival on Wednesday 24th April. Miss Heal and Mrs Lambe were incredibly impressed with their sportsmanship and outstanding netball. The team consisted of 13 children ranging from Year 4 to Year 6. They won three out their five matches and finished third out of eight teams - an amazing result!

### **Tag Rugby Festival - Friday 26th April**

St Mary's took a Year 4 team and a Year Five/Six team to the North Wilts Cluster Tag-Rugby Festival in April. Miss Heal and Mrs Lambe witnessed teamwork and St Mary's spirit at its very best. The weather was atrocious; the first match saw the heavens open and a freezing biting wind begin to blow. The children just played through it. They stayed positive and treated Miss Heal, Mrs Lambe and their parents to an inspiring afternoon of fantastic rugby. Their hard work paid off! Both teams returned to school with first place cups!

### **Mr Payne, you have inspired us!**

Following My Payne's heroic efforts at the London Marathon, myself and Purton Magazine's Heather Ponting-Bather, were inspired to take on our own charity challenge. As parents, we both wanted to do something that would help a local children's charity and found the ideal opportunity - completing the 26 mile marathon distance as a hike along Dorset's picturesque Jurassic Coastal path. In doing so we'll be raising money for Julia's House, Dorset and Wiltshire Children's Hospice.

However, our marathon will not be completed in a mere three hours. Our endurance hike takes place on 8 June and will be 8-9 hours duration. Undulating cliff-top terrain awaits, where sturdy walking boots and hiking poles are a must. We've also had many other factors to consider and tested different sock combinations, sweat-wicking t-shirts to prevent rucksack straps rubbing, re-hydration drinks, and even hairstyles on our practice walks!

We have been busy training, with both of us already running regularly, as well as clocking up considerable walking mileage. Our most recent training walk saw us

---



trek from Hackpen Hill on a 21-mile circuit, taking in the beautiful rolling Marlborough Downs. We are certainly very lucky to have the Ridgeway and surrounding countryside on our doorstep. This is our longest walk yet and gave us a good indication of the task ahead!

Julia's House is our local children's hospice with facilities in Poole and Devizes. Julia's House provide support for families who have a child diagnosed with terminal illness or a life-limiting condition. The care and support they give families at this

devastating time is invaluable and includes visiting families in their own homes, play sessions, respite care, end-of-life care and bereavement support.

94% of the funding for these services is raised through public donations.

If you would like to sponsor us, please feel free to make a donation to our Just Giving Pages or donations are being accepted at St Mary's Primary School, or In Touch Design & Print, both in College Road.

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/heathersjurassicjaunt](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/heathersjurassicjaunt)

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/naomiclarke2019](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/naomiclarke2019)

St Mary's has spaces in most year groups so if you are considering coming here, I would be delighted to show you around our school. 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*

## New! Cricklade Revealed Extra

Look out for my stall at Cricklade Museum on Festival Sunday (open from 10-30am – 4pm) on June 16th, where I will be selling my new book, Cricklade Revealed Extra Index Book 4. This is the last of my books to contain wartime memories from this area, and includes a comprehensive index of all the people and place names mentioned in Parts 4-7 of the main series. Price £3.60

Profits from the sale of my books are donated to Cricklade Open Door.

*Marion Parsons*



**Thursday 25 April, 2019 - 'Secrets of the Honeymoon Suitcase'  
with Val Threfall**

Val was true to her word with buckets of humour and memories of bygone eras. She took us through a century of social change in weddings, unmentionables, fashion, nylon stockings with the seam up the back, these created a chuckle, and the introduction of new fabrics. We viewed about a hundred pieces of clothing including a nightgown and knickers that belonged to Queen Victoria with her emblem and a hat similar to one Princess Diana wore. We heard the reason for garters and the naivety of young brides. The men and the ladies present grinned throughout the talk and gave Val a hearty round of applause after Eve Booy gave the vote of thanks. Never have we had such an enlightening meeting!

Museum open Times Wednesday 2.00pm - 5.00pm and Saturday 10.00am - 12.30pm

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

*www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com*

**Purton Historical Society Outing Saturday 22nd June 2019**

There are still three spaces available for the Annual Outing. Our summer outing this year takes us to Gloucester Cathedral and then a boat trip on the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal with free time at Gloucester docks. All welcome - Inclusive cost £28.50 Booking slips available from Clive or Liz Rushen

*Email: cliverushen@btinternet.com*

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

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

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

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

**Future Meetings**

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

Thursday 26th September 2019 at 7.30 in Purton Village Hall

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

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

---

---

## The other side of the gate

It has certainly been a strange spring. Our ground being north-facing suffers when we get a cold north or north easterly wind so the ground temperature has not increased as much as it normally would by this time of year. The more exposed ground has only just started to grow now in the second week of May.

