

Purton. Magazine

October 2020



Spreading news and information to the masses has traditionally been a time-consuming and messy manual process. From 1450 until around 1976 commercial print often looked much like this 1900 print shop at Blists Hill Victorian Town, Shropshire. We're now in a digital age and Purton Magazine has made finding local businesses and information even easier with the launch of our brand new website.

See page 44.

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Purton Contacts

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

Schools & Playgroups

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

Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary www.stmaryspurton.org.uk
For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.

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

Wardens Sandra Horsnall: Jane Smith:
770157 772422

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

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

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

Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett
www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk

Priest: Revd Father Lucas Tel: 852366
Rodrigues

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

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

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

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

Purton. Magazine

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INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

October is usually seen as the end of summer but also as the least dependable of months, seemingly being full of ghosts and shadows. On page 20 we learn about how an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain, pronounced sow-in and meaning the end of summer, could be the origin of some of the Halloween traditions we know today. Apparently it was believed that the boundaries between the living and the dead thinned out enough at this time of the year to make it easier for the souls of the departed to visit the living. Wearing masks, telling ghost stories and carving vegetables into lanterns have come directly from Samhain celebrations.

Recently large pumpkins have been seen basking in the September sunshine on bare patches of earth and ripening in readiness for designing intricate creations often to hold a small flame. It seems that years ago in Ireland, turnips were carved into 'jack-o'-lanterns' as part of an ominous legend from where we get Jack's lanterns today.

In the Middle Ages the Church contributed to Halloween celebrations with a popular activity known as 'souling'. That involved people going from house to house asking for cakes in return for praying for the souls of those in the house which could have been the inspiration for the 'trick or treat' we know today. In case Covid 19 prevents Halloween activities this year, we are pleased to include on page 21 a pumpkin trivia quiz that might help to occupy the longer evenings that stretch in front of us.

The pandemic has certainly disrupted our usual summer and autumn activities. One main impact has been the unprecedented increases in visitors experienced by Purton surgery and a contribution on page 12 reveals some alarming numbers involved. Perhaps most time consuming for the staff and maybe not always appreciated by visitors is the amount of time taken simply to clean up after each appointment and change pieces of personal protective equipment. On top of all that is the onset of the season for autumn flu jabs when patience from patients would be very helpful.

With the football season getting back into action we learn on page 48 about a memorial match played in memory of Mr Purton Football Club – also known as Alan Eastwood – with ex-players coming from as far afield as Yorkshire and Cornwall. Over £700 was raised for a lasting memorial overlooking the football pitch at the Village Centre.

130

Breeding pairs of sea eagle chicks on the Isle of Mull – see page 31

2067

Was the population of Purton in the 1858 schooling census – see page 37

7308

Phone calls received at Purton surgery during August alone – see page 12



Purton Youth Work -The Rise Trust

We have now held four successful detached youth worker sessions in Purton with the Rise Trust.

55 young people have engaged with the youth workers and discussed several issues including return to school after COVID lockdown, antisocial behaviour and drug taking. The Rise Trust will work with MOTIV8 and the police to ensure we manage the issues relating to drug use and antisocial behaviour in the village. Schools will also be contacted regarding any concerns raised. The regular presence of the youth workers has had a positive impact on our youth community and we anticipate this will only strengthen as time passes.

This current youth worker process will continue until the end of October where we will review and re-engage. Due to COVID we cannot open or operate a youth club.

If anyone wishes to know more information please contact the office directly.

Venture Play Park, Dogridge

This park has now been permanently closed and the land handed back to Wiltshire Council. Greensquare removed the safe access to maintain this area without consultation and therefore closure was unavoidable. The Parish Council are now looking at options to enhance the current play parks.

Footpaths

Sadly recent work carried out to keep our footpaths safe for all users has suffered mindless vandalism. Work to install a handrail was vandalised within days of erection. If anyone sees any antisocial acts of vandalism please call the police. We are fortunate to have a wonderful team of volunteers supported by funding from the Parish Council to aid this work, however, this type of vandalism is not only disheartening to the team but detrimental to the safety of others.

Fibre to the Property

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

Hall Hire in Purton

The Millennium Hall is now available for hire with strict COVID-19 guidance. If you need a hall to hire, please call the offices direct or email lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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01/21



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

Purton Magazine is available online!

Each issue is uploaded around the middle of the month, and all previous editions of the magazine are available. So wherever you are in the world, keep up to date with all the village news!

www.purtonmagazine.co.uk



Pips has re-opened!

