

# Purton. Magazine

December 2019



Livestock played a key role in the Christmas story, and this year we've learnt about the ups and downs of farm life in Purton. See Page 40 & 60.

Photo: The cattle are lowing at Quarry Farm by Alex Thomas.

**50p**

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## Purton Contacts

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

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# Purton. Magazine

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

**INTouch**  
Design & Print

## From the Editors

The magazine production schedules allow the committee to be among the first to wish every reader, distributor and advertiser a very happy Christmas and a comfortable New Year. Our schedules also mean that producing the January issue before Christmas is a bit like a very fast helter-skelter ride; please submit your contributions early.

Christmas looms large in this issue firstly with a season's greetings message from Leon and Marlene Slee on page 49 which was accompanied with a kind donation to magazine funds. Then readers will find an abundance of Christmas parties, social evenings, markets, table top sales, coffee mornings and many other events dotted throughout this issue. Buying Christmas presents from within the village looks increasingly easy including a new book being published to celebrate the bicentenary of Purton cricket club – more details are on page 63.

There are even chances to win Christmas gifts at the One Stop Christmas Fundraiser on Friday 20th December even if you end up keeping one or two yourself with the added lure of home-made preserves, cakes and scones on sale as described on page 72.

This is always a good time of the year for a quiz; from the Twinning Association's on page 72 to the Age Concern's first attempt at a quiz night on page 16 and a Carnival quiz at the Red House on page 52. We have even included our own magazine quiz on page 34 although there are no prizes beyond the satisfaction of exercising your memories.

There is also a quiz as part of the Angel Festival being held at St. Mary's church. Children (and adults) are encouraged on page 53 to bring their angels to church to display them for all to see, perhaps even on the church Christmas tree. Then on Sunday 15th December there will be the annual Christingle service in St. Mary's church, see page 31. This year it will be held in honour of Moira Hayward who organised the service for 35 years but who sadly died earlier this year.

***Please ensure that your contributions for the January issue of Purton Magazine are received no later than Tuesday 10th December because there will then only be eight working days to prepare, produce and print the next edition before the Christmas holidays. Thank you!***

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Guides spent two wet and windy days in Bristol  
– see page 54

30

Bradon Forest students performed in a Shakespeare festival  
– see page 38

169

People attended the Mad March Hare quiz evening  
– see page 80



### **Purton's Memory Walk**

A huge thank you to the wonderful supporters who made our Memory Walk on Saturday 12th October truly inspiring. We had adults and children walk the route and the rain held off! We are still calculating monies but the figure raised to date is an amazing £927.00. You are all Super Heroes.

### **Who's Your Community Hero?**

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

### **Councillor Vacancies**

We have one vacancy for a Councillor by co-option. If anyone is interested please contact the office or complete the application form which can be found on our website or sent to you via email: [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or call on 01793 771066

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

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

This coming financial year 2019/20 the Council has increased its budget to incorporate a larger fund for such groups. A form is available from our website, our offices or via email. For more information please do not hesitate to speak to the Clerk. Donations are considered twice yearly in February and July. [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Financial-Details.aspx](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Financial-Details.aspx)

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

Grants have been awarded in (June 2019): Swindon Dial a Ride, Purton Toddlers and Wiltshire Council Fun In the Sun

### **Gulley Rescue Project – Can You Help?**

We are looking at creating a gulley map through Purton to aid the flow and management of water within our beautiful village. If you are walking and notice a gulley is blocked, overgrown or in need of repair, drop us a line, email, phone call,

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Facebook message, whichever is easiest, giving us the exact location and issue and we can then map and arrange its clearance with the necessary bodies. What we need; Picture and exact location, what you can see if you have no pictures (ie: mud/grass/broken etc)

This gully project is a small step towards ensuring our village can manage the changes in weather and subsequent water flow working with the relevant responsible bodies (Wiltshire Council and Thames Water). So, put on your walking boots, put the kids in their water proofs and let us know when you see a gully that might need some help! Thank you

### **Post Office Times of Operation**

Village Hall Car Park - Tuesday 13.45-15.45.

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

Residents only - Wednesdays in the Village Hall from 6.15pm to 7.45pm  
For more details please contact the Youth Leader Tamara, Telephone: 01242 224 509; Mobile: 07787821798 Website: [www.communitymas.co.uk](http://www.communitymas.co.uk). A face book page has also been set up under Purton Youth Club.

### **Youth Provision – Are You Interested?**

The Council is looking into options of running not only the current 8-11 year old youth club, but also a group for the next age group up until 18 years old. If anyone would be interested in attending, could they drop the Council a note via Facebook, NextDoor, website or email.

### **Councillors 2019-20**

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

### **Council Meetings (December)**

commencing at 7pm in Purton Village Hall  
Finance and General Purposes meeting  
Council meeting

Monday 2nd December 2019  
Monday 9th December 2019

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## **Public Convenience**

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

## **Memory Stones**

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

## **Planning Permission - Approved Applications**

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

## **Charities**

### **Advertising - Village Hall Railings/Village Centre Fencing**

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

### **Village Hall Car Parking**

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

We have set up a “GIVEASYOULIVE” site for the Purton Institute and Village Hall

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Charity which once subscribed allows donations to be generated through online shopping. No fees, no charges, free to register. Please take a look, share the link between family and friends and let's raise some pennies. [www.giveasyoulive.com/](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## *Dr John Belt*

The memorial service for Dr John Belt was held at St. Mary's on Thursday 14th November. We understand that John arrived in Purton in the 1950s and so many villagers will remember him for all his various local involvements. However, he will surely be best remembered by many as our GP at his practice on the corner of Church Street and Hyde Lane from where endless stories of his thoughtful care and attention to all patients including visitors to the village still circulate.

During his 70 years living in Purton, John was a founder member of the Purton Historical Society and initiated the many and varied courses which continue to this day. John was also a patron of PADS and an active member of Probus. Purton Magazine would very much like to include more about John's life in our next issue and look forward to receiving more details in time for the January issue.

## *Eric Ball*

The funeral of Eric Ball was held in St. Mary's church on Tuesday 12th November. Eric lived in Purton for over 30 years and was well respected as a kind gentleman. He was a regular member of Probus and particularly enjoyed poetry, even to the point of hosting and attending poetry group gatherings. In his earlier years he was a Scout Master. Purton Magazine would very much like to include more about Eric's life in our next issue and look forward to receiving more details in time for the January issue.

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## Purton Helping Hand

Sadly, this will be my last article about the Purton Helping Hand. On September 23rd 1963 a group of 32 people met at the Red House to discuss forming a club with view to raising money to help those in need in Purton. From those a club was formed with sixteen or so members, including



Mrs Sheppard, Mrs Barnes, Mrs Bunce, Mr and Mrs Tranter, Miss Fry and Mrs Barnfield. The name of the club, Purton Helping Hand. I was recently given a book containing the minutes of meetings held from 1963 until 1974. It was interesting to read about the good works that the club did over those years. It was also interesting to read that a grand sum of three and six (17½ pence) was raised on a raffle at a bingo night. Help in the village was valued at between seven and six and ten bob back in 1967. It was also noted that at Christmas 1966 there was 333 gifts given in the village all to the value of 5/-. By 1974 this had increased to £1.50. In our final years distribution had increased to over £700 with the value of vouchers being £6. Each committee member being issued with vouchers and envelopes to be distributed from December 1st to be spent in the village shops by 31st December.

These vouchers, as with vouchers to diabetics at Easter, were only available due to money raised during Carnival week. Being given to the elderly, disabled and widows in Purton and outlying areas, which now included Braydon, Greenhill and Purton Stoke. For many years Purton Helping Hand was the mother group to the Purton Carnival. The Carnival took on its own identity some years ago.

Various fund raising events were held to provide the funds to give help in the village all year round, varying from visits to the sick with flowers or chocolates or a cheque to help out after a fire, flood or burglary. There were

also cheques to help with travelling costs when continued visits to loved ones in hospital further a field were necessary. When I first joined the club during the early 90s, we held our meetings at Hooks Hill and later moved to the Silver Threads Hall. All the members paid an annual fee of a few pounds to cover the cost of venue hire.

During my years on the committee it was my pleasure to work along side the likes of Eve Saunders, Robert Miles, the Matthews twins Peg and Phil, my dear friend Gill Woolford and so many more. We held jumble sales, bingo nights and table top sales, for which, we baked in abundance. Our Sunday afternoon teas at Tim Handy's farm with Cricklade Town Band were a triumph.

Due to the lack of new members coming forward, the Purton Helping Hand has not been active for several years. By then the committee consisted of only seven members: Pauline Ward, Audrey Wheeler, Linda Steel, Sheila Webb, Millie Burgoyne, Donna Saxby and myself. Unfortunately several of these being 80 plus it was decided that we could no longer hold the events that were needed to raise the funds for our good works.



Following the death of our Chairman Pauline Ward last December, as Vice Chair, I set about winding up the Purton Helping Hand. This involved accessing the various bank accounts and making final funds ready for dispersal in Purton and out laying area, finding that these accounts held far more money than any of us knew. Donna Saxby, our Secretary, was very happy to assist in this task. Following several months of communication with Lloyds Bank, numerous phone calls and trips to their Royal Wootton Bassett branch,

we are pleased to say that over the summer groups all through the village have received an unexpected windfall. Our final gift to the village comes in the form of a planter commemorating the existence of the Purton Helping Hand; this has now been put in place on the bank approaching the Red House. There is also a bench in memory of Pauline Ward, remembering all the help she gave to the village and its residents over many years.



I hope all the members of Purton Helping Hand over the years have enjoyed their work as much as I did. It was always a joy

to see the surprise and reaction of some one who received a visit and a small gift when they were

feeling low. Thank you all for your hard work over the years and to every one who supported us. Without your support we couldn't have done all that we have.

*Pearl Lait*

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***Email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk) or send to: Purton Magazine, c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton.***

## Events

**Minibus Shopping Trips** - Hazel is organising a shopping trip on Friday December 13th to Highfield Nursery and will have her normal trip to Cirencester on the 20th December both of which will leave the village at 9am. For more details and to book your place on the minibus please contact Hazel Woodbridge on 770862.

**Quiz Night** - This was the first time that we had organised a Quiz Night and Alan and Richard, who presented the evening, stepped up to the plate and offered to help us out. Alan (who is Georgina's husband) and his friend Richard have done many quizzes in the past and knew how to challenge and amuse us at the same time. The feedback from the evening was very encouraging. Brains were pulled in all directions with the questions and the winning team called "Always the Bridesmaids" collected the bottles of wine for their efforts. Georgina was the official 'runner' and scorer so she was kept busy all evening, well done.

**Christmas Party 7th December** - If you haven't bought tickets and would like to go then contact Tony Price as soon as possible to see if there are any tickets left. It's always worth the call if you really want to come. £6 per ticket and for pension age residents only. Tony is on 770696

**Christmas Market 14th December** - We will be holding our annual Christmas Market at the Pavenhill shops from 9am-12 noon, with all the usual items such as holly and mistletoe; cakes; tombola; bric-a-brac and sausage tasting, along with your last chance to buy raffle tickets for the Grand Christmas Draw, which will be drawn on 17th December at our committee meeting.

**Carols, Mince Pies and Mulled Wine at the Red House 24th December** - Come and join us for a Christmas Eve singalong with a brass band around the Christmas tree, with real snow from a machine. We have all the words printed out for the carols and our helpers will move amongst you with mince pies and mulled wine, all for free. Starts 7pm.

**Burns Night** - On January 25th we will be running our annual Burns Night celebrations with all the usual trimmings: hall decorated in flags, tables laid up, a wee nip of Whisky, three course meal of soup, haggis, tatties and neeps, and dessert followed by a ceilidh with a caller and band. Ticket price is £23 per person and ticket numbers are limited, so call now to make sure you get yours. Call Peter on 778119, this is a ticket only event.

## Latest News



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



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

Last week (7th November) was Iris Parsons funeral, which was held at the Methodist Church and very well attended, the service was conducted by the reverend David Perkins who gave a very personal tribute to Iris as he had spent a lot of time at her bedside during her spell in hospital. She attended church regularly and was known locally for her involvement with the Girl Guides and various clubs in the village. She was a regular at the Lunch Club and the minibus crews knew her and we all liked her quiet sense of humour, sometimes cheeky but always ladylike.

We also say goodbye to Dr John Belt who was a GP in Purton for many, many years. He passed away in hospital and his funeral was on 14th November. I am sure that there will be more in next month's magazine about his life, from people that new more about him than I do, even though I always enjoyed his company and we always chatted when we had the chance. Our thoughts are with Jean at this sad time.

Another sad loss is Eric Ball who also died in hospital recently and whose funeral was on the 12th November. Eric and Joyce celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary a couple of years ago, and Joyce was so pleased to get a card from the Queen in recognition. Eric was a quiet man who liked working in his garden, which was a lovely sight, and he also liked to chat and would attend a lot of village events, but hadn't enjoyed the best of health for some time. Our condolences to Joyce and the family at this sad time.

### **Information**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*Peter Berry*

## *Purton and District Age Concern Mini Buses Please can you help?*

As many readers will know our two Age Concern minibuses are entirely manned by volunteer drivers and shotgun (driver's assistant) and currently operated every day of the week including Saturdays and occasionally evenings. Sometimes both buses are in use taking people to surgery appointments as well as various clubs and activities held in the village, generally speaking it is within the village but occasionally to special events elsewhere for example we have taken a group to the annual pantomime at the Wyvern Theatre. We don't for example do hospital appointments as Phoenix cover this (details of their tel. number are elsewhere in this magazine).

Most of our drivers are retired but a couple are in full-time work and either fit us in on a day off or in the evenings. However, the majority are retired and in their 60s or 70s. For many this time of year presents a problem as they no longer feel comfortable driving after dark. Of recent months it has become increasingly difficult to maintain the service, as we pride ourselves that we never say no, meaning that some drivers are out on a very regular basis.