I said last month that we were going to be planting some herbs and grass seed in a lay that had been damaged by last year's drought. Over the winter I gave this field a good dose of farmyard manure; in fact, I plastered it! It's a lower laying field sheltered by trees to the north close to the railway line. The straw disappeared very quickly and the grass responded much better than I could ever have imagined. Within a few days it was too long to plant through, so we changed our minds and will now plant that seed in the autumn. We grazed the field from the 19th to the 27th of April so it will now stay in the grazing rotation.

We're currently towards the end of feeding the field we call Berkfield for the second time. So far this year the cows have grazed their way through just short of 50 acres since the 11th of February; that's just over half an acre a day.



I'm sure many readers are aware of my irritations regarding the footpath across the field at Restrop. The BBC came to film a segment and concentrated on the neospora element of the story, whereas the main issue is in trying to get people to walk on the official footpath. I erected an ugly fence and put signs on it to direct those that didn't know the correct footpath. I'm tolerant of the fact that many assumed it was the path as it has been well trodden. Unfortunately, the signs were removed by two separate walkers, and so we put the signs up again, however they were removed once again. I cannot understand the logic in ripping them off!

I have seen that the outline planning application has gone in to build 85 houses at Restrop. There was a recent post on the Nextdoor app informing people and some of the main issues of concern were:

- A lack of infrastructure to cater for new families;
- Doctors are overstretched and parking at the surgery is inadequate;
- Already congested roads at rush hour;
- And Purton becoming a suburb of Swindon, thus losing its village identity.

I agree that the infrastructure is inadequate and I went to the consultation at the Village Hall with a negative feeling. There is a definite need for more shops with sufficient parking and a Doctors' surgery big enough to cope with not just these two developments, but Ridgeway Farm and, I believe (but not sure), some of Tadpole too. Afterwards, I spoke to Jacqui Lay and told her that I could perhaps provide an



*Photo: Alex Thomas*

answer to a few of the problems, but it is outside the plan.

My land adjoins the proposed new development on the south side (towards Royal Wootton Bassett). We own all the land from the road to the land on the back of Bradon Forest School. If we put access for the new development off a new access through my field, this could also give access to the school for buses and parents. The fields are big enough to accommodate shops, a Doctors' surgery and parking to match.

This is a solution. My reasons for offering this option are: my land at Restrop has become increasingly abused by some dog walkers; they treat it like a park with little regard for it being private property and, although the situation has improved, a toilet facility for their dogs. Secondly, we sell meat and milk from the farm to address the question of farm profitability, however does the old adage 'use it or lose it' have any meaning to anyone who opposes development but does little to actively support the land owners to avoid them taking the easy route? We work hard and quite frankly don't get rewarded for those efforts. Furthermore, it's a fact that the population is growing, thus more homes are needed. There are a lot of 'new' developments in Purton depending on how old you are. What if my grandfather or father had said no to Reid's Piece, Peartree Close, Vasterne Close, Dogridge, Restrop Close and Ringsbury Close? It's just how the world is! Surely it's better to take control and have a say in our move toward Swindon.

On a lighter note, Daisy, our last to calve Brown Swiss heifer dutifully delivered a beautifully marked Fleckvieh (sometimes referred to as a milking Simmental) heifer calf. We've named her Daphne to follow on the flower theme.

*Jonathan Cook*

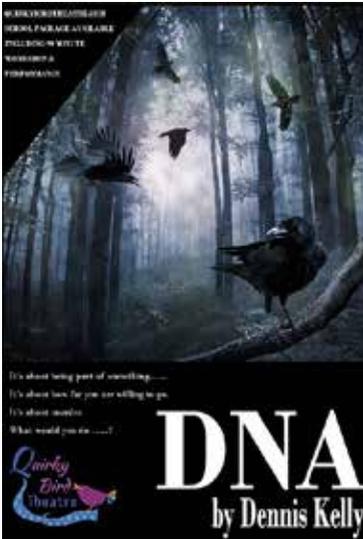
---

## Bradon Forest School

### **Careers Fair**

We held a whole school careers fair on Wednesday 8 May. Almost 30 employers attended ranging from the National Trust, BMW Group, Great Western Hospital and Arval to the RAF and the Army. Local colleges and several universities including Reading and Bath Spa also came along.

The event gave a lot of our students the opportunity to attend their first careers fair in a familiar environment whilst gaining valuable guidance in progressing to the next stage of their lives.



### **Quirky Bird Theatre Visit**

The Quirky Bird Theatre Company came to Bradon Forest Theatre on 30 of April 2019 to perform their touring play DNA for GCSE Drama Year 10 & Year 11. DNA is a thought-provoking play from Dennis Kelly that questions the boundaries of friendship, loyalty, bullying and judgement. Some comments from our students:

“The staging was wonderful; it gave such a sense of the location but allowed the actors to fully demonstrate their characters desolation.”