For the latest information visit our Facebook page facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/

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

email: marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk

Tel Mary: 01793 772298,

Duty team: 07498 526872

The Village Hall, due to shared facilities, will be reviewed on a month by month basis and will reopen when safe to do so.

Council meetings

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

Councillor vacancy

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

Planning Updates - Permission Granted

- 20/04075/FUL 26 Little Ground. SN5 4GS Wooden Summer House.
- 20/05020/FUL 35 New Road, Purton. SN5 4HF. Proposed porch and summer house.
- 20/04175/TCA Wisteria House, 3 Station Road. Purton. SN5 4AQ Fell I Birch Tree and I Ash Tree.
- 20/03672/FUL 6 Ray Close. Purton. SN5 4GU Permanent consent for the use of garden shed as an aesthetics business (beauty salon) following planning permission 19/02988/FUL.
- 20/04806/FUL Meadow Barn. Cricklade Road. Purton, SN5 4HS The change of use to land to garden. The construction of a garage and patio.
- 20/05148/FUL The Gallops, Bremhill. Purton. SN5 4JU. Change of use of land from equestrian grazing to a dog exercise area and associated works including construction of field shelter, hardstanding, and the erection of fencing.
- 20/05564/FUL 7 Caspian Close. Swindon. SN5 5DZ Second storey extension to front elevation.

Appeals

- APP/Y3940/W/20/3251475 Purkini Farm, Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke. SN5 4LL .The development proposed is change of use of an agricultural building to a single dwelling house and for operational development. The appeal is allowed, and approval granted. The application of an award of costs is refused.

Road Closures

The Fox – 12th October 2020- Temporary closure of: Church End and The Fox. Notice is hereby given that the Wiltshire Council has made an order to all traffic.

Church End, Purton: from its junction with Church Street to its junction with The Fox. The Fox, Purton: from its junction with Church End to its junction with the B4553. To enable: Gigaclear Ltd to carry out the laying of cables.

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

We also hold Facebook and Twitter Accounts

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

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will not be any face-to-face fundraising this year to support the 2020 Poppy Appeal. This is to ensure the safety of Poppy Appeal volunteers and the general public. The emphasis this year will be on remembrance, so poppies and remembrance crosses will still be available, but through national rather than local outlets.

I do hope you will still be able to support the Poppy Appeal in any way you can. The valuable work of the Royal British Legion has continued and indeed increased this year helping to transform the lives of service men and women, veterans and their families.

Shirley Lawrence, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Tel. 01793 771084

We Record ...

In Memoriam

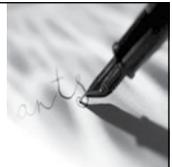
Andrew James Totterdell, who died 10 October 2016.

In our hearts. Love always Mum, Rebecca, Mark and Simon.



Last year a very special lady of this village, **Linda May Brown**, passed away.

Linda loved Purton village and St Mary's Church and, in her memory, her sons are pleased to donate some angels that she used to keep in her garden. If anyone would like an angel, for a small donation to St Mary's Church, they will be very welcome. Please call Libbie: 771018.



05/21

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**A Message from Kai Howard,
Practice Manager on 9 September 2020**

Dear patients,

I thought I would take an opportunity to update our patients on how the surgery is managing during the current covid situation.

Like most GP practices we are currently experiencing unprecedented demand. We are 30-40% busier than pre-covid and last year.

Of course everything takes a little longer too, from clinical staff having to change PPE and clean between patients, to reception staff checking in all patients that have appointments and ensuring they are safely directed to their clinician.

Last week we received 1790 telephone calls, and 7308 in August, this was almost twice as many as last year.

Despite having up to 4 receptionists answering telephone calls, we are aware that some patients are experiencing difficulties getting through to us, we do apologise for this and are exploring ways (such as a call queuing system) to help manage the volume of calls.

In a week our GPs telephoned, video called or saw in person over 650 patients, nurses held 290 face to face consultations, 150 blood tests were done and we offered over 100 appointments for our clinical pharmacists and physios.

During the week we also processed over 1,000 repeat prescriptions, managed 400 test results, actioned 500 hospital letters and dictated, typed and referred 150 patients to hospitals and for further care.