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If you think you can spare either an occasional few hours (or it might only be an hour taking someone for a surgery appointment) or maybe only weekend or evenings perhaps, after reading this, either you or another family member might like to become either a volunteer driver, all you need is a normal clean car licence, or a shotgun. We already have a few husband and wife teams and we warmly welcome any younger members of our wonderful village who would like to help.

Both our buses have a regular MOT style inspection and carry 8 passengers including the Shotgun. They are both fitted with rear hoists for wheelchairs and less ambulant passengers. Training is given in the use of these lifts and securing wheelchairs. They are parked centrally in the village and a parking pass is provided whilst you are on duty if you need to park a car.

Amazingly there are still people in the village who are not aware of the help they can be given to get around the village. If you need transport, are over 60 and have a disability or mobility problem, please call me on 770862. It would be very much appreciated if you can possibly avoid making surgery appointments between 10.30am and 2pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays as we are covering Lunch Club. However, we realise this is not always possible, and we will do our very best to meet your appointment.

Please give me a call for an informal chat, even if you can only help occasionally, you would be made most welcome.

*Hazel Woodbridge BEM, Mini Bus Co-ordinator  
01793 770862 or Email [pac2bookings@gmail.com](mailto:pac2bookings@gmail.com)*

## *What's On With The Cricklade Band*

We have our 'Christmas Present' at Cricklade Town Hall on Sunday 22 December at 7.30pm. As ever at the Christmas show, there'll be all the carols and Christmas music you'd expect to join in with.

Of course, we'll have seasonal refreshments and you're also welcome to bring your own drinks (and glasses!) too. As ever, there's a special raffle kindly supported by Cricklade traders and businesses.

Entry is by ticket (although you might be able to get in on the night) at the gift of a price of £6.50 – tickets will be available at the Council Office in Cricklade High Street or from McFarlane Sales and Lettings, also in Cricklade High Street.

By the time 'Christmas Present' comes around, the band will already have been out 14 times playing all the familiar Christmas music – live! Amongst other festive events we're touring the streets of Cricklade, Purton and Ashton Keynes as usual – and we're back at Westonbirt Arboretum too on 8 December!

Once again, although we prefer to do it in music really... from everyone in The Cricklade Band – 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'.

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## Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



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

Many thanks to our speaker, Alicia Messiah, who is a Gastro-Intestinal Oncology Nurse from GWH and was very informative.

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

We were very sorry to cancel this due to poor ticket sales.

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

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

### **Table top sales**

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

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

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

## St Mary's Church Renewal – Exhibition and Guided tours

Do come and find out more about the Church Renewal project and how it is progressing! On Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December there will be a Renewal exhibition/slideshow in Church - this coincides with the Angel Festival, so an opportunity to see both events. On Saturday there will also be guided tours at 3pm and 3.30pm - and on Sunday the guided tour will be at 7.15pm with mulled wine and mince pies! You will have opportunities to meet members of the Renewal Team and to ask and leave questions and comments (or you can email us at [renewal@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:renewal@stmaryspurton.org.uk) at any time). The exhibition will remain in Church, unmanned, until Sunday 8th December.



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## Red House War Memorial Village Centre

I am writing this in reply to the Trustees letter to us which was published in November's magazine with reference to the commemorative stone. The Trustees were approached in the very early stages to see if they would be agreeable to a commemorative memorial being placed in the grounds of the Village Centre to let people know that the complex is there to honour the men from Purton who died during the last war. At that time nobody knew what form the memorial would take. The names of these men are listed inside the entrance to the Red House Club and can only be seen when the club is open. Whilst their names are on the Cenotaph and in the Church there is nothing to connect them to the Village Centre. A committee was formed which decided that a stone would be the best memorial with a metal plate on it with the following words -

### **Red House War Memorial Village Centre**

This complex was purchased by the village for the village to be a living memorial to the men listed below who lost their lives in the 1939-45 war

Frederick George Read	Albert Law
Roger Graham Carter	Percy James Tuck
Chrisopher T. Ockwell	John Howard Jervis
Stanley W. Matthews	Reginald Leslie Gough
Albert John Archer	Ewart Flewelling
Ernest John Taylor	Frederick Sidders
Robert Charles Scott	Albert Blakeney
Cecil Edward Matthews	Thomas Albert Moss

This stone celebrates the end of the 1939-45 war seventy five years ago

A suitable stone was found on the Marlborough downs and purchased by a very kind friend who also brought it back to Purton and it is still on his farm. We found a stone mason in Broughton Gifford who was the only one who was prepared to inlay the proposed plate on site. Steve and Carol at Artworking offered to design the plate and a friend of theirs offered to do the lettering free of charge – all we would have to pay for would be the plate. We had offers of help to clear the site from lots of people but we were told they would need insurance and health and safety certificates. On enquiring we found that this would cost us £620, so we knew we would have to have a professional to install the stone and build the wall around it. We had all the estimates in and were prepared to raise the necessary money for this project in a similar way, though on a smaller scale, to how the money was raised to buy the Red House from Miss Russell. In fact we have £843 without trying, through the kindness of people donating towards this commemorative stone. One villager wrote to the Trustees saying how nice it would be to see his uncle's name commemorated outside the Red House as he had never known him.

We feel that the reasons put forward by the Trustees are unreasonable. I was lucky

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enough to be around when the Red House complex was purchased to be a living memorial to the men listed above – it is on the War Memorial Register as ‘Red House War Memorial Village Centre’. I realise that people in this village did have to give up things and suffered during that time but not their lives. We can’t understand why the Trustees are prepared to put the names on a notice board by the stone but not have them on the stone itself. To us it does not make sense especially as a metal plate on the stone would be much more permanent.

We contacted the users of the Village Centre i.e. the Clubs, especially the Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion, who all thought it was a touching gesture to those men who lost their lives so that they are not forgotten. Sadly this will not happen now as we have decided, if we cannot do a proper job to give these men the credit they deserve, we will sadly call it a day. All the people who have supported this project feel the same as us and all money will be returned to these kind people. We look forward to the Trustees notice board with the names and details on it. On behalf of the Red House War Memorial Village Centre Committee,

*Tony Price BEM.*

## Purton Evening W.I.

I’m writing this article again on deadline day. I had the great honor today of laying the wreath at the remembrance parade on behalf of the WI.



By the time you read this, we will have celebrated our birthday at our November meeting. You may have noticed that the WI flower bombed the village leaving posies of flowers to brighten your day. If you were lucky enough to find one, we truly hope that you enjoyed them and they brought a smile to your face.

December is traditionally a busy month with lots of Christmas celebrations and social events; by the time Christmas arrives, women are often ready for a rest.

We are in the final stages of putting together our programme for 2020-2021 so why not make it your new years resolution to come and see for yourself how fantastic we are.

The WI, for me, is so much more than our monthly meetings. It’s the opportunities it gives me to learn new things. I’m really hoping that in 2020 I get to Denman College. My only problem is what to learn? Crochet, Calligraphy, learn to cook something new? Decisions, decisions. The one thing I know becoming part of the WI is one of the best things I have ever done.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year and we look forward to seeing some new faces in 2020.

Want to find our more email us at [purtoneveningwi@hotmail.com](mailto:purtoneveningwi@hotmail.com)

*Lynn Mayneord, President*

# Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collection changes

**Changes from  
23 Dec - 13 Jan**

Your normal collection day	Household and recycling	Garden waste*
Mon 23 Dec	✓ no change	✗ no collection
Tues 24 Dec	✓ no change	✗ no collection
Wed 25 Dec	Fri 27 Dec	✗ no collection
Thurs 26 Dec	Sat 28 Dec	✗ no collection
Fri 27 Dec	Mon 30 Dec	✗ no collection
Mon 30 Dec	Tues 31 Dec	✗ no collection
Tues 31 Dec	Thurs 2 Jan	✗ no collection
Wed 1 Jan	Fri 3 Jan	✗ no collection
Thurs 2 Jan	Sat 4 Jan	✗ no collection
Fri 3 Jan	Mon 6 Jan	✗ no collection
Mon 6 Jan	Tues 7 Jan	Tues 7 Jan
Tues 7 Jan	Wed 8 Jan	Wed 8 Jan
Wed 8 Jan	Thur 9 Jan	Thur 9 Jan
Thurs 9 Jan	Fri 10 Jan	Fri 10 Jan
Fri 10 Jan	Sat 11 Jan	Sat 11 Jan
Mon 13 Jan	✓ back to normal	✓ back to normal

**No collections: 25 December, 26 December, 1 January**

Check your collection dates and household recycling centre opening times at [wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling](http://wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling)

**Wiltshire Council**

## Church Floodlighting



- Nov 15 The Church was floodlit in loving memory of **Calum McDonald**, a fine young man. Sadly missed by his large and loving family.
- Nov 19 St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Duncan Bamford's birthday**. Always loved and sadly missed by Jean, Gary, Tracey, Howard and family.
- Dec 1 In memory of **Sam and Paul Jenkins**, Father and Son. They passed away within a few weeks of each other last year. We love you forever and always, Linda and family.
- Dec 7 The Church will be lit in loving memory of our wonderful Mother **Elsa Trotter's birthday** and her sister, our very dear Aunt **Carole Carey's birthday**. All our love, Jude, Deb, Steph, Nieces, Nephews, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.
- Dec 14 St Mary's Church will be floodlit in loving memory of **John Bentley**. A Wonderful Husband, Dad, Grandad, who passed away Dec 14 2016. Missed every day. "His humour lives on". Age 74. Alison, Sharon, Nigel, Scott and Gemma.
- Dec 19 The Church will be floodlit for my wife **Elsie Goodings** on what would have been her birthday. Pete Goodings.
- Dec 31 The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Barbara and Nelson Woolford**

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

## Scout Christmas Post

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

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

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

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

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## Happy Christmas to everyone from Purton Churches

### **Are you excited about Christmas?**

Another year almost over and Christmas is with us once again. It is as if the years pass quicker as we get older. When we are young we spend the weeks beforehand wishing the time away. As we get older we wish that the months would go slower. We can become stressed with so much to do. Or we become lonely as we remember that there will be empty places at the dining table. Gifts on Christmas Day have lost their excitement as we receive yet more socks and scarfs!

We can be tempted to forget the excitement of that first Christmas. In Matthew chapter one (The Bible) Joseph had been excited at the prospect of getting married to Mary, but then all his excitement evaporates when he discovers that Mary is pregnant and he is not the father! But all is not lost because God sends an angel to Joseph in a dream, telling him that the child conceived in Mary “is from the Holy Spirit”, that Mary, “will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Now this is something to be excited about, because the Good News of Christmas is all about salvation, about rescue from the mess of our world and the mess in our lives - the wrong we have done and the right we have failed to do.

And there was more for Joseph and us to get excited about, because, “...they will call him Immanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’).” We may be fearful of being alone to face the difficult things of life, but the Good News of the Christmas message is also about God promising to be with us providing we have first come to Him for rescue. Joseph had planned one thing, but God had planned something far bigger and greater. Joseph took God at His word and trusted Him. We may be excited with our plans for Christmas but God has planned something far greater and bigger with the birth of His Son. Let’s celebrate Christmas this year with a different perspective because of what Jesus came to do and how He promises to be with us if we are willing to trust Him and take Him at His word. Let’s celebrate together at our Christmas Services as we thank God for giving us something or rather someone to be excited about.

*Happy Christmas, Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Vicar of St Mary’s*

### **Angel Festival at St Mary’s Church - Sunday 1st December 2019**

Come and enjoy the Angels - Saturday 30th 1.00pm-5.00pm Sunday 1st 9.00am-7.30pm. If you have any angels at home eg. Christmas decorations, pictures, embroidery, please loan them to St Mary’s to display that weekend. Please bring them on Saturday 30th from 10.00am-1.00pm. Refreshments will be available with all donations going to St Mary’s Renewal Fund

### **Sunday 1st December**

10.30am Angels Festival - United Anniversary Family Service with Food & Activities  
6.00pm Advent Evensong by Candlelight at St Mary’s Church with Blessing of the

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Angels and Handbell ringing

**Sunday 8th December**

6.00pm Classic Christmas Carols with St Mary's School Choir, Ridgeway Farm School Choir, St Mary's Church Music Group, followed by Pies and Punch at St Mary's Church.

**Wednesday 11th December**

2.30pm Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church: Christmas Floral Arrangements and Carols.

**Sunday 15th December**

4.00pm Christingle Service for children of all ages at St Mary's Church with Activities and Refreshments - Children please bring an Adult!

**Wednesday 18th December**

10.00am Christmas Carols at "Coffee & Chat" at Purton Silver Threads Hall.

**Sunday 22nd December**

10.30am Carol Service with mince pies at Purton Methodist Church.

6.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's Church. Candlelight Service with St Mary's Church Choir and a Brass Ensemble followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

**Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December**

4.00pm United Village Carol and Nativity Service with the Cricklade Band at St Mary's Church.

11.30pm Traditional Choral 'Midnight' Communion. Candlelight Service at St Mary's Church.

**Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December**

8.00am Traditional Holy Communion at St Mary's Church.

10.30am Christmas Day Holy Communion Service at Purton Methodist Church.

10.30am Family Holy Communion at St Mary's Church.

## St Mary's Christingle Service

Everyone is warmly invited to a CHRISTINGLE Service on Sunday 15th December at 4pm in St Mary's Church.

In honour of Moira Hayward, who organised this service for 35 years and sadly died earlier in the year, we'll do things 'her way' and make the Christingles (come along and find out what these are if you don't know!) before hand to give to the children.

During the first carol there'll be an opportunity to bring up any donations you want to give to Children's Society. We'll then tell the story of Christingle and invite you to be part of the story yourselves as we light our own Christingles (well risk assessed!). Let's celebrate this special occasion together in memory of Moira.