“Oh wow. Leah. She was incredible. Magnetic in her portrayal.”

“Loved the focus on how silence tells a story, the way the relationships and the subtext was told through silences was exciting”.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Awards**

At the end of March, Mr Palmer was pleased to be able to award the first 25 Duke of Edinburgh students their Bronze Award. A ‘Manager’s Lunch’ was hosted at school

---

and Rhianna, the area DofE representative, visited the school to present certificates and badges to the students.

Nine of the group will be progressing to their Silver Award, while a 31 strong cohort of new students will be embarking on the start of the DofE adventure.

### **Football Success!**

Well done to our Year 11 and Year 8 boys' football teams who were both Swindon champions for the 18/19 season. An extra special achievement for the Year 11 team who have been Swindon champions for the last 5 years!

## Purton Evening W.I.

### **What Exactly is the WI?**

The Women's Institute (WI) was formed in 1915 to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War.

Since then our aims have broadened and we are now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. We celebrated our centenary in 2015 and currently have almost 220,000 members in approximately 6,300 WIs.

We play a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities.

### **The WI is here to inspire you**

We are about inspiring women through experiences, knowledge and skills. These are passed down through generations and updated every day.

### **The WI is everything you want it to be**

Whatever your reason for joining, we offer all kinds of opportunities to all kinds of women.

For some it's a chance to meet people and catch up with friends. For others it's a way to learn new skills and campaign on issues that affect the wider community.

### **The WI is what you make of it**

WIs come in all shapes and sizes and our members can be involved in the way that suits them.

Purton Evening WI is looking for new members to ensure we are sustainable in the future. Why not take a look at our website [www.purtoneveningwi.com](http://www.purtoneveningwi.com).

Or better still pop along to one of our meetings on 3rd Wednesday of the month 7.15pm at the Silver Threads Hall in the High Street. We look forward to welcoming you very soon.



Lynn Mayneord

---

## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Dr Wilson Wall joined us at our May meeting to present a talk on the subject of cultivating native orchids in the garden. He is technical director of Bewdley Orchids a company that is determined to help our dwindling populations of native orchids to survive, and reverse the decline in numbers caused by habitat damage and by fertilisers and herbicides from farmland. By selling their orchids, all of which they grow from seed, the company hopes that new populations will be encouraged to grow and prosper. They have a simple aim – to encourage the introduction of native species back into their old habitats – making the world a better place to be.

We learned that there are 56 orchids native to Britain. Some are so rare that they are grown in specially guarded sites to prevent theft or damage; other more common varieties can be spotted flowering between May and September on chalk land, in meadows and on the edge of woodland. However Wilson advised us that although we may think they are too fragile they do make good garden plants and once established they are surprisingly robust plants and if they are looked after will last many years, self seeding and building up a colony. They can be grown in containers or in the ground or can be used as part of a wildflower meadow.

Wilson informed us that the trickiest part of growing orchids is getting them to germinate in the first place as orchid seeds do not have their own food reserves. In the wild, symbiotic fungi provide sugars to enable the seed to grow.

This is where Wilson's skill as a scientist, and a little cheating, come in useful. By surface sterilising the seed, adding a nutrient medium gel, the Nursery provides the seed with all the sugars, amino acids and plant pheromones that it requires to grow. Germination develops in the dark, with little hairs taking in nutrients from the atmosphere after 2½ months. The orchid continues to grow until after 5 months it is a collection of cells resembling the shape of a rugby ball.

At this time they are moved on to the next medium, which is better for them, until they reach a point where they can be potted on.

Wilson explained that it can be five years before a plant is ready to be sold which explains why buying a native orchid can cost between £10 - £40!! Bewdley Orchids sell about 20 different varieties including the 'Common Spotted' (sadly no longer very common in the wild), the 'Green-winged' the 'Bee', the 'Twayblade', the 'Chalk Fragrant', and the 'Butterfly'.

The leaves of the 'Green-winged' orchid develop in the dark. When exposed to the light it absorbs energy from the sun and can then be moved to a pot and enjoys the same situation as hostas grown in pots.

The 'Common Spotted' orchid is appealing even when when not in flower because of the distinctive rows of spots along the leaves.

The 'Early Purple Orchid' flowers before tree canopies shade them, so sharing the

---

---

same woodland arrangement as for bluebells.

In 1898, the 'Common Twayblade' orchid grew so abundantly that it was used as pigfeed. It gains its name from its 'twin blades', two broad, rounded leaves that appear flush to the ground in March, before the flower stem grows.

The 'Butterfly orchid' has one of the deepest root systems. Its roots can extend to a depth of 60 cms below the ground. They usually grow against hedges and trees and are impossible to move once established. H.E. Bates, in his book 'Through the Woods', described how he could walk through the trees in the dark, and even though he couldn't see them he could smell the Butterfly orchid, now very rare because of forestry activity. 'Bee' orchids are self pollinating as the bee that should pollinate them lives in the Mediterranean. The velvety lip of their flowers resembles a female bee so attracting bees that will pollinate the plant.

Wilson explained that the more people grow orchids, the more chance there is of them setting seed and spreading and gardeners really could make a difference to their survival. A few purchases were made by members on the night, a step towards achieving this goal hopefully.

Congratulations to the winners of the April competition – 'A decorated egg': 1st Mary Read, 2nd Thelma Venn and 3rd Wendy Taylor.

Andrew Tolman will be paying us a return visit in June to present a talk on the subject of 'The Art of Topiary and Ornamental Hedges'. This will be held on 25 June at 7.30pm in Silver Threads Hall.

Our second outing for 2019 will be to the Blenheim Palace Flower Show and Gardens on Friday, 21 June 2019. This year's event will have more exhibitors than ever before with the stunning Grand Floral Pavilion as the centrepiece of the show all in the unique surroundings of Blenheim Palace. The cost is £21 per person. This includes entry to the show and gardens and the coach cost. Tickets to the Palace itself are available at an additional cost. At the time of writing some tickets are still available. We would like to welcome any non-club members to join us on the day. If anyone is interested please give me a call to check availability.

*Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)*

## *Woodward family continues at the helm of St Mary's bells*

On the evening of Sunday 12 May, the St. Mary's Tower bell ringers rang a Quarter Peal of bells which is very complicated and requires a lot of skill over a full 45 minutes. It was rung to celebrate Alan Woodward achieving 45 years as Captain of the Tower – an amazing achievement and demonstration of dedicated commitment – and Alan was presented with a present and card from the congregations.

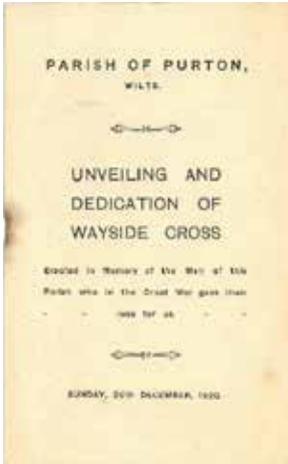
Alan now hands over the Captaincy to his son, Michael Woodward, although Alan will continue to ring both the Tower bells and the handbells with Purton Peartree Pealers.



---

The book carries over towards the Purton War Memorial Fund and hands a balance of £20 across to the new fund. By March 1920, £235 10s 0d had been collected and that is presumably what the Cenotaph cost to order and erect.

Also in the Museum's collection is a copy of the Order of Service for the "Unveiling and Dedication of Wayside Cross, Erected in Memory of the Men of this Parish who in the Great War gave their lives for us. Sunday 26th December 1920". The service started with the hymn "O Valiant Hearts" followed by prayers. The Chairman of the Parish Council, J. Haskins, Esq., then called upon Colonel Canning C.M.G., to unveil the Cross after which the hymn "For all the Saints" was sung.



The cross was then dedicated and the roll of the names inscribed upon the cross were read by the Chairman of the Parish Council and an address was delivered by the Revd R. Cowie, C.F. The hymn "Son of God" was followed by more prayers, the blessing and The Last Post. Wreaths were then laid by representatives of the Service Men, the Parish Council, the Mothers of Purton and the School Children after which The Reveille was sounded. After a short silence, everyone cried "God Save the King".

On Remembrance Sunday, a service is still held every year in memory of the dead of the Great War, of the Second World War (whose names have been added) and of all conflicts since. This is organised by the Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion.

### **National Damage and Change**

Beyond the deaths and injuries of so many, what had been a vibrant world of the Edwardian days was in many ways destroyed. The 1920s and 30s were a time of belt-tightening for many as the world economy struggled to come to terms with the massive changes that resulted.

Every theatre of war saw enormous ruin as the economies of nations had been devoted to destroying their neighbours rather than building themselves. In Britain and Germany, neither of their home territories were on the front line, so physical damage to property was limited to naval and air force attacks which, though serious in their own right, did not compare with billions of shells being fired from land-based artillery. Much of Belgium and France north and east of Paris was completely obliterated over distances some 200 miles east to west and 150 miles north to south. We can equate to say Dover to Cardiff (east-west) times Southampton to Derby (south-north).

So many men had been killed that it was said that a generation had been lost. Certainly, from my own family memory, it resulted in large numbers of women who were either widowed or who could never marry. The maiden aunts were many in number.

As with the population in general, so with the great houses. So many of their staff had been called up, and either killed or saw other possibilities, that they never managed to get their servants back in sufficient numbers to keep the houses going. Many of the great houses fell to ruin, others were eventually taken over by the National Trust and its forerunners. Collectors bought the contents as perhaps exemplified by the wonderfully eclectic collection at Snowhill Manor, near Broadway in Gloucestershire.