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*Have you read a book that you will always remember, either recently or many years ago, serious or funny, fact or fiction? Each month we are publishing a review of a book that has meant a lot to a particular reader, especially the reason why it was so memorable. Purton Magazine readers are encouraged to send in a personal review of their favourite book; it need not be very long. As usual,*

*A Book I will Always Remember*  
*the copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on Page 4.*

## *Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee*

Cider with Rosie is the autobiographical tale of Laurie Lee's childhood in the village of Slad, near Stroud just after the First World War. It's a rural community where the children wander freely, creating all sorts of mischief and mayhem, and occasionally making it to the village school.

Laurie lives with his mother and brothers and sisters in a cramped cottage. Where bed sharing is the norm as is ice on the inside of the windows in winter. Although we hear about his father from the letters he sends to the family, his promised visits never materialise and one wonders if the premise of 'important work in London' is actually a cover up for him leading a double life with another wife and family?

It's an innocent, idyllic country life for Laurie, a world away from the turmoil elsewhere, and his day-to-day existence revolves around walking endless miles to and from school (with various shenanigans along the way), the workings of the farms and small businesses around the village and the latest news from the two elderly women, 'er down under' and 'er up atop', who share a cottage next door to the Lees. One upstairs and one down, they do their very best to avoid all contact with each other. When one falls ill and passes away, the other soon follows and it becomes clear that although they seemed to be in a perpetual battle, they can't live without one another.

School forms a central part of the story, with children flocking from all over the valley to congregate in the small room with it's strict teacher, who readily uses the cane to enforce discipline. It's fair to say that education is not enjoyed by the children, 'lit luns' or 'big uns', and on leaving aged 14 to work on a farm or travel to a factory in Stroud, few seem equipped with the knowledge or skills to move beyond their community, but neither do they have the ambition to do so.

Laurie's mother always seems to be at the end of one tether or another, struggling to make ends meet with the absence of her husband and having to deal with all the dramas that her children seem to become embroiled in.

A particular cause for worry is when one of Laurie's sisters starts meeting a man in the woods, who then comes to the house. It becomes clear that the uniformed young man is suffering from what we now know to be PTSD, but was at that time

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labelled a deserter. It's a moral decision that has to be taken and although Laurie's mother doesn't want him to get into trouble, she has to be seen to be 'doing the right thing' and so hands him over to the authorities.

Told through the eyes and mind of a child, the book paints a very naïve story of life in the country, there's some awareness of what's happening in the wider world but it all seems to wash over the children, providing they can play their pranks and live very much for the moment.

In 2016 I camped at the Scout campsite in Cranham, not far from the valleys inhabited by the Lees and many others like them almost a hundred years earlier. On the Saturday evening of our stay in September, the village had congregated at the Black Horse Inn to celebrate the harvest with the Gloucestershire Morris Men, and tankards of cider. We were given a selection of homemade percussion instruments and joined them in the singing of traditional music and dance. As the sun went down over the valley it was Laurie Lee and his family that I half expected to see walking up the steep path the join us.

*Buttercup Joe*, from around the 1870s was one of the songs we sang that evening, accompanied by accordion, fiddle and drum, and it's an experience I shall never forget.

Now I'm a flaxum sort of chap  
My father comes from Spurrum  
My mother's got some warlike boys  
And she knows well how to rur 'em  
Some chaps they call I Bacon Face  
And others Turnip Yead  
But I'm quite as sharp as other chaps  
Though I be country bred

*Chorus*

*I can guide a plough and milk a cow  
And I can reap and mow  
I'm as fresh as the daisies growing  
in the field  
And they call I Buttercup Joe*

Yow heavy swells may laugh and chaff  
To see us eat fat bacon  
But you won't touch our Country [?]  
Oh that's where you're mistaken  
Its [?] and champagne yow recall  
And drink it at your care  
But give me a glass of home brewed ale  
And a crust of bread and cheese

*Chorus*

Now ain't it prime in summer time  
When we go out to haymaking  
The lads and lassies with we chaps  
Their freedom will be talking  
And don't they giggle and make we  
laugh  
Of course 'tis harmless play  
They like to get we country chaps  
And role us in the hay

*Chorus*

Now you should see my young ooman,  
They calls her our Mary  
She works as busy as a bee  
In Farmer Johnson's dairy  
And ain't her suet dumplings nice  
By goose I means to try  
And ask her if she'd like to splice  
A rusty chap like I

*Chorus*

*Heather Ponting-Bather*

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## Remembered book quiz

Three years ago we launched a new series asking readers to send in little personal stories describing why they will Always Remember a specific book. This month you will see the latest in the series on page 32 and many readers will know who wrote Cider With Rosie. However, we have made a little quiz for you. This is the list of the 36 Remembered Book titles but how many of the authors can you remember? There are no prizes because all the answers can be found on our web site ([www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)) and, to avoid any additional angst over the festive period, we have put the answers (in very small type) on page 61. Whether or not you have a go at this memory check, we really do hope that many readers will think about other Remembered Books and send in their own little story to describe why you will always remember the book in question. All contributions are gratefully received and our contact details are on page 4.

<b>Month</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
January	Jane Eyre	Treasure Island	Last Days of Hitler
February	Swallows and Amazons	The Art of Coarse Rugby	Charlotte's web
March	Emma	A Lucky Child	Under a Pole Star
April	The Country Child	The story of my life	The Man I Think I Know
May	King Solomon's Mines	Rogue Male	The man who planted trees
June	The light between the Oceans	The Midnight Folk	Tinker, Taylor, Soldier, Spy
July	Pride and Prejudice	The Box of Delights	Master and Commander
August	Giles	The Humans	Vulcan 607
September	Out with Romany	Marvel's Mutants	Brendon Chase
October	The Complete Molesworth	Mr Polly	John MacNab
November	Greater London Plan of 1944	Birds without wings	Russian Disco
December	Utopia	Guns, germs and steel	Cider with Rosie

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## Latest news from Pips Community Café

### **Happy 1st Anniversary to us**

Pips, Purton's community café, opened on 6 October last year. To celebrate our anniversary everyone in the village was invited for a free hot drink and biscuit on Saturday 19th October. The event was very well attended; those who couldn't come in person left us some comments and suggestions either on Facebook or on post-it notes. We continue to receive lots of positive feedback so why don't you come and see us if you haven't already? We are looking forward to implementing some of the suggestions received over the next few weeks.

We now offer children's portions and children's Picnic Bags (sandwich, yoghurt, box of raisins, Pom Bears and a carton of juice) - £2.50

Our popular breakfasts now include sausage plus bacon, egg, tomato, beans and jam/marmalade/marmite and toast all for only £5 – 50p per extra item

Love it or hate it?? Marmite now available - really scrummy on hot buttered toast.

New Winter Menu – available from the beginning of December

Why not try a Turkey and Cranberry Panini with a Pig in Blanket or 2? Pigs in Blankets available to snack on anytime, Chunky, homemade soups, Christmas Cake and other seasonal goodies. Plus don't forget our other old favourites – Ploughman's, Paninis, jacket potatoes, toasted sandwiches, soups and of course homemade cakes. As much as we can we source locally to further support the village community.

Super fast Broadband now available. This is now available enabling us to move towards accepting card payments.

Pips continues to offer a space for a diverse range of groups and activities. November saw 2 very popular Advent Angel making classes using stained glass and other materials, a craft day, a Police Community Consultation session and a Dementia information session. Let us know if you would like to hold a group or activity at Pips.

### **December Diary**

Dementia Awareness and Police Community Consultation – further details to be announced on our Facebook page.

### **Opening hours in December will be as follows:**

Tuesday 10am - 5.30pm

Wednesday & Thursday 9am - 4.30pm

Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Saturday 10am - 2pm – LAST ORDERS 1PM

As usual last orders are 30 minutes prior to closing (apart from Saturday)

We will be closed from 2:00pm on Friday 20th December (last orders at 1:00pm) until 10:00 am Tuesday 7th January.



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Remember - Please do let us know if you can spare even a few hours per week or month. It's good fun, full training is given on the easy to use equipment and it's a really good opportunity to meet your fellow villagers. Why don't you pop in and see for yourself? Contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

### **Regular Clubs and Activities**

#### **Tuesday**

Talking Table 10am

Frances Barrone – Local Area Coordinator

Knitting group - alternate Tuesdays (4th June & 18th June) 10am to midday

After school chess and board games club - until 5:30pm

#### **Wednesday**

Talking Table 10am

Hand sewing, patchwork, quilting - 1 to 3pm

Book Club – 1st Wednesday of the month

#### **Thursday**

Talking Table 10am

Art - 1:30 to 3:30

#### **Friday**

Talking Table 10am

Crochet Group - from 10am to midday

All clubs and activities are run by members of the village (not PIPS), have no membership fee, are quite small groups and would love new members. So why not come along?! Or if you want to start a group let us know and we'll try and accommodate you.

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

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

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

Never fear - you can call the PIPS team to place your order. It will be ready and waiting when you are ready to collect. This is proving very popular with the various builders working locally. Call 07498 526872.

From all at Pips – we hope you have a very merry Christmas and a Happy and peaceful New Year.

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://facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe) or call 07498 526872 to place an order.

*The Pips team*

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## Look after yourself this winter

As the dark nights draw in across Wiltshire and winter really starts to bite, it's worth thinking about how we can all make sure we're looking after ourselves and staying well over the cold winter months.

The NHS recently launched its annual winter campaign – Help Us Help You– which is here to help make it easier to understand the things you can do.

We all know hospitals and surgeries can be especially busy during the winter months and it can often be tricky to know the best place to go for help, so here's some handy tips to see you through until spring:

### **1. It's not too late to get your flu jab**

The free flu vaccination is offered to those who are at increased risk from the effects of flu, including people aged 65 and over, pregnant women, those with underlying health conditions and children aged 2-10. If you've not had one yet, it's not too late.

### **2. Call 111 or visit 111.nhs.uk online**

If you're unsure where to go and think you need urgent medical attention, but it's not life-threatening, contacting NHS 111 can help you make sure you reach the most suitable NHS service for your needs.

### **3. Ask a pharmacist for advice before minor ailments or winter illnesses get worse**

Community pharmacists are qualified healthcare professional who can offer clinical advice and over the counter medicines to safely manage things like coughs, colds and sore throats.

It's quick and convenient to see a pharmacist– you don't need to book an appointment and can often be seen in a private consultation room.

### **4. See your GP in the evening or weekend if you can't see them during the day**

If you need to see a GP but find it hard to find the time during routine hours, appointments with a GP, nurse or other healthcare professionals are often available in the evenings and at weekends through many local practices or other local NHS services. For more information about services in your area visit:

[www.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/local-services](http://www.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/local-services)

## Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *The Fox, The Pry, Collins Lane, (and from Moulden View) Arabian Avenue, Palamino Place and Eriskay Place*

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## Bradon Forest School

### **Shakespeare Workshop at the Wyvern**

Our cast of 30 students ranging from Year 7 to 11 performed in the Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Wyvern theatre earlier this month. They worked with actors from the National Theatre in a production of Romeo and Juliet.

Comments from the audience; “Wow what a show it was. Bradon students performed exceptionally well. The children enjoyed every moment from rehearsals to the play. The teachers are truly remarkable, and they made this version of the story modern, interesting and fun. Huge congratulations to everyone involved!”.

“Thanks Miss Noone and Miss Reynolds for bringing these opportunities to our children, what a fantastic drama department. The evening was brilliant!”

### **More great netball news!**

Our U16 netball team beat Newton Abbot in the National Cup, 46-32. This is the first time we have entered this competition and we were delighted with the win in such a close fought game.



### **Interhouse Cross Country competition**

The super muddy conditions did not deter our Year 7 students as they took part in their first inter-house cross country competition at the end of Term 1. Fantastic resilience was shown with quite a few students challenging themselves to go through ‘The Bog’!

### **Helping a member of our local community in distress**

Some of our staff were involved in supporting a local woman (cf. last month’s letters) who was injured by cows in the field adjacent to school whilst walking her dogs recently. A small number of our Year 10 students and staff were in the neighbouring field for cross country at the time. The lady concerned visited the school the next morning to thank the staff and students who came to her rescue. She was incredibly grateful for the support she received. Bradon Forest staff and students who were involved in this shocking incident were very brave and were personally thanked by Mrs Dickson, the Headteacher.



### **Grandparents' Coffee Morning for new Year 7 students**

We were delighted to welcome so many grandparents to our first celebration assembly for Year 7s. Our students thoroughly enjoyed showing their grandparents around the school. For some, it had been some considerable time since they had last set foot in a school! Refreshments were served by the Year 11 Student Leadership Team and members of the Senior Leadership Team while the Year 7 pastoral team chatted with students and grandparents.

Comments we received; "Thank you Bradon Forest for such a warm welcome today. Such a great idea for us grandparents to look around your amazing school and the coffee was good too!"

"Such a lovely friendly school. It was so nice to see some of the classrooms that my grandson was in and to be shown around by him as well. The children there are so polite and well-mannered. Thank you Bradon Forest for inviting us."

### **Hello Yellow - Mental Health Awareness**

On World Mental Health Day we showed students they were not alone with their mental health and raised money for the Young Minds charity. At breaktime we had a photo booth in the hall with yellow props! #HelloYellow



Mrs Marsh, organiser of the photo booth, said, "Students are under increasing pressure at school and home. We wanted to let all our students know they are not alone and where to go for help." Thanks to Year 11 students Keira, Issy and Isabelle for helping with the photo booth.

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## The other side of the gate

I'm reminded of one of my father's favourite quotes: "Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink!" It's a line from the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge from a sailor on a calm sea. I can only assume he read it at school. My father's memory was legendary - we called him 'Recall' if we ever did a quiz at home! Anyway, he used this line whenever it rained a lot and oh boy have we had a lot of rain this last month. The contrast from last year is extreme. Normally this wouldn't be a problem, but as the new cow housing isn't up, the cows are still out in the fields and they're making a right mess! Concrete is getting poured in this week so the end is in sight!