### **Toll of War**

There really is no point in remembering the dead if one doesn't also look at the cost of all that happened in terms of both loss of life for the dead and debasement of life for the living.

The following table makes stark reading:

*Source: Historical Atlas of the Twentieth Century*

Countries	Total Mobilised	Killed & Died	Wounded	Prisoners & Missing	Casualties	Casualties % of Mobilised
<b>Allied Powers</b>						
Russia	12,000,000	1,700,000	4,950,000	2,500,000	9,150,000	76.3
France	8,410,000	1,357,800	4,266,000	537,000	6,160,800	76.3
British Empire	8,904,467	908,371	2,090,212	191,652	3,190,235	35.8
Italy	5,615,000	650,000	947,000	600,000	2,197,000	39.1
United States	4,355,000	126,000	234,300	4,500	364,800	8.2
Japan	800,000	300	907	3	1,210	0.2
Romania	750,000	335,706	120,000	80,000	535,706	71.4
Serbia	707,343	45,000	133,148	152,958	331,106	46.8
Belgium	267,000	13,716	44,686	34,659	93,061	34.9
Greece	230,000	5,000	21,000	1,000	17,000	11.7
Portugal	100,000	7,222	13,751	12,318	33,291	33.3
Montenegro	50,000	3,000	10,000	7,000	20,000	40.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,188,810</b>	<b>5,152,115</b>	<b>12,831,004</b>	<b>4,121,090</b>	<b>22,104,209</b>	<b>52.3</b>
<b>Central Powers</b>						
Germany	11,000,000	1,773,700	4,216,058	1,152,800	7,142,558	64.9
Austria-Hungary	7,800,000	1,200,000	3,620,000	2,200,000	7,020,000	90.0

Countries	Total Mobilised	Killed & Died	Wounded	Prisoners & Missing	Casualties	Casualties % of Mobilised
Turkey	2,850,000	325,000	400,000	250,000	975,000	34.2
Bulgaria	1,200,000	87,500	152,390	27,029	266,919	22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,850,000</b>	<b>3,386,200</b>	<b>8,388,448</b>	<b>3,629,829</b>	<b>15,404,477</b>	<b>67.4</b>
<b>All Belligerents</b>						
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>65,038,810</b>	<b>8,538,315</b>	<b>21,219,452</b>	<b>7,750,919</b>	<b>37,508,686</b>	<b>57.6</b>

*Matthew White - First World War Casualties*

*Note: columns will not add up as many will be in more than one category.*

Purton's figures by comparison are summarised as follows, using figures from Bob Lloyd. The total number of men in the Purton military list is 530. Of those, 94 were killed, of whom 55 are recorded on the Purton War Memorials and 39 not so listed. By checking Bob's work entry by entry, I have come up with a figure of 55 wounded in addition to those killed. So, the comparison is as follows:

Countries	Total Mobilised	Killed & Died	Wounded	Prisoners & Missing	Casualties	Casualties % of Mobilised
Purton	530	94	55	included*	149	28.1
British Empire	8,904,467	908,371	2,090,212	191,652	3,190,235	35.8
Total Allies	42,188,810	5,152,115	12,831,004	4,121,090	22,104,209	52.3
Total Belligerents	65,038,810	8,538,315	21,219,452	7,750,919	37,508,686	57.6

Note: The Purton figures for Prisoners and Missing are included in either killed or survived so are not compared.

Purton's casualties, however horrific, are blessedly lower than the averages.

### **War Wounded**

Throughout the account of the war years in this series, it has been natural to focus on those who died during the war itself or who died perhaps years afterwards from injuries sustained. It is all too easy to forget those who were wounded, sometimes horribly, and lived with those disabilities all the rest of their lives.

Strangely, while the general ratio of wounded to killed is about 2:1 to 3:1, Purton's is the other way around: more like 1:2. Unless there is a massive under-reporting in the figures, this can only be related to how the military actions that Purton men

---

fought in were somehow “different” from others. This is outside the scope of the current project, I leave it to others to establish a rationale.

There is not space within this magazine to cover all the wounded, but a selection is reported here.

***A Small Selection Of Purton War Wounded:***

(in alphabetical order by surname)

The full list is presented in the book; see below

This list includes those men with Purton connections known to have suffered injuries during the war other than those killed or died in service. Earlier war injuries of those later killed are included here as well. My selection here is intended to show the range of injuries sustained. If you imagine a city of a million men over a peacetime period of 4½ years, many more mundane injuries would also be expected.

***William Stanley Bathe***

29 October 1917: gassed at Ypres.

19 November 1917: Admitted Fairfield Court Military Hospital Eastbourne with Trench fever and effects of being gassed. Struck off battalion strength.

19 December 1917: Transferred to convalescence Hospital in Epsom. Pneumonia.

4 May 1918: Developed trench fever and returned to Canada 23/09/1918

2 November 1918: Discharged with disabilities: (1) Myalgia and (2) gas with partial loss of musculature to back, arms, legs and Bronchitis. Medically unfit for further Service.

***John Davies***

31 March 1915: With British Expeditionary Force, France.

20 April 1916: Hospitalised to London suffering a hernia, ruptured whilst building a trench parapet.

6 July 1917: Discharged, no longer physically fit for War Service.

***Edward Holder***

28 December 1914: In France with 1st Wilts. Admitted to Casualty Clearing Station Bailleul with Bronchial Catarrh and fever. Returned to England.

27 April 1915: Returned to France and rejoined 1st Wilts at Dickebushe, Belgium.

12 June 1915: Wounded in head in accident involving a grenade at Ypres, along with 2 dead and 23 others wounded.

15 June 1915: Returned to England to hospital.

18 November 1915: Posted to various non-active positions.

29 January 1919: Demobilized. Disability listed due to gunshot wounds, loss of left eye and mandible (jaw) right hand side.

***Reginald Charles Iles***

6 September 1915: Arrived in France, with the Royal Engineers, aged about 18. Served in Salonika.

1 April 1918: The Royal Air Force was formed, and Reginald enlisted 20 July 1918.

---

---

20 October 1918: Hospitalised after aeroplane accident.

10 December 1918: Unfit, fit only for light duty.

18 April 1919: Transferred to unemployed list and demobilised.

### **John Jefferies**

25/07/1917: Gunshot wound (shell) abdomen and right arm (severe). In France with 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers.

7 August 1917: Returned to England, presumably for hospitalisation and convalescence.

20 September 1918: Transferred to Service Corps Mechanical Transport Company.

1 February 1919: Demobilised.

### **Thomas Painter**

13 October 1914: Serving with 1st Wilts. Wounded, gunshot wounds to left shoulder and thigh, at River Loinsne.

22 October 1914: Evacuated to England, hospital in Lincoln.

21 November 1914: Wounds healed.

28 December 1914: Re-admitted to hospital with rheumatism, unable to walk further than 100 yards.

30 June 1915: Discharged, no longer physically fit for War Service - rheumatism and sciatica caused by wounds.

### **Stanley Willoughby**

3 November 1915: In transit with Army Service Corps bound for Gallipoli on troop ship HMT Woodfield. The ship was torpedoed and sunk by an Austro-Hungarian submarine Spain. Stanley was reportedly wounded by shrapnel in his arm.

Two lifeboats got off and the survivors were landed at Melilla on the coast of Spanish Morocco. 45 British and 9 Arabs were later recorded as being in the hands of Spanish Authorities. The interned men were later moved to Malaga where they were harshly treated and regularly threatened that they would be shot.

12 February 1916: Escaped from Malaga, Spain. Arrived in UK 21 February 1916.

17 June 1916: Discharged, being no longer physically fit for War Service. Suffering from neurasthenia, which might be classed as Post Traumatic Shock Disorder today.

22 October 1917: Medical at Chisleton Camp; anaemic with neurasthenia, 30% disability.

In later years, his family did once try to ask and record his story but he shook so badly they had to stop. He would only say, "Feel this" to his daughters, asking them to feel the shrapnel in his arms.

*Rick Dixon*

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

# Purton Placard

## Purton Museum

above library

Wednesday 2.00 – 5.00 pm  
Saturday 10.00 am -12.30 pm

New displays -  
Signs of the Past



## Joseph Ricketts WW1 Memorabilia



## SING 4/4 COMMUNITY CHOIR

### 10th Anniversary Summer Concert

Celebrate this special event with us and our guests, Swindon Male Voice Choir at St. Sampson's Church, Cricklade, on Saturday 15 June at 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm).

Tickets at £8.50 (including refreshments) available from Sing 4/4 Choir members, Margaret Roberts (751063) or Mary New (770630).

## PURTON AGE CONCERN

### Village Party

Sunday 9 June at The Red House

### Boat trip with fish & chip lunch

Wednesday 12 June

### Coach trip to Webbs of Wychbold

Wednesday 3 July, 10am

Join us for  
Afternoon

Tea from  
2.30-5pm

Traditional  
Tea £20 per  
person

Sunday 16th June  
Father's Day  
Special

breast cancer  
now

To book your  
tickets call  
Margaret on 07999 566945  
email  
margaret.nicholson53@yahoo.  
co.uk  
Or  
Eunice on 07947 068159  
email  
Eunice.salmon@btinternet.com

BLUNSDON  
HOUSE HOTEL

PURTON CARNIVAL

**Teddy Bear's Tea Party**

Tuesday 28 May 1.30pm at the Red House, please contact tru.gough@gmail.com to book and provide dietary requirements.

**Hog Roast**

Saturday 1 June from 3pm at the Red House we have Operation 77, Chesterfield Supper Club, Auto B Band and In-between Days.