At the end of October, Sarah and I went on a vet-arranged visit to the Goslings' Farm at Wroughton and then on to their milk processing facility. You'd know them as Berkeley Farm Dairy. Nick and Christine Gosling have 180 organic Guernsey milking cows. It's an impressive set up with emphasis firmly on animal welfare. We were there to learn about the risk of disease to the new born calf. When born the calf has virtually no immune system. The colostrum (first milk) is full of everything that the calf needs to populate its immune system and stomach. The timing of this first milk is very important. Quite simply, the quicker it feeds and the more it consumes will have a direct effect on the rest of that animal's life (it's no different for humans – we're all mammals). Best practice recommends at least 10% in weight of milk within the first 24 hours! Some of our calves would weigh upwards of 50 kilograms (yes that is big!) so will need at least five litres (one litre of milk is just over one kilogram in weight). Calves born outside on grass are under far less challenge from bacteria and pathogens. The soil bacteria helps give the calf immunity too - this would also be correct for humans! That is the main reason we are changing our calving periods to avoid the winter housing. We don't want calves born in sheds if we can avoid it!

We then went on to the processing unit down the road. Ed Gosling, Nick and Christine's son, has taken over the running of the company. He's currently taking all the milk from the family farm and another farm at Chiseldon. He bottles for Abel and Cole and he also has his own retailers (one being Purton House) and makes

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butter, kefir (for Biotiful) and yogurts. The investment he's made and expansion he's making over the next few years is impressive. He's starting up the Wroughton milk round again (they stopped in the 1980s) and, as well as organic milk, he will be supplying non organic milk – very exciting times! I'm sure at some point we will be working together. He's a very energetic young man with lots of good ideas.

On a sad note, our old cow Melly (she was soon going to be 14) was found dead in the dry cow field. She was heavily in calf and due in December. We have no way of knowing what happened, but our vet, Alex, examined her without opening her up and believes that the calf may have ruptured her uterus. There weren't any signs of her being in pain (thrashing marks on the ground) so we hope it wasn't a painful death. I'm going to miss her. She loved her back being scratched and if you were careful, you could work up to her ears.

Poppy, our one Inconclusive Reactor (IR) from the last bTB test has passed her second test with no problems. It's a great relief to know we're clear for another year. Jersey Girl has finally calved at three years old. That's a year later than she should have and to top it off, she had a Jersey boy. So, all round disaster and to make it worse, her milk isn't good enough for the tank so she's feeding the pigs at the moment. Her son, nicknamed The Ginger Ninja as he's so fast, has a very funny character. He's not that friendly but makes us laugh regularly. If we sent him to market he'd make five pounds and would probably go straight to slaughter – with which I don't agree - so looks like he's staying here! We've put a jacket on him as he's a skinny bean. I'm sure he's going to be lots of trouble over the next few months!

Pinky has also just calved. She has had a British Blue bull calf. True to Pinky's past performances she wanted nothing to do with the calf, so he's now getting milk from wherever he can. Not too much trouble for him as Skinny and Dot both calved and are happy to adopt him. Miss P (Miss P is short for princess... she can be a bit precious at times!) has also just had a bull calf from James, so we've got a few trouble makers running around!

We have postponed the bonfire behind the School until December - we hope the fields are not as wet then.

*Jonathan Cook*

## *The Phoenix Players present Sailor Beware!*

This successful stage play was adapted for the cinema in 1956, becoming one of the most popular films of the year. Come and enjoy the fun, the tensions, the arguments, the hornpipe jig, the ferrets and much more! At the Arts Centre Swindon from Wednesday January 29th to Saturday February 1st 2020. Tickets at [www.phoenix-player.com](http://www.phoenix-player.com) or Tel. 07517 698083

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## Purton Village Diary - December 2019

Su 1	200 Not Out, the 200th anniversary story of Purton Cricket Club goes on sale
	9.00am Angel Festival at St Mary's Church
	10.30am United Family Service at St Mary's Church
	6.00pm Evensong at St Mary's Church with handbells
	7.30pm Chedworth Silver Band play at the Village Hall
M 2	7.00pm Parish Council finance and general purpose meeting at the Village Hall
Tu 3	2.00pm Purton Entertainers at Silver Threads Hall
W 4	10.00am Age Concern Christmas shopping trip to Evesham
	7.30pm Carnival Bingo at Silver Threads Hall
Th 5	10.30am Communion at The Vicarage
F 6	7.30pm Purton Historical Society social evening at Silver Threads
	7.30pm St Mary's PTA and Pear Drops Pre-school ladies only cheese and wine evening at the Village Hall
Sa 7	10.00am Christmas Coffee Morning at 35 High Street for Purton Surgery automatic doors
	5.00pm Age Concern Christmas party at the Village Hall
	7.30pm Carnival Quiz at The Red House
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Su 8	8.00am Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am Communion at St Mary's Church
	6.00pm Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church with school choirs and music groups
M 9	2.00pm St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a devotional afternoon with Revd Dr John Railton
	7.00pm Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
Tu 10	10.00am Purton Probus talk on Operation Agila, Zimbabwe at the Red House Lounge
	11.00am Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
	11.30am Scattering of Alan Eastwood's ashes at Purton FC, Red House Ground
	8.00pm After 8 Christmas Sing- a- long and Secret Santa
W 11	2.30pm Methodist Women's Fellowship meet for Christmas flowers and carols at Purton Methodist Church
T 12	11.00am Songs of Praise at The Cedars
F 13	3.30pm St Mary's School PTA Christmas Fayre
	7.30pm Purton Twinning Association at Silver Threads Hall
Sa 14	9.00am Age Concern Christmas Market at Pavenhill shops
Su 15	8.00am Communion at St Mary's Church

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	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
	4.00pm	St Mary's Church Christingle Service
Tu 17	2.00pm	Dorcan Choir sing at Silver Threads Hall
W 18	10.00am	Christmas Carols at 'Coffe & Chat' at Silver Threads Hall
	2.30pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
F 20	9.00am	One Stop Christmas Fundraiser
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Su 22	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Carols and mince pies at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	6.00pm	Festival of Nine Lessons and carols at St Mary's Church
	7.30pm	Cricklade Band's 'Christmas Present' concert at Cricklade Town Hall
Tu 24	4.00pm	United Village carol and nativity service with Cricklade Band at St Mary's Church
	7.00pm	Age Concern Carols, mince pies and mulled wine at the Red House
	11.30pm	Traditional choral communion by candlelight at St Mary's Church
W 25	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
Su 29	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church

**Every week**

M	7.00pm	to 8.00pm	Purton Village Voices choir practice at the Red House Skittle Alley (term time)
Tu	9.00am	to 11am	Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	12 noon		Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
	1.45pm	to 3.45pm	Post Office van stops at Purton Village Hall car park
	7.30pm		Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	to 12 noon	Coffee and chat at Silver Threads Hall
	2.00pm	to 5.00pm	Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)
	6.15pm		Purton Youth Club for school years 4-7 at Purton Village Hall
Th	12 noon		Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
	2.00pm	to 3pm	Age Concern Tai Chi at Millennium Hall (term time)
	2.20pm		Pram Service for pre-school children at Purton Methodist Church (term time)
F	10.00am	to 11.30am	Tea, coffee and cake at The Cedars
Sa	10.00am	to 12.30pm	Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)

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## 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
2nd & 4th Tuesday	Purton Silver Threads meet at the Silver Threads Hall
3rd Monday	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church
3rd Tuesday	Royal British Legion meet at the Red House
3rd Wednesday	2.15pm Rhyme Time at Purton Library for babies, toddlers and their carers

## January

Tu 14 2.00pm Bingo with John at Silver Threads Hall  
25 Age Concern Burns Night Celebration

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: 19 Nov ● New moon: 26 Nov ● 1st Quarter: 4 Dec  
○ Full moon: 12 Dec ● 3rd Quarter: 19 Dec



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

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# St Mary's Primary School

Term 2 has got off to a positive and productive start. Our life-long values for this term are 'Respect and Tolerance'. Mrs Clarke shared the book 'All Are Welcome' in the first assembly of the term, which is a perfect title for St Mary's!



Over the half term holiday, workmen have been extremely busy installing a new all-weather running track around the playing field. This will enhance the school's ability to provide PE activities throughout the year for the children.



Our EYFS children compiled a piece for the recent Artists Exhibition in the Village Hall. The teachers of Challenger and Endeavor Classes were very impressed and extremely proud of the children who took part. The display is currently up in our reception area, so if you happen to visit, you will be able to see it hanging on the wall!

We recently held a Bedtime Stories Day where children came to school in their Pyjamas and shared lots of stories together in a fun day of reading. This was to raise money for our new outside reading area, and we were delighted to make approximately £300 for this project. Mr Southern and his team from Swindon College have made some fantastic wooden reading thrones, which will take pride of place in this new area.



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Staff News: Congratulations to Mr Biddle and his wife who had a baby girl called Marlie this month.

**Dates for your Diary:**

PTA Ladies Only, Cheese and Wine Evening - Friday 6th December 2019 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The school are teaming up with Peardrops Playgroup to put on this fundraiser. Tickets costing £6 are available from the school or playgroup.

PTA Christmas Fayre from 3.30pm until 5pm at school. Friday 13th December 2019.

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

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

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

*Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head Teacher*

## *Purton And District Darts League*

As the newly elected Secretary of the Purton and District Darts League, it has been a bit of a steep learning curve for me, so apologies for the late update. Our winter season began on 5th September with eleven teams signing up to the league: three teams from the Red House Club, two from the Purton Club, three from the Phoenix Club in Royal Wootton Bassett and one team each from the Angel and the Bell Inn and finally one team from the Bees Knee's in Cirencester. Currently Bees Knee's are clear leaders at the top of the league.

On 7th November we took a break from league games to hold the Peter Leatherbarrow 3-a-side knock out tournament. Thanks to the Red House Club for hosting this event, which was well supported with 12 teams taking part. The cup was won by Ben, Lou and Mark from Purton Club with runners up being Jim, Widgy and Mark from Phoenix Club, after an exciting final. A good night was had by all.

Our next competition is the Christmas Pairs knockout tournament on 19th December at Purton Club.

*Sue Giles, Secretary.*

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## After 8



Well this was a different evening for the After 8 group. Would we like to watch a DVD? A film was chosen that most of us had not heard of – The Green Book

We sat back to hopefully enjoy the film in the pleasant surroundings of Janet's home. Here, we must thank the techie gang (two husbands and a son) who had set up the screen, projector and laptop, to work together and seamlessly play the film. I must add that popcorn was served throughout the evening and ice creams also appeared, courtesy of Janet. The pleasurable thing was that no adverts were needed all evening.

Now to the film – The Green Book this is a 2018 American biographical comedy drama film directed by Peter Farrelly.

Set in 1962 the film is inspired by the true story of a tour of the Deep South by African American classical and jazz pianist, Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali) and Italian American bouncer, Frank 'Tony Lip' Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen) who served as Shirley's driver and bodyguard. The film was written by Nick Vallelonga, after interviews with his father and Shirley, as well as reading letters his father wrote to his mother.

The film is named after 'The Negro Motorist Green Book', a mid-20th century guidebook for African- American travellers written by Victor Hugo Green. It listed businesses that served black travellers in the segregated South and promised vacation without aggravation. Making the film more than 50 years after the event it depicts has not muted its powerful message about overcoming prejudice. It confronts the issue of racism and segregation.

As an aside Tony Lip and Dr Donald Shirley remained friends until they died within months of each other in 2013.

We all found it a very engrossing and moving film and nobody fell asleep during the showing. When you reach a certain age there is always this tendency to nod off whilst TV viewing!

Many thanks go to Janet and team for making it a different and enjoyable evening.

Next meeting: Tues 10 December – Christmas Sing-along and Secret Santa

*Sandra Horsnall*

Our annual planning meeting generated lots of ideas – which theatre production should we choose? Should we find something topical for one month? How about a visit? We aim for a varied programme, need to agree a venue and decide who will lead. Some initial suggestions for a theatre trip led to discussions on the cost of trains to Bath plus the additional possible station parking. Eventually it was decided to support our local Arts Centre. Date fixed. Now on to the possibility of a quiz, perhaps two during the year. Who would set them? – we soon had volunteers. What about some research, a topic was suggested and agreed. Should we learn something

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new? We always have a meal out... but where? More thoughts and ideas. Now another suggestion of a visit to venue some hadn't even heard of ...

A plan was in shape, likely to be adjusted as the year progresses but hey! ... we're flexible. Barbara then produced a short quiz (not easy, I might add!) before we finished the evening.

*Sheila*

# Ten Years Ago...

Not for the first time in the magazine, in December 2009 planning matters took centre stage. Ps & Qs had a superb take on it, in an article headed "Probably the last thing you want to hear about". It continued "over the years we have been consulted on the Swindon Principal Area Study (2003), the Swindon Area Study (2005), the Swindon Small Scale Urban Extensions Study (2008), the West of Swindon Study (2006) and its Update (2009) and of course the Regional Spatial Strategy, not to mention the Wiltshire Structure Plan to 2016 and the good old North Wilts Local Plan to 2011".

With the re-organisation of Wiltshire Council earlier in the year, the local pen-pushers now had a grand excuse to produce the Wiltshire Core Strategy, covering the period to 2026. A quick skim of today's internet shows that the said strategy was submitted to Whitehall for the Government's approval in July 2018 – yes, 2018! – nine years later.

A controversial piece blamed the over-50's for having the highest "carbon footprint" of any age-group and lamented that their numbers were increasing every year. Yet they "commonly want to do something to help" but "do not know what to do for the best". There was an "over-emphasis on the negative" but, not to worry, all the world's problems could be sorted out by a ten-minute presentation. I could link that sentiment to Brexit....