**Quiz**

29 June at the Red House 7.30pm start.

Lydiard Millicent  
*2019 Exhibition*  
Art Group



Lydiard  
Millicent  
Parish Hall

Preview:  
Friday 21 June 6-9pm

Saturday 22 June 10am-5pm  
Sunday 23 June 10am-4pm

Original artwork, cards  
and refreshments available  
For further details Tel: 01793 770404

ST. MARYS SCHOOL PTA PRESENTS

*'Blazing Saddles'*  
**HOEDOWN  
BARN DANCE**

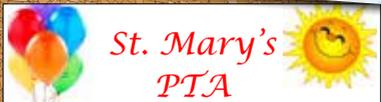
**WITH A CALLER**

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

FAMILY EVENT - FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL - RAFFLE - HOTDOGS

**TICKETS**  
**£7 ADULT & £4 CHILD**

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



**St. Mary's  
PTA**

**Summer Fayre**  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019  
3.30pm - 5.30pm



*Refreshments*      *Tombola*



*Games*      *Raffle*

*All Welcome*



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

---

## Purton and District Probus Club



On Tuesday the 9th of April, National Trust representative, Liza Dibble from the Model Farm at Coleshill, gave an illustrated talk on Churchill's Underground Army.

The summer of 1940 marked some of the darkest days in British history. After the massive Dunkirk evacuation, Churchill was convinced that it was only a matter of time before Hitler's army would cross the English Channel. Indeed, the German Operation Sealion was already being planned.

Urged by Churchill, Colonel Colin Gubbins, who had Commando experience in Norway and had assisted the White Russians in their civil war, founded a nationwide force of volunteer resistance fighters to sabotage enemy installations, blow up roads and railways and carry out guerrilla warfare.

Recommended by Major Henderson of nearby Buscot Park House, Coleshill House was requisitioned as a suitable Headquarters for the training of such an army. About 3500 men signed up. They were organised into self-sufficient and autonomous cells, hidden in the event, in a network of well concealed Operation Bases or OBs, that covered the length and breadth of Britain. Such was the secrecy demanded of the force that the all signed Official Secrets Act, not telling their closest families and friends what they were up to. Their role, once the invading forces had reached their part of the country, was to disappear to the underground bases and emerge under cover of darkness to carry out delaying tactics by causing as much trouble as possible. Local evidence of the Underground Army's existence only came to light when an Operational Base was accidentally uncovered, in the grounds of Coleshill House, early in this century. An O.B. resembled an underground bomb shelter, but had cooking facilities, a toilet, a secret camouflaged trap-door entrance and a disguised escape tunnel. The tunnel of the O.B. at Coleshill emerged through a stone wall into the ha-ha.

Every weekend, men from all over country would arrive on trains, before going to Highworth Post Office. The Postmistress, Mabel Shranks, after a prearranged exchange of coded phases, would phone the Headquarters to collect the men. The truck always took devious routes. Training was an exhausting programme of using explosives, shooting, knifing and silent combat. A training manual, issued to the Auxiliars, resembled an agricultural catalogue with "Highworth Fertilisers, do their stuff unseen", written on the cover. When fully trained, the men would return home to await the signal of invasion. Then they would report to their respective Operational Base to wait the advance of the enemy.

With further research it is now known that Ian Fleming and Anthony Quale trained at Coleshill. A 1941 photograph, now released from secret archives, shows that ladies were also stationed there. Known as Sweeties, and selected for their telephone voice, they were interviewed at Harrods tea-room and trained at Harrington Hall.

---

---

Liza tells us that a grandmother from Purton House was a secret Sweetie.

Fortunately, in 1940, Hitler hesitated and, thankfully, lost the 'Battle of Britain'. Hence the Underground Army was not required to become Operational. However it continued to train and maintained a readiness throughout the war. It was stood-down in November 1944 with orders to destroy the evidence of its existence, but these orders were only spasmodically obeyed.

Regrettably, on 22nd September 1952, Coleshill House caught fire and in spite of the attendance of 14 fire brigades and attempts to relay-pump water from the river Cole, the house was lost and is now only a footprint. However the National Trust, with the help of volunteers like Liza, has constructed a replica WWII Operational Base and a museum of artefacts there. Afternoon visits to the operational bunker are available this year on the 9th June and 14th July. The Estate is open on the 2nd Sunday of the month, April to October, 2pm-5pm. A further attraction is a working water mill. Liza's talk, in the words of Winston Churchill, made us "proud to be British".

The Annual General Meeting of the Purton Probus Club was held on Tuesday 23rd July at the Red House. 30 members attended. The retiring President, Hector McLean, spoke of his pleasure at serving in the Office, both while at Purton and in the company of the Royal Wootton Bassett Probus Club. He thanked the members of the committee for a successful year; Brian for a lively programme of speakers covering a wide range of subjects, Trevor for secretarial work and good communications, Phillip as Registrar, Bob as Treasurer, Peter for running the raffle and Mike for alerting the speakers. He congratulated the committee on achieving a rising number of members and wished the new members well for the coming year.