On the lighter side, the Gardeners' Guild announced a forthcoming talk on an expedition to Antarctica. Without meaning disrespect to the speaker, are there any gardens in Antarctica?

The museum offered a copy of a bill from 1967 for the service of an Austin A40, all for the grand sum of about £15.40. Things were simpler then; it was a spark plug and drum brake job. On the other hand, the car had to go in for service every 4,000 miles. And yet twenty years before that I remember my Dad putting in his A40 for a service after 1,000 miles.

We Record ...

**Funerals at St Mary's Church**

14 Oct 2019 Susan Winniefred Matthews (77)

18 Oct 2019 Rosemary Jean Rawlings (87)

06 Nov 2019 Pearl Rosemary Lillian Antal (93)

**Funeral at North Wiltshire Crematorium**

18 Oct 2019 Rita Walker (92)



## Cricklade Revealed For Christmas?

Cricklade Revealed books have often made welcome presents for those who love to recall former times, and discover the many stories donated by local folk about Cricklade and its surrounding villages from the twenties to the seventies. Individual books are £3.60 each, but only £3.00 each if five or more are bought together. Please contact: Marion Parsons (750542) or [mfparsons071@btinternet.com](mailto:mfparsons071@btinternet.com) if you would like to take advantage of this offer before Christmas. Thank you.

The profits from Cricklade Revealed sales are donated to Cricklade Open Door.



*Season's Greetings!*

*Leon and Marlene Slee wish all their many friends in Purton and District  
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*We enjoyed 40 very happy years with you (the longest period that we will  
ever spend anywhere). We never expected to move but are now happy to  
be living in Elgin, near Inverness, just a short distance from our family.*

*Our thoughts will always be with you.*

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## Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group

I have been invited to report on this relatively new group that was set up following a screening of the film 'A Plastic Ocean' in February. In the past, we've had great Environmental groups in Purton but none currently, so I went along to the first session at the Cross Keys Pub in Royal Wootton Bassett. Not knowing what to expect, I was delighted to find a group of mixed ages, some on the town and county councils, others running small businesses, young people, parents, teachers, farmers and some dragged along by friends and enjoying the wine (if you order a second glass on Tuesdays they give you the bottle for free!).

Since the first meeting a Facebook page has been set up which already has 299 members, many of whom are from Purton. This is a great platform for sharing information about what people and organisations are doing to combat the environmental crisis and where you can get sustainable goods and services.

The group meets once a month and projects are gradually developing as we work out what will be most helpful on a local level. Already, we have worked with Royal Wootton Bassett town councillors to identify a site on council owned land to plant trees – we hope to obtain these from The Woodland Trust. We also have links with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, The Canal Trust, the Sustrans cycle network and with various schools and churches in the area. We organised an event at Wootton Bassett High School inviting James Gray MP to speak and listen to questions from us and the school children.

There is strong interest within the group for increasing wildlife and bio-diversity. We took a walk to the beautiful meadows at Morningside Farm and group members are growing wild flowers from local seed to be made available for gardeners in the Spring.

Later this month we'll be attending the Local Area Board Meeting of councillors (including Purton Councillor Jacqui Lay) which I'll report on in the next issue. Meanwhile if you'd like to join the group you can find us on Facebook – search Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group. Or you can contact me to find out how to get involved.

*Kate Robinson, Email: [purtonfarmshop@gmail.com](mailto:purtonfarmshop@gmail.com) Tel. 01 793 772930*

Join Wiltshire Council's drive to be carbon neutral by 2030 - Make the Wiltshire Green Pledge



We are asking you to make changes to your everyday lives and play your part in making big changes to the environment.

The Wiltshire Green Pledge is a simple online tool to encourage people to commit to doing what they can to be as environmentally friendly as possible.

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You can pledge whatever you want from leaving the car at home more often to using reusable cups ; there are plenty of simple changes you can make.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Wiltshire Council Deputy Leader, said: “Our Wiltshire Green Pledge will help people focus their minds to do what they can to protect the environment.

“We have big ambitions and if we’re going to effect the kind of positive changes we want to, then we need everyone to do their bit.”

Wiltshire Council has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2030, and its councillors have agreed to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030.

You can record your pledge online.

We are carrying out a lot of work to reduce carbon emissions. Including:

- Investing more than £5m on carbon-reducing technology in its buildings.
- Securing all the electricity on our corporate contract from a green tariff with effect from 1st April 2020 , which means that 100% of the council’s electricity will be matched by the supplier with a certified renewable energy source.
- Ensuring our response to climate change is enhanced within the Core Strategy - the council’s key planning and development document.
- Drafting the fourth Local Transport Plan to reflect the target to reduce carbon emissions and develop policies to make further improvements.
- Continuing to monitor air quality in Wiltshire through its updated Air Quality Strategy which will soon be formally reported to Full Council.
- Ensuring the Household Waste Management Strategy continues to focus on reducing the carbon impact of its operations, for example in 2008/9 the council landfilled more than 56% of its waste, by 2018/19 this figure was less than 16%.
- Working with Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Partnership to engage with businesses and industry in Wiltshire to reduce carbon emissions.
- Arranging a series of environmentally-themed area board meetings to take place later this year to engage with communities and local residents.

The Wiltshire Green Pledge is a simple online tool to encourage you to commit to making small changes to be as environmentally friendly as possible.

There are many small changes that can have a big positive impact on the environment. Such as:

- Leave the car at home and walk more
- Take shorter showers and turn off taps when brushing teeth
- Use a reusable cup
- Turn off lights when not using them

Those are just some suggestions but there’s so much more you can do.

Visit: <https://surveys.wiltshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=157261245291>

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## Purton Carnival

Purton Carnival would like to take this chance to apologise for the lack of communication in recent months. We have had a variety of personal issues.

Since our last article we have held our AGM, a bingo and two Quizzes.

Our Bingo event was a joyous success and we look forward to our next one on 4th December 2019. Please join us for seven rounds of bingo a hot drink and a cake for £10. We will hold a raffle and a sweet guess, both each for £1 a go.

Our two Quizzes have been at the recently opened Royal George and the Angel. These have had limited success. We have a further quiz on 7th December 2019 at The Red House Club. Again please join us for £10 a team of up to six, to answer our fun questions, and as always there will be that raffle at £1 a go.

We have had a challenging but enjoyable year putting on the events and at our AGM we were saddened we had to announce that the carnival committee will be unable to continue as it has. Several of our committee have moved away from the village. Ill health and members standing down means there will be just two of us next year.

With sadness, we have to announce that we will be unable to run the Easter Egg Hunt or the summer hog roast and live music event in June, however, The Red House Club have decided to take on the Hog Roast and Live music Event in June and, where we can, we will hopefully be able to support them.

We can still do the bingo and can confirm the following dates:

8th April 2020

26th August 2020

2nd December 2020

We also have gazebos, chairs and tables, etc that can be used for a donation.

If there are any events you would like us to put on or support, or provide the equipment then please contact us through Facebook, Email [tru.gough@gmail.com](mailto:tru.gough@gmail.com) or call/text 07715618920

In the last 12 months we did not make a profit and so will not be able to support any causes this year. We will keep hold of the money in case the committee increases in size and can fund more events.

As a committee we have had two aims for our time

1 - to entertain you

2 - raise money to put to good causes in the village.

We have successfully done the first.

We thank you all for your support and hope you continue in the following year.

*Tru Gough & Michael Greensmith*

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## Angel Festival In Purton

We are looking forward to holding an Angel Festival at St Mary's over the Advent weekend of November 30 and especially Sunday December 1st.

We are hoping that everyone in Purton, children and adults, will bring their angels to church on Saturday morning, between 10am-1pm so that we can display them ready for all to see and enjoy. Many of them hopefully will fit onto the Church Christmas tree!

Then on Saturday afternoon, from 1pm and throughout Sunday 1st, Advent Sunday, 9am – 7.30pm they will be on display. We shall offer tea/coffee and biscuits to all visitors and any donations will be put towards the Renewal Fund for the Church.

On Sunday 1st Advent Sunday there will also be services at 10.30 and again at 6pm with handbells when the angel display will be blessed before they are returned to their homes across Purton after Evensong.

Please do bring your angels...drawings, sculptures, sewing, papier mache', Lego, Connect, knitting.... all and every one will be welcomed, large and small. There is also an Angel Quiz on the go, and there will be an Angel booklet drawing attention to some of the permanent angels in St Mary's church.

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

## Purton Football Club

After the sad passing of our President Alan Eastwood, we are slowing but surely getting the football club back to normality to try and fill the large void that was left by MR.PURTON FOOTBALL CLUB.

I would like to announce that Andy Cowan is filling the secretary role within the club and his inner knowledge of the football club as well as being involved in Purton Youth Football Club gives us a good foundation to continue Alan's work that was so meticulously done.

Graham Price and myself cleared Alan's paperwork etc. from the Eastwood residence (much to his wife's relief I think) and I have put three photo albums in the Red House for anybody to browse over as well as keeping six or seven other albums with paper cuttings and yet more photos in a container in my garage should anybody request anything specific, because I bet it's there somewhere.

\*Finally I would like to let everybody know that the Parish Council has give us permission to spread Alan's ashes alongside the football pitch and this will be done by Sue Eastwood and her family on December 10th at 11:30am, which would have been Alan's birthday.

*Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC*



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## Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



1st Purton Rainbows have been learning about Rainbows through the years and also the wider guiding family as they dressed paper dolls in the Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger uniform. They have also had lots of fun learning how to tie bows on gifts and shoelaces.

2nd Purton Brownies have completed several Unit Meeting Activities from across the guiding themes. Using cardboard boxes, wallpaper, carpet and lots of imagination they created some very luxurious “rooms in boxes”. ‘Disaster Strikes’ made the girls consider what they would really need if shipwrecked. They were only allowed five items and they all chose a first aid kit. ‘Unfantastic Plastic’ was about reusing, recycling or rethinking the use of plastic. They discussed the damage to the environment and found the girls very knowledgeable on the subject. Some were very vocal indeed!

1st Purton Brownies spent an evening planning a celebration. They picked a Hallowe’en theme and split into three organising teams to plan entertainment, decorations and refreshments. The celebration evening itself was the following week when Jess, Matilda, Poppy and Sophia made their Brownie promise. A spooky play, apple bobbing and masks were all part of the evening.

Guides have been continuing with the Amey engineering challenge badge and are very grateful to various visitors. First there was Lisa, a genetic engineer, who explained how we all have a genetic code, what it looks like and how different components make us unique. Beaver leaders Rich and Graham brought an electronics kit which the Guides used to construct robots which could be programmed to dance – very cool! Civil engineer Eve from Network Rail was the next visitor. She challenged the girls to design improvements to a plain railway platform. They discussed, designed and pitched their ideas, including a budget. Features had safety in mind, including solar panels to power automated train barriers. Budgets ranged from a mere £1,000 to a cool £1 million!

A group of 19 Guides spent a wet and windy two days based at the Benjamin Perry Boathouse in Bristol. They packed in different modes of transport; starting with a train journey to Bristol, a ferry ride across the river, then on foot, followed by a bus journey to a museum and a car ride back home! They packed in the activities too: a museum visit, a workshop in the Apple Store, a meal at Za Za Bazaar and a visit to Aerospace Bristol where Caitlin chose to make her Guide promise on Concorde – a real memory to treasure. Thank you to leader Alice for organising the trip, which she used as her test residential event to gain the Girlguiding qualification to take girls away overnight.

Unfortunately the wind and the rain seem to have followed Purton Guides, as Streetwise this year was rather soggy! Streetwise is a trail around Swindon for Guides, Scouts, Rangers and Explorer Scouts which they complete on foot and

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using public transport, answering questions as they go to gain points. The weather obviously didn't deter them though as 'Cool Dudes' (the 1st Purton Guides accompanied team) came 3rd out of 20 in their category and the Purton Guides unaccompanied team (Sad Pumpkin Oranges) came a creditable 9th out of the 34 unaccompanied teams

And last, but by no means least, we would like to say a huge thank you to Purton Helping Hand for the very generous donation received for the Purton guiding units. We will be giving careful consideration as to how to spend it to best benefit the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

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

## Wessex Male Choir Recruitment Evening 14th January

### **For You Normal Blokes**

Christmas is a time to enjoy scrumptious food with the family, and afterwards, snuggle into a comfy chair accompanied by chocolates and port whilst watching Indiana Jones. For us Wessex choristers, it's a time to recover from the demands of a full calendar.

Christmas, in particular, is a busy time for us, but I can't imagine a Christmas without carols. They are the bonds which tie together the delights of the festive season, and the opportunity to sing them in a Christmas concert is a great privilege. Singing is such a joyful thing to do and is so easily in reach for us all. There are few things that can elevate your emotion like singing in choir. That feeling when you have sung with your buddies, well it simply transports you to another place. A place where you feel just how good life can be. And you don't need to be a super singer to do this. If you can sing in tune, learn your words, and turn up regularly at rehearsal, you will be just like the rest of us. It's within your grasp.

In fact, we recently held a "taster" evening, so men could come along to see and hear us. You may have seen articles about it in the Adver and local community magazines. Eight blokes came along, enjoyed themselves and decided they wanted to stay. Normal blokes, just like the rest of us. Some had sung with other choirs, and some hadn't. They took a leap of faith and have made the first step to joining the mighty Wessex! They found out that whilst we take our singing seriously, we don't take ourselves too seriously, and we wish them every success with us. We will be hosting another "taster" event on the 14th January which is open to all men.

Sometimes in life, you just need to jump in and give it a go. So why not drop Nick an email on: [membership@wessexmalechoir.co.uk](mailto:membership@wessexmalechoir.co.uk) and come along to see and hear what we do? What have you got to lose?



## **Dr John Belt**

Last month was a sad one for the Society in that Dr John Belt died, our President since 2009. John was a founder member in 1961, whose opinions and advice have been valued over the years. The Society sends its deepest sympathy to John's wife Jean and family.

*Marion Hobbs, Chairman*

## **Future Meetings**

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

**\*Christmas Social Evening\***

The Historical Society's Christmas Social is always a very friendly festive evening. This year, back by popular request, we have booked The Whitehorse Folk Group to provide our entertainment. In addition there will be a buffet supper, a quiz, a raffle and a lucky ticket number. We supply the food and the glasses - you are welcome to bring your own choice of drinks. Ticket price remains the same as last year at £12.50 and these are available from the following people -

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

*Jim Mosley: Tel: 01793 778395 E mail: j.mosley1@btinternet.com*

**Thursday 23rd January 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Purton Village Hall**

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

Sarah will be talking about St. Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze, which is currently undergoing a million pound conservation project to preserve and breathe life back into the building's medieval wall paintings and decorative paint schemes. The project began with essential repairs to the historic fabric of the building followed by intensive work to the Nave, South Porch and St. John Chapel, where conservation students from all over the world came to practice their skills under the expert guidance of the church's conservation team. Exciting discoveries have been made along the way, including features obscured during the Reformation and at the time of Oliver Cromwell. If you thought the church interior was all about its wonderful 17th Century monuments to the St. John family, this is a chance to learn more about its earlier history and pivotal role in the lives of everyday people. St. Mary's is closed between January and March 2020 to install new heating, and undertake repair works to the pews but if you would like to visit in November or December please do refer to the church's new website [www.stmaryslydiardtregoze.org.uk](http://www.stmaryslydiardtregoze.org.uk) to find out when it is open, how the project is progressing and ways to get involved.

**Thursday 27th February 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Purton Village Hall**

**Nick Baxter – St. Dunstan and the Miracle of Calne**

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**Thursday 26th March 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Purton Village Hall  
Annual General Meeting followed by Joe Gardner – Purton Cricket Club  
bicentenary**

New Members and visitors always welcome

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

**Museum Update**

The museum is now closed for the winter months. Watch this space for details of the 2020 very special exhibition. Visit [www.purtonmuseumandhistorysociety.com](http://www.purtonmuseumandhistorysociety.com)

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

**Purton & District Gardeners' Guild**

It may have been late October and time for some to put the 'garden to bed' but not for Jon Mason, Director of Highfield Garden World, the largest independent Garden Centre in Gloucestershire situated on the A38 off J13 of the M5. He arrived at our October meeting with a splendid selection of plants, ready to present a talk and demonstration on how to keep foliage and colour in the garden throughout the winter season by growing plants in containers. This was a return visit for Jon and as before his talk was delivered with his special blend of humour. A family owned concern, he light heartedly revealed how Highfield's 84 year old managing director still 'cracks the whip' on the couple of days each week that she does her rounds!!



The success of Highfield as a garden centre can be measured by what was a turnover of £½ a million just 24 years ago, and is now £10½ million.

Plans are now in motion for major refurbishment to extend the car park and Highfield's very popular restaurant, it's current seating for 350 persons proving insufficient on busy days!

So on to the topic of the evening and where best to begin. Jon asked us to consider a few tips before planting up any container.

- Firstly is the container adequate for the size and needs of the plants to be used, i.e. is the pot/container big enough?
- Is the shape suitable? For instance, pots with a wider waist than neck, should only be considered for planting up annuals. Where other plants are used and are allowed to grow on, their roots grow and spread around the pot, making it difficult to remove them through the narrow neck.
- Is there sufficient drainage? Providing adequate drainage by adding extra holes in the base is vitally important when growing plants in containers throughout the winter to prevent the risk of rot.
- Lastly but probably the most important point – Is the compost adequate to best feed and maintain the planting throughout the season? As professional growers have yet to find a good alternative to peat based compost as a growing

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medium, Jon recommends Westland's 'Jack's Magic', a peat based compost for the purpose. If we have any misgivings about using peat based compost he explained that currently only 8% of Irish peat is used for horticulture.

Tips duly offered, Jon set to work on his first demonstration - a hanging basket.

Using thin polystyrene packing instead of crocks in the bottom of the basket – a handy tip – Jon advised us to fill the pot/basket to within 1 inch of the top (to avoid overspill when watering), tap the sides to settle the compost and then remove compost to allow space for the plants.

Using a large plastic pot to stabilise the basket, he added a Pieris as the centre piece. Strictly an ericaceous plant, it will last the winter in a basket and then can be moved to the garden the following year as can Euonymus, Hebe, Cineraria, Ophiopogon (black grass), Erica and Ivy that soon found their way into the planting scheme all providing wonderful leaf colour. Last but not least wonderful Violas completed the arrangement to provide flower colour throughout a mild winter.

Jon explained that the close planting demonstrated is no problem to the plants as the low temperatures during the winter prevent them from growing and overcrowding their space, whilst the basket will survive on rain water alone unless wind dries it out.

The finished basket was superb and was generously offered as a prize for our raffle later that evening.

On to another container, this time a pot, once again filled with polystyrene at the base for perfect drainage. This time a single arrangement of pink cyclamen plants starting at the centre and spiralling outwards resulted in a dazzling arrangement. Although hardy, Jon explained that cyclamen in a pot will rot in winter unless they are protected under a covered roof.

This fabulous pot also made its way to the raffle table and into the arms of a lucky member.

Having half filled a pot with broken polystyrene and then compost, Jon now proceeded to plant 35 tete a tete bulbs, working in a circular pattern from the outside rim to the centre with each bulb touching the next. Finishing with just a light dusting of compost he explained that a pot such as this this will produce one of the best shows of the spring provided that planting is done by mid November.

Alternatively tulip bulbs could be used and they can continue to be planted up in pots for some time yet. A couple of larger containers with single planting of hellebore and jasmine completed the demonstration.

Moira White offered the vote of thanks for what proved once again to be a most informative talk from Jon providing us with some valuable tips and ideas for winter colour in the garden.

There was but a single entry for the competition, A variety of squash' and so congratulations to Moira the worthy winner.

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As there is no meeting in December we next meet on Tuesday 28th January at 7.30pm in Silver Threads Hall when we will be holding the AGM. This will be a brief affair, followed by our American Supper. So remember to bring a plate of goodies. Based on previous years this will result in a feast for us all to share.

Our programme for 2020 includes a mixed bag of subjects including Garden visiting, Euphorbias, Mistletoe and Downland Gardens.

If any of the subjects appeal to you or you have an interest in gardening and would like to join us, we meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month, January – November and welcome new members and visitors.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members and readers.

*Margaret Goodall, Secretary Tel 770906*

# 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.*



## **Red House Memorial controversy**

I am shocked by the decision of the Trustees of the Red House (the Parish Council) not to allow the names of those Purton residents who were sadly killed in the last war to appear on a memorial stone outside the club. The stone has been donated at no cost to the Trustees/Parish Council. I was told this was because the names already appear on at least six other places in the village already! This is untrue, they are on the cenotaph & in the church and would have used the club had they not died for us. "We will remember them" clearly means nothing to the Trustees/Parish Council. Yours in Sadness

*Jill Watts*



## **An open letter to Purton Parish Council**

The other day I had reason to travel to Wootton Bassett and then on to Cricklade. I should add that at present I am a resident of Purton currently living on The Fox. The route to Wootton Bassett entails driving through the hamlet of Hook. Hook is constantly reminding motorists of the speed they are limited to whilst passing through their hamlet. Over the years they have been innovative, often with a touch of humour, as well as being serious all with the intention of catching the motorists attention. The current reminder is no exception 'For Hooks sake slow down' is the abbreviated version bringing a smile whilst reminding you of the seriousness of speeding.

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After finishing my calls in the Royal Borough I continued my journey back to Cricklade, another village where you are constantly being reminded of the speed you are travelling at. If I were to take a slight detour and travel through Lydiard Millicent, I would have to contend with speed bumps, chicanes, all designed to curb the speeding motorist.

Throughout my journey, where you ask, are there; no chicanes, no speed bumps, no speeding reminders, with the exception of the mandatory 30 m.p.h. signs PURTON. Perhaps the local council should erect their own sign – ‘Welcome to Purton a speed free zone’ or ‘Purton, a village with no visible warnings, please pass through the village as quickly as you can.’

Twelve months ago I attended a local council meeting to highlight the apparent increased speeding through the village, and in particular, along The Fox. I was told that some actions would be taken. Well, what were those actions – two rubber lines across the road and a once only

cutting of the hedgerows to uncover the mandatory 30 mph signs. One really has to give credit to this caring Council!

I am sure that their response may well be, that they have speeding wardens in the village, but how many times have you seen them? Along the Fox which is a designated area I can answer for the last 12 months – nil, for the rest of the village I cannot comment, however as I pass through the village on most days, I have only seen them once over the same period.

I offer a more practical solution. In the next yearly Council elections vote this uncaring Council out and replace it with one that:

Cares for the environmental structure of a pleasant Wiltshire village.

Cares for future lives, in particular of our many children

In simple terms cares for its villagers by doing something positive about speeding through our village.

*Name and address supplied.*

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## Beneath the Wool

This past month has been quite a busy one and is an important month on the farm. The ewes are doing a good job at College Farm as well as being a pain getting out of the enclosure. They have all been moved now to the other side of the footpath as well as having as addition join them. He's big, he's mean and he's strong. It's Grenville the Ram. The ram went to College Farm on 8th November and he was pretty keen to get out the trailer. He's now enjoying himself up there but he has been suffering with a bad foot since he's been there but he is now on the mend.

The ewes come into season when the day length gets shorter; this is usually around September time. A sheep's gestation period is 152 days or an easier way to remember is approximately 5 months. This will mean they should start lambing at the beginning of April. A season for a ewe last 19 days and each season gets more prolific as they go on so by the 2/3 cycle they begin to ovulate more than the first.

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Grenville the Ram has got his raddle on which a blue chalk on, this gives me a idea as to who he has served. After 19 days of him being there the chalk colour is changed to red which will then tell me which ewes should lamb when and also if they have been missed on the previous cycle.

It always amazes me how fast this process comes round, it doesn't feel like 2 minutes since everyone came and saw the lambing in April and before I know it it will all be here again. Since it's his moment of glory I thought I'd tell you a bit about Grenville the Ram. I got him from Mark Candy at Corsham, Mark has his own sheep and also is a contract shepherd for the Bowood estate. He currently looks after 2500 ewes which are spread out over Bowood and Corsham Court. Within his own flock of ewes he has his 'nucleus' flock which is where he breeds his Rams from. These 100 ewes are all artificially inseminated with sexed semen so they will all have Ram lambs. This cost approximately £4500 to do. Out of the 100 ewes, 10-15 will not take and out of the rest of the Ram Lambs only 25 will be passed at inspection by the Lley Sheep Society. Grenville is one of those 25 from 2017 born bunch and I was lucky enough to be the first to choose a ram from this bunch. Mark has also bred different traits into his sheep such as naturally losing the Wool from around the tail and back legs which helps to keep them clean over the winter. This is something that I am now breeding into my flock. When Mark has lambs born they are graded and scored from 0-3 and he will only ever keep ewe lambs that are scored a 2 or 3 to keep the standard of his flock as high as he can.

*Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton*

### **Remembered Book quiz answers**

<b>Month</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
January	Charlotte Brontë	Robert Louis Stevenson	Hugh Trevor-Roper
February	Arthur Ransome	Michael Green	E B White
March	Jane Austin	Thomas Buerghenthal	Stef Penney
April	Alison Uttley	Helen Keller	Mike Gayle
May	Sir Henry Rider Haggard	Geoffrey Household	Jean Giono
June	M L Stedman	John Masefield	John le Carre
July	Jane Austen	John Masefield	Patrick O'Brian
August	Carl Giles	Matt Haig	Rowland White
September	George Bramell Evens	Miles Booy	B.B. (Denys Watkins-Pitchford)
October	Geoffrey Willans & Ronald Searle	H G Wells	John Buchan
November	Patrick Abercrombie	Louis de Bernières	Wladimir Kaminer
December	Thomas More	Jared Diamond	Laurie Lee



### **From the Archives –**

### **When I came to play cricket at Purton in 1963**

- There was a wooden pavilion with wooden shutters and one of the changing rooms had no windows.
- The outfield was weed dominated and took seven and a half hours to cut sitting on a thirty-six-inch-wide motor mower.
- The garage building was a mission hut; one half was for machinery and tea was taken in the other half.
- The club had water piped to the ground in the early fifties but only reached the 'tea end' of the mission hut.
- There was no machinery for cutting the rough grass on the perimeter of the ground and overgrown hedges.
- The track to the ground was a grass one which meant access by vehicle was largely impossible from October to March.
- Practice facilities consisted of a concrete strip on the edge of the square with matting on top.
- There was no electricity at the ground and no generator.
- There were no showers and the chemical toilet had to be emptied from time to time – no one dwelt too long in this area!
- Any water for wicket preparation had to be transported from the mission hut to the square.
- The club's old cookhouse, later called the 'Round House', served as a lock up for some tools, fertilizer and soil but was in need of repair.
- To roll the pitches there was a push me/pull me heavy roller with sixteen heavy concrete blocks on top which took at least a dozen members to move it.
- We had one screen at the Purton House end of the ground. It was a canvas, white sheet which often blew down in the wind.
- There were no pitch covers other than plastic sheets kept in place by heavy pieces of wood.
- There was no score box – scorers sat in front of the pavilion putting the various numbers up on a small board.
- Transport to matches was by Ben Thompson's coach.
- There was a prominent tank trap, which had been filled in at the end of the war, but it limited the playing area.
- Team selection sheets were posted in local shops or published in the Evening Advertiser.
- No mobile phones, Facebook or Twitter and few players had telephones in their own homes.