Trevor Domm, the General Secretary, expressed his thanks to Brian Gill for an excellent programme of speakers, to Neil and Janet for the hospitality and service at the Red House and to Les Walker of the Highworth Club for invitations to their social events. Trevor also reported that the majority of our members enjoyed a memorable President's Lunch at the Wiltshire Hotel.

The treasurer presented the balance sheet and the accounts were approved. The increase in the number of members made it unnecessary to adjust the membership fee.

Election of the Committee: With the exception of the roles of President and Vice President, the standing members were re-elected en-bloc. John Slaght takes on the role of Vice President.

At this point, the Standing President presented the Chain of Office and the Gavel to Philip Davis, the New President, who in turn, presented Hector with a "Past President" lapel badge. Phil thanked the members for his election but expressed some surprise, as he had only joined the club in 2017. But he promised that he would do his best to maintain the standard set by the thirty previous presidents of the club. He concluded by saying that he is looking forward to his year as president

---

---

and sharing experiences with the other Probus Clubs.

Under AOB, Secretary Trevor asked for the member's approval of the Wiltshire Hotel as the venue for the President's Lunch, which was agreed. The meeting closed at 11.25am.

Purton Probus Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10am in the Red House lounge. June programme: 11th Escort Carriers, 25th How old is your house?

*Bob Stevens*

## *Cricklade Cricket Club*

Cricklade Cricket Club will once again be hosting a 6-a-side Cricket competition on Sunday 7 July. This year the format will be somewhat different as we will have just 10 teams playing on the main ground in Abingdon Court Lane. It will be a Cricket World Cup themed event and entry forms will be available from the Red Lion on a first come first serve basis. The closing date is Monday 24 June when the draw will take place. Entry fee is £8 per person or £48 per team of 6. This is intended to be a family fun day and not a serious event so mixed teams are most welcome with only two recognised cricket players permitted in each team. There will be a bar and BBQ plus some other cricket related activities.

We now have an established ladies team associated with the club and they generally play their matches on weekday evenings. We are always looking for new members for the male senior team but now we invite any ladies who might be interested in playing cricket to contact either of the committee members below. The junior teams are open to both boys and girls. In connection with this, the club will be hosting a ladies softball event on Sunday 28th July. This is an ideal introduction to ladies cricket so please come and support or enter a team.

Please contact either of the committee members below for any further details.

*Rich Coole (Club Secretary) on 07510 501960*

*Rob Milican (PR) on 07881 662486*

## *The Wiltshire Big Pledge is back for 2019*

Celebrating this year's ICC Cricket World Cup coming to the UK this summer it's time to step up to your challenge – either as an individual or as part of a team – and get active. This year's challenge gets underway on 3 June until 14 July and there's something for everyone no matter what age or ability! This year they are timed challenges with participants try to 'complete a century' by logging minutes of activity to 'score a run' and to reach their century to get gold! It is FREE to sign up and participants can undertake ANY sport or activity to complete their challenge! Find out more then sign up at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/bigpledge](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/bigpledge)

---

## Community Groups and Charities to have their say!

Wiltshire based organisations are invited to be part of a consultation about the challenges they currently face and the resources and support available in the region.

Wessex Community Action has been talking to The National Lottery Community Fund about the resources and support which Wiltshire based community organisations could use to help them be more successful and sustainable in their work.

The views of all charities, community organisations and social enterprises are being sought about what resources and advice you get to help you do your work and what further assistance could improve what you do and where you do it.

We know that community organisations reach out for help from a variety of sources such as national bodies; online advice; training providers; funders; as well as local support agencies. So we now want to know what's missing for you that could best be provided at a local level.

Your views are important because they could influence the sort of resources and support available in Wiltshire.

Your views will mainly be collected via a confidential online survey. However, it will also be possible to register your views in other ways if that suits you better.

The data collected will be reviewed and analysed confidentially and impartially by an independent consultant. A report will be produced which will present the range of views and opinions but which will not identify any individual respondents. The independent consultant will be the only person who will have access to your original information.

The report, setting out options and initial recommendations, will be published and will also be made available to everyone who participates. Wessex Community Action will then invite comments, both directly and through special meetings. On the basis of the findings of the report and the comments in response, WCA will then prepare a bid to the Lottery to present how best to resource and support the development of local organisations over the next few years.

If you would like to register to be involved in the consultation process please email: [info@wessexcommunityaction.org.uk](mailto:info@wessexcommunityaction.org.uk) or contact Amber Skyring CEO at 01722 326822 or 07444 415205. [www.wessexcommunityaction.org.uk](http://www.wessexcommunityaction.org.uk)

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)