I suppose some would refer to 1963 as belonging to the 'good old days'!

*Joe Gardner*

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## 200 Not Out

Many readers will know about the arrival of the Great Western Railway running through Purton in 1841, especially with the opening of Purton station in May of that year. Even by then, Purton Cricket Club was over 20 years old and, by all accounts, was a widely known club with arguably the best cricketer in the country at the time playing regularly for our village club. Mention was made of the arrival of E H Budd in last month's magazine and he was reputed to be the Ben Stokes or the Ian Botham of his day.

Such was the prestige of Purton Cricket Club in those days that the Great Western Railway Directors "graciously granted permission for the down express trains to stop at Purton station every Wednesday evening during the summer with the specific purpose of picking up cricketers wishing to travel back to Cirencester and beyond at the end of a day's play." Such local

favouritism from a really ground-breaking company is

long past but it is yet another element of the story of Purton cricket club who celebrate their 200th birthday next year.

A book celebrating the bicentenary story of Purton Cricket Club has been written by Francis Sheppard and is currently being printed, to be ready from 1st December. It contains much more information about the impact the arrival of the Great Western Railway had on our aged cricket club as well as the impact the construction of the railway works in Swindon had on Purton generally. We know that ours is the oldest cricket club in Wiltshire and probably among the first 20 clubs in the whole of the country. A current MCC member at Lord's has read a draft of the book and is pleased to report that "it flows nicely and there is a good balance of straight history and amusing illustrative tales." Containing 104 pages with over 100 illustrations – including many team photographs showing current residents way back in their youthful days. Copies will be sold at £10.00 with all surpluses being donated to the Ainslie's Pavilion Fund, further details of which are also in the book. Please contact [francis@sheppard.org](mailto:francis@sheppard.org) (or phone 771018) to reserve your copy.



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# Purton in the time of Victoria

## **Part 6: Reform, Coronation and Empire**

1832 is regarded as a seminal year in British Constitutional History. Princess Alexandra Victoria was still only 13 years old and her uncle, William IV, was still on the throne. Much of the injustices and corruption within the Parliamentary system had been swept aside by the Whig majority in the Great Reform Act (see part 2). Much change resulted in the following few years.

Tithes were a form of local taxation which ensured that the rector of each parish received, as part of his income, a tenth of the produce of the lands. The notion had its origins in the Old Testament. It was used after the Christianisation of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and carried on through the Norman conquest, to be embodied in statute law in 1391. It continued, despite powerful resistance, until 1936 ... no that's not a misprint!



The exceptional size of Purton's tithe barn (left) gives some indication of the wealth of the parish and the prosperity of Malmesbury Abbey into whose coffers the tithes were placed. The Abbey owned most of the land in Purton in medieval times. Great monasteries owned numerous manors, each of which was required to render tithes in kind, on all that they produced. The Abbot appointed the vicar of Purton and no doubt allowed him

to take a necessary share of deposited produce. It is also likely that a careful check was kept on an appreciable surplus which would have been taken for use or sale by the Abbey.

A distinction was drawn between the 'great' tithes of corn, hay and wool, [which corresponds to a tax of annual incomes] and the 'small' tithes related to the stock and the fruits of man's labour [which we might call assets on which rent would be due]. Originally churches had incumbent rectors who received all the parish tithes. When a vicar, or substitute was nominated, the great tithes usually remained part of the rectorial estate and the small tithes part of the advowment (rental income) of the Vicarage.

After the dissolution of the monasteries, the great tithes often passed through the Crown to laymen and later could be broken up and sold as they were in Purton. To avoid payment in kind, tithes were sometimes leased to the owner or tenant of the associated lands.

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As considerable changes occurred in agricultural practice and new crops were introduced, the system of tithes was constantly questioned. For convenience these tithes were also replaced by annual payments which were agreed and then fixed by custom. By the early 19th century the system had become very complex and was bitterly resented by many farmers. It resulted in countless disputes and obstructive practices, of which the following local story is a good example.

In 1809 the advowson of the living of Lydiard Millicent was sold to the Reverend Dr Warneford, who then became entitled to the tithe income. It was common talk in that village that Dr Warneford had been assured that the tithe had not been valued for years and was therefore able to bear a large increase. It had in fact been raised only a very short time before and the farmers were still smarting under the increased tithe. Dr Warneford before even visiting the village sent his agent to re-value the tithe which led to a serious outbreak of indignation.

The farmers compelled him to take the tithe in kind. As the greater part of the parish was dairy land, his tenth part of the milk was put out for him at the appointed place. The man who collected the tithe had a considerable distance to travel to each of the farms. This resulted in the milk being exposed to many risks before it could be carried to the Rectory dairy and made into cheese.

It was said that greyhounds belonging to the people of the Manor House knew where to find the milk and feasted on it. The situation resulted in "great ill-will" in the parish and the tithe's falling to one half of its value before it reached the Rector's pocket.

The Great Tithe Act of 1836 provided for the replacement of tithe payments in kind, by an agreed tithe rent charge, which was undoubtedly a more convenient arrangement for all concerned. During the sixteen years between 1836 and 1852, the Tithe Commission had brought into effect one of the major redistributions of English property.

Some lands must have been sold under the provisions of the Glebe Lands Act 1888, as the Vicar of Purton received a document from the Ecclesiastical Commission in 1907, telling him that he would in future receive dividends on 3% (p.a.) India Stock. This idea was further negotiated and, by 1936, a final Tithe Act was passed resulting in the issuing of stocks and shares to compensate the Church for the loss of its tithe rents, which were thereby abolished. Under this act the tithe owners paid off their rent obligation and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners benefited from the acquisition of a considerable investment.

The Rev John Veysey was the last Purton Vicar to receive some of his income from tithes. It is not known how much he received in dividends but he and Mrs Veysey were probably happier to get a regular cheque than having to endure the alienation of the local farmers. [Much of the information above on tithes is drawn from "Records & Recollections of Purton & District" by the late Alec Robbins, the first curator of Purton Museum, with my edits, RD. The book is still available from

In a King's Bench judgment of 1772 (*Somerset v Stewart*) the presiding judge Lord Mansfield held that chattel slavery was unsupported by the common law in England and Wales, although the position elsewhere in the British American Empire was left ambiguous. Lord Mansfield's ruling was that 'The state of slavery is of such a nature that it is incapable of being introduced on any reasons ... It is so odious, that nothing can be [allowed] to support it... Whatever inconveniences [that] may follow from the decision, I cannot say [that] this case [i.e. slavery] is allowed or approved by the law of England ...'

Mansfield's judgment ruled that no person, slave or otherwise, could be removed from England against their will. It is one of the most significant milestones in the abolitionist campaign. It perhaps contributed to demands within the Thirteen Colonies of British North America, for separation from the Empire (American War of Independence 1775 – 83). The wish of the southern colonies to retain slavery contributed to the American Civil War (1861-65), long after the War of Independence.

In Britain, the Abolitionist cause won its way through Parliament with the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833. Considering 'modern slavery' today, the work begun in 1772 and 1833 was a start, but remains 'a work in progress'.

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 replaced the 1601 Act. The new Act wasn't

for the benefit of the poor. It was intended to *curb the cost of poor relief* and address abuses of the old system, especially in agricultural counties. Under the Act's powers, relief would only be given in workhouses, and *conditions there would be set to be bad enough that only the truly destitute would apply*. This was the time of Oliver Twist referenced in part 3.



Parishes themselves couldn't afford to run these workhouses so Poor Law Unions were set up. Wootton Bassett and Cricklade set up a Union. Purton, halfway between the two, housed the workhouse. The appalling story of the Workhouses is related in the book by the late Alec Robbins: *The Workhouses of the Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Union* still available from the Purton Historical Society. The Workhouses were disbanded under the New Poor Law system (1929). They were handed over to local authorities and, while many continued either as hospitals or institutions

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for the poor, homeless and elderly, others were sold off. The Purton workhouse (right) became North View Hospital in the 1930s, looking after 'mentally handicapped women'. It is now a private development of retirement flats. The



white plaque, just visible between the 2nd floor windows above the old central doorway, has been retained and gives the building's inauguration date as 1837. The former entrance block of the workhouse has been incorporated into Purton Surgery next door.

The Police service was inaugurated around this time. The Metropolitan Police Service was founded by Robert Peel (then Home Secretary) under the Metropolitan Police Act of 1829. The Constables became known as 'Bobbies' after Robert Peel and also 'Peelers'. In 1837, the Bow Street Horse Patrol (formed 1805) was amalgamated with 'The Met' and, in 1839, so was the Marine Police Force (formed 1798). Policing in other cities and counties followed soon after the County Police Act 1839 was introduced. Wiltshire became the first authority to form a county-level police force, with Wiltshire Constabulary being established in November 1839 at a meeting at The Bear Hotel, Devizes. There is a house in Station Road in Purton with the plaque "County Police" placed above the doorway. It will have been both the Police Station and the house of the resident police officer in its day. The house itself is of 20th century construction, so much later than the 1839 Act. I have searched old maps for an earlier police building in Purton but with no success. Any information would be welcomed! (rickdixonmail@gmail.com)

The Houses of Parliament burnt down on 16 October 1834, and the following year a Royal Commission was appointed to oversee the rebuilding. There was much debate over what the new building should look like but, in June 1835, the Commission voted for Gothic or Elizabethan. Retaining the pre-fire layout was not essential. A public competition was set up in 1836, with anonymous entrants, which was whittled down to four. From these the Commissioners chose entry number 64, submitted by Charles Barry - a Gothic-styled palace that fitted in well with the buildings that had survived the fire. The building took 30 years (original estimate 6 years) and cost £2million (original estimate £730,000). Until completion, the House of Commons sat in the repaired Lesser Hall and the Lords used the Painted Chamber. The new House of Lords was inaugurated in 1847 and the Commons in 1852. Charles Barry was knighted. Building works continued until 1870.

This was the political setting under which the Princess Alexandrina Victoria acceded

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to the throne on the death of her uncle, William IV, as Queen Victoria on 20 June 1837. Her Coronation was on 28 June 1838. The picture is a detail from George Hayter's 1838 state portrait. He was knighted in 1842.

The Corn Laws, which had had a massive effect on poverty (see part 3), were repealed under the Tory Prime Minister, Peel, in 1846. The Act allowed 3 years of gradual reductions of import tariffs. A major effect of the row over the Bill, was that the Tory Party split. The Whigs formed a government with Russell as PM. The Tories who had supported Peel and Corn Law Repeal, the 'Peelites', merged with the Whigs in 1859

and the Liberal Party was born. Disraeli became leader of the rump of the Tories and they restyled themselves as the Conservative Party. Disraeli went on to become Conservative Prime Minister (1868) but did not attempt to reintroduce the Corn Law protectionism.

In 1820, China's economy, under the Great Qing Dynasty, was the largest in the world. The British East India Company (EIC) had become immensely rich, trading in tea and opium, and, with its own army, had become a state within the British state. It held a government monopoly for British trade in India and China which ended in 1834, but they continued to trade opium into China despite the Qing government's protests. China was defeated by British forces in the 1st Opium War and ceded Hong Kong as a British Territory (1842). Further unrest after a civil war in China (1853) resulted in the 2nd Opium War. Further reparations were made by China and many more ports became European Free Trade areas. The opium trade into China was legalised.

The East India Company was also active in India where it was behaving ruthlessly and the Indian Mutiny (1857) caused devastation throughout India. This, and the activities of the EIC in China, were becoming such an embarrassment to the British Government that the Government of India Act was passed in 1858. Under this Act, the British Government nationalised the EIC. Was this then Empire?

Next month: Prince Albert

Rick Dixon

## Hello from The Cedars Care Home

### **Are you hanging up a stocking on your wall?**

We are busy designing Christmas stockings with our residents as we must choose one to represent Cedars at the OSJCT Christmas party competition. It helps that arts and crafts are enjoyed by residents and carers alike and some good ideas are emerging.



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We've just had a successful Christmas fayre where staff and friends set up stalls to help raise some funds for our trips and activities. Our chocolate day was very messy, so everyone enjoyed that. We have also taken residents to enjoy attending Silver threads lunch club and taken others to join in the Memory music and singing at the Wyvern theatre. This is a free drop in event for those caring for or living with dementia, so do check it out. The arts centre also do a dementia friendly film session once a month so again we will be taking residents if we can.

***It's the time that every Santa has a ball. Does he ride a red-nosed reindeer?***

We've pressganged a resident's relative into hopefully playing Santa at our Christmas party. And we are busy preparing for various visitors in December which will include penguins and reindeer. This was a huge success last year, so we hope that it has the same joyous effect on residents and staff once again.

***Does a ton-up on his sleigh? Do the fairies keep him sober for a day?***

Not sure about the sleigh but our kitchen is having a bit of renovation work, so all staff are currently mucking in and helping with makeshift catering facilities. I think all staff could do with some fairies keeping them calm right now, we won't mention alcohol! Hopefully though, by the time you read this all will be well, and our chef will be happily back in a lovely new kitchen and food times can return to a more relaxed affair.

***So here it is, Merry Xmas. Everybody's having fun***

We continue our weekly sessions of morning fun exercise, singing and some dancing. Followed in the afternoon by bingo, crossword puzzling, arts & crafts, reading or right now a well-loved movie. We will be taking some residents out Christmas Shopping and we have visitors coming to do Panto and Carol singing during December. I'll let you know how it all goes, including the penguin and reindeer visit.

***Look to the future now. It's only just begun***

During 2019 Cedars residents and staff have been involved in a huge bundle of fun, joy and experiences. Sadly, some have passed away and some have moved homes. We have remarkable residents new and longstanding, so we go into December talking to our residents, engaging them where we can, keeping them happy and warm. Activity co-ordinators will hear what they have to say and in January 2020 we will begin our plans for the new year, continuing to help create a happy and fun environment that everyone at Cedars strives to create. And sorry, now you've got Slade ringing in your ears - Merry Xmas Everybody!

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

# Purton Placard



PURTON AGE CONCERN

## **Christmas Shopping Trip to Evesham**

Wednesday 4th December

## **Christmas Party at the Village Hall**

Saturday 7th December

## **Christmas Market**

Saturday 14th December

## **Carols, Mince Pies and Mulled Wine at the Red House**

Tuesday 24th December



## **Christmas Coffee Morning**

Saturday 7th December

at 35 High Street,

10.00am - 12 noon

Christmas Table Sale,

Tombola, Raffle, Cake Stall

Entrance £1 for Tea/Coffee and Mince

Pies. Proceeds towards Automatic

Doors at Purton Surgery



ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY  
SCHOOL PTA

## **Christmas Fayre**

Friday 13 December, 3.30-5.30pm

in the School hall.

Bottle tombola, hamper raffle,  
chocolate tombola  
& refreshments

## **St Mary's Church Renewal**

## **Exhibition and Guided Tours**



Find out about  
progress on the  
Renewal plans.

**Exhibition Sat 30 Nov-Sun 8 Dec**

(Church open 9am-dusk)

**Guided Tours Sat 30<sup>th</sup> at 3.00pm  
& 3.30pm; Sun 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.15pm**

(Sun 7.15pm tour with mince pies & mulled wine!)

Our vision for St Mary's is a sensitive enhancement of this beautiful building to help serve and inspire the people of Purton now and into the future.

ONE STOP

## **Christmas Fundraiser & Grand Raffle**

Friday 20 December, at One Stop,  
113 Pavenhill, 9am-2pm

Great prizes, cakes and  
scones for sale and  
Pearl's homemade  
preserves.

Come and join the fun!

All proceeds go to  
back into the village

SING 4/4  
COMMUNITY  
CHOIR  
AND FRIENDS  
present

*Deck the hall  
with boughs of holly  
Fa la la la la, la la la la!  
'Tis the season to be jolly  
Fa la la la la, la la la la!*

*In aid of local charities*

7:00PM SATURDAY  
7TH DECEMBER 2019  
CRICKLADE UNITED CHURCH

TICKETS  
**£7.50**  
AVAILABLE FROM  
CHOIR MEMBERS

JUBILEE GARDENS PROJECT  
at PURTON STOKE

### **Christmas Open Day**

Saturday 7th December, 10am - 2pm

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

Free Admission

## PURTON CARNIVAL

### **Bingo**

Wednesday 4 December, 7.30pm  
at Silver Threads Hall, £10 entry,  
hot drink and cake included with  
bingo, and a raffle.

### **Quiz**

Saturday 7 December, 7.30pm at The  
Red House, £10 a team fun quiz for  
teams up to 6, and a raffle

## ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT CHORAL SOCIETY

### **Christmas Concert**

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

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

Free Admission &  
Refreshments

## PURTON METHODIST CHURCH present

### **Chedworth Silver Band**

Sunday 1 December, 7.30 pm  
at the Village Hall. Tickets £6,  
include light refreshments, and are  
available from:

Sylvia Freemantle 770686

Rose Stump 770564

Sheila Price 770696

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 TWINNING ASSOCIATIONS

### **Quiz**

Friday 13 December, 7.30 for 8pm start  
at Silver Threads Hall.

£7 per person including Ploughman's  
supper, licenced bar, Max. 6 per team.

Tel Len & Barbara Page 770160 or  
07836 624426

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## Purton and District Probus Club



At the meeting on 8th October, Dr Gillian White, from Chipping Campden, gave an illustrated talk entitled “The most dissolute man in London”, a title given to William Cavendish, the 4th Earl of Devonshire by Defoe in the early 18th century.

Lord William Cavendish, born in 1640 and educated by Thomas Hobbes of Malmesbury, embarked on a tour of Europe at the age of 16 years, accompanied by a personal tutor who, himself, was only 21 years old. Five years later they were living a high life in Paris, where Cavendish lost heavily at the card tables. At the Opera, three of the King’s guards, drunken and boisterous, interfered with the performance on stage. Cavendish leaped forward and unsheathed his sword. He was only saved when Montague, the Ambassador, threw him into the auditorium pit, the result of which was an injury that he carried for the rest of his life. In 1661, he was elected Member of Parliament for Derbyshire in the Cavalier Parliament. He served as a Whig under Charles II and James II, and became leader of the Anti-Catholic party in the House of Commons. He was elected Privy Councillor by Charles II but soon withdrew when Catholicism prevailed in court. In 1662, he married Lady Mary Butler, daughter of the Duke of Ormonde, but, in Restoration London, it was fashionable for married men to have a mistress or two. He had several children with a Mrs Heneage and, it is said, seduced the young daughter of his valet. Apparently Charles II told Nell Gwynn to have nothing to do with him! In 1663, his friend Lord William Russell was arrested and convicted for his part in the Rye House Plot (to murder Charles and James, the Duke of York). Cavendish spoke in his defence, and considered helping Russell to escape, but it was all to no avail; Russell was executed.

In 1684 Cavendish succeeded to the peerage on the death of his father, the 3rd Earl, and took his seat in the House of Lords. A year later, Charles II died and James II took the throne. James Scott, better known as the Duke of Monmouth, illegitimate and favourite son of Charles II by Lucy Walters, landed with an army at Lyme-Regis (1685) and, after several skirmishes with James’ army, was defeated on Sedgemoor. Monmouth was executed. When Cavendish opposed the arbitrary acts of James II, his enemies sent a Colonel Colepepper to antagonize and provoke him. Cavendish’s reaction was to “draw his sword within a Royal Residence”, and he was immediately arrested. He was fined £30,000, which he could not pay, but signed a bond that was subsequently cancelled with the accession of King William. He was at this time still championing Protestant England against the rule of James II, but decided to return to the family estate in Derbyshire.

Chatsworth, by then had fallen into a poor state of repair. The 4th Earl, in 1686, began some much-needed work on the old house. Initially the intention was only to alter the South Front, which was now taken down and replaced with family rooms and a magnificent State Apartment. However, he found building so enjoyable that, soon after, the East Front was rebuilt, including the Painted Hall and a long gallery,

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followed by the West Front and, finally the North Front. William Talman (1650-1720) was the architect for the South and East Fronts. The West was designed by the Duke himself, and the North, with its Bow Front, by Thomas Archer.

A strong supporter of the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688, the Earl was one of the 'Immortal Seven', a group of English Noblemen who signed the invitation to William of Orange and his wife Mary to accept the throne in place of Mary's father, James II. Incidentally, Mary's mother was Anne Hyde, associated, as an infant, with College Farm in Purton.

With a visual and colourful tour of the interior of Chatsworth and evidence of the original parterre and gardens, Gillian illustrated perhaps the best example of a Baroque building in this country. The rebuilt Chatsworth was finished just before the Duke died in 1707, by which time he had served William as Lord Steward, had been awarded the Order of the Garter and created Duke of Devonshire (1694) and Marquis of Hartington in recognition of his services.

On Tuesday 22nd of October, Dr Timothy Brain, OBE and Chief Constable of Gloucestershire from 2001 – 2010, talked to the meeting on the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. As a policeman, familiar with the interrogation of criminals and having qualified with a PhD in history, Tim delivered a very coherent analysis of the struggle between the remnant Catholic Community (about 10% of the population, but quite big land-owners), and the predominately Church of England, protestant ruling class of James I. Had the plot succeeded, it would have been the greatest crime in English history and changed its course. The ambition of the plotters was to wipe out the regime and reinstate Catholicism. An estimate of the blast from the amount of gunpowder that was found hidden under the House of Lords would have been enough to destroy the whole of Westminster: the House of Commons, the Lords, the Abbey and the Jewels Palace that housed the Crown Jewels. It would have killed everyone who happened to be attending the State Opening of Parliament.

When King James I, the son of Mary Queen of Scots, began his reign, English Catholics had hoped that the persecution suffered over 45 years under Queen Elizabeth would finally end. However James, who already ruled Scotland and was not of his mother's Catholic persuasion, felt obliged to please the Protestants, as they feared the growing strength of the Catholics. He proclaimed his detestation for Catholics in England, which forced them to adopt covert methods of practicing their religion, often needing to use priest holes. They became revolutionary, obsessed with the idea of a coup d'état.

Robert Catesby devised the Gunpowder Plot and planned to make the King's daughter, Elizabeth, Queen after the death of her father. She was only 9 years old at the time, but Catesby intended to arrange a Regency, and the marriage of Elizabeth to a Catholic nobleman. Those present at the first meeting with Catesby in May 1604, were Thomas Wintour, John Wright, Thomas Percy, and Guy Fawkes, recalled from Spain to muster the explosives. The plotters would be later joined by Robert

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Wintour and Christopher Wright. With the imminent threat of plague, the re-opening of Parliament was postponed until 5th November 1605, which gave the plotters ample time to lease a small house near Westminster, where Fawkes would live under the alias 'John Johnson' as Thomas Percy's servant. At first the group tried to tunnel under Parliament, but this plan was abandoned when it needed more diggers. When the undercroft, beneath the House of Lords, suddenly became vacant, Percy could not take the lease fast enough. Discretely, gunpowder was procured until 36 barrels had been installed, hidden under coal, in the cellar.

On October 26th, while sitting at supper in Hoxton, London, William Parker, Lord Monteagle, received an anonymous letter, warning him to avoid the opening of Parliament. The note may have been from his Brother-in-law, Francis Tresham, but there was no proof. Parker passed the note to spy-master, Robert Cecil, who ordered a search. On the 4th November, the powder was discovered with Guy Fawkes, waiting for the signal to light a very long fuse. Fawkes was Arrested and, subjected to the rack, he revealed the names of the conspirators.

Thomas Throckmorton, abroad at this time, at Catesby's instigation, had let Coughton Court in Warwickshire, to Sir Everard Digby and his family. Digby now installed himself at the Red Lion at Dunchurch with others, ready to kidnap Princess Elizabeth from Combe Abbey, where she was housed with Lord Harrington. When news reached Catesby that Guy Fawkes had been caught red-handed during the small hours of November 5th, he rode to Dunchurch, hoping to continue with the Catholic uprising. They plundered Warwick Castle for fresh horses and re-armed themselves at Hewell Grange. They then spent two days riding toward Worcester trying to gather support, without success. The fugitives took shelter in Holbeche House, owned by Stephen Lyttelton. At noon on the 8th, a posse led by the Sheriff of Worcestershire surrounded the house and in the subsequent gun-fight, many were killed or injured. Catesby and Percy were shot and died of their injuries. Those that survived were taken to London, tried and executed for treason. It is believed that James I ordered the first celebration of bonfires and fireworks to celebrate the fortunate survival of his regime.

Purton Probus Club usually meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the Red House Lounge at 10am. New Members welcome. Programme for December: Tues 3rd President's Lunch at the Wiltshire Hotel. Tuesday 10th Operation Agila, Zimbabwe.

Bob Stevens

***Please ensure that your contributions for the January issue of Purton Magazine are received no later than Tuesday 10th December because there will then only be eight working days to prepare, produce and print the next edition before the Christmas holidays. Thank you!***

***Email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk) or send to: Purton Magazine, c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton.***

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## *Hare-brained quizzers launch the 2020 Mad March Hare*

The 1st November marked the official launch of the 13th Mad March Hare which will take place on Sunday 22nd March 2020.

The annual quiz raises money to support the running of the Mad March Hare event, meaning that, unlike many other events, 100% of the entrant's fee goes directly to our chosen charity, Breast Cancer Now. The quiz night was a huge success raising over £1,000 with 27 teams and 169 people attending. The event is always fantastically supported by local people, running groups, walking groups and dedicated quizzers. We need to thank our wonderful quiz master Bill, who led the teams through their paces with some tricky questions and, of course, Swindon Town for the venue. The winning team were 'Westlea Runners', who stormed to the lead by 8 points over second place 'The Flam Chops'. In fourth place were first timers 'The Team with No Name'. Team member Dave Franklin who, attending with his wife and family said "it was such a fantastic night and for such a great cause, the support from the local community was amazing, we will be back next year!". Many thanks to everyone who took part. The amount raised will go a long way toward the costs of running next year's event.

Last year's Mad March Hare event saw our biggest numbers on the day of over 580. Runners, walkers and joggers, buggies and four legged friends turn out on a beautiful sunny morning to take part in the friendly walk/jog/run event over 5 and 10k routes in West Swindon with virtual runs and walks taking place across England and around the world. Judging by the success of the quiz night the organisers are hoping 2020's Mad March Hare event will be even bigger!

Chair of the Mad March Team, Margaret Nicholson told the quizzers, "our event which is in its 13th year, has raised over £123,000 so far and we hope to make 2020 another successful year. We would like to thank the teams who took part as well as the many individuals and local companies who generously donated raffle prizes. Mad March Hare has grown in popularity over the years as it appeals to both families wanting to enjoy the fun and more serious runners. We hope to smash our numbers in 2020 year so book early to avoid disappointment".

Team member Esther Newman said "This is our thirteenth year and although we are not superstitious, this year has started really well for us so maybe 13 is our lucky number!"

Registration is now open for the 2020 Mad March Hare event. The 5km or 10km routes will take walkers, joggers and runners around a circular route of West Swindon and the popular Lydiard Park.

To take part or volunteer at the event please log on to [www.madmarchhare.org.uk/](http://www.madmarchhare.org.uk/), email at [info@madmarchhare.org.uk](mailto:info@madmarchhare.org.uk) or call 0845 6808064.

Follow us on Twitter (@MadMarchHareSWN) or Facebook [www.facebook.com/madmarchhareswindonbreakthroughbreastcancer](http://www.facebook.com/madmarchhareswindonbreakthroughbreastcancer)

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