The current NHS and government regulations still say to limit footfall into the surgery, where possible, and that patients should only be seen face to face where clinically necessary and following clinical telephone/video triage. This is why receptionists have been asked not to book face to face appointments, but to book a telephone appointment with a GP first. I know this can be frustrating, but we do have to follow the latest information.

Over the past 6 months we have recruited extra staff to support our GPs in appropriately managing your care, these included a second prescribing nurse practitioner, another practice nurse, practice employed physiotherapists and an extra clinical pharmacist, we have also employed an additional receptionist.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and patience during this challenging time for us all.

K. Howard, Practice Manager

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03/21

A message from Marietta Crockford, PPG Chair

Dear patients and friends of Purton & Green Gable Medical Practice

As most of you are aware, for some time the Patient Participation Group has been raising money to help fund items that benefit patients of the Surgery that the NHS does not provide, Large fundraisers like the Vintage Tea Parties and Fish & Chip Quiz evenings are no longer suitable due to social distancing with the Coronavirus. Several patients in Purton have helped by raising funds independently and by donating and some of our committee have managed to raise a little with plant and card sales but unfortunately this is a drop in the ocean!

I am therefore appealing to you all to help us in any small way you can think of and if you wish to discuss this further or if can help in any way do please contact me on ashleymdc@aol.com

Many thanks, your surgery needs you!

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 me by email to groupforpatients@gmail.com

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

After 8

It has been a long time since our last meeting – from the time of empty supermarket shelves to fully stocked shops, quiet roads to the more usual busy ones, and from bare trees to those in full leaf with maturing fruits. While we may have seen each other by chance during our ‘daily exercise’, or more recently, by having tea-for-two in a garden, we have all been missing the group.

However, on August 11th, we gathered in a large garden with a couple of marquees for shelter in case it rained. We decided to forget the usual evening BBQ and went for Afternoon Tea. We each brought our own individual “Afternoon Tea” and beverages whether it be tea, coffee, soft drinks or wine.

We socially distanced, remaining at least one metre apart but in a large circle so that everyone could join in.

There were many conversations about, for example, the weather (!), books, family, schools, appreciation of local shops, sun hats, television programmes and the variety of local walks.

We all appreciated the afternoon – albeit on a very hot and humid day – but despite the threat of a thunderstorm, the weather held.

We were grateful for all preparations for the afternoon and it was hoped another well-distanced meeting could be held in the near future

Barbara Gosden

Events

I can't help looking at the Purton Age Concern Calendar and am saddened by all the events that are passing us by. The Jumble Sale on the 5th September would have meant lots of new outfits for the 3Bs event on the 2nd October, what an opportunity missed! But I suppose the upside is that when we do have our next Jumble Sale we won't be able to move for the amount amassed during this period!

I know this is a very worrying time for everybody and I hope you don't mind me being a bit flippant at times. We all must endure in our own ways.

One of the ways you could cheer yourself up is to go out and take some photographs. We are beginning to get responses to our call for photographs for the Age Concern 2021 Calendar. We are determined to produce one and have taken steps to consolidate dates for our events next year. Please send your photographs to me on peterberry@uwclub.net for inclusion.

We will be having a committee 'Zoom' meeting on the 6th October, and as always our meetings are open to all, so if you have something to say or any ideas for the future, let Georgina, our Secretary, know on secretary@purtonageconcern.com and she will be able to give you a link to join in.

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

Also...

One of our Purton residents has a mechanical recliner armchair in cream leather that he struggles to operate properly and would like it to go to a good home, so if you, or anybody else you might know of would be interested then please ring me on 778119.

If you need it...

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

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

use it, we lose it!

Website - Visit our dedicated website www.purtonageconcern.com to find all the details you need about our contacts, events, news and links to other websites in the area. We also have a Facebook and Twitter account which can be found at Facebook: [purtonageconcern](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 Peter Berry on 778119.

Peter Berry

How many Church people does it take to change a light bulb?

In light of the St Mary's Church renewal work currently taking place (see page 33), the editors felt this rather apt...

Charismatic Only one. Hands are already in the air.

Roman Catholics None. They use candles.

Presbyterians None. God has predestined when the lights will be on and off.

Anglicans Eight. One to call the electrician, and seven to say that they like the old one better.

Pentecostals Ten. One to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.

United Reformed Church To be decided. First a chairperson must be agreed who will appoint a committee to look into the matter and submit a written report.

Methodists Ten. One to change the bulb. Nine to grumble at the Minister, because someone's grandmother gave the bulb to the church.

Baptists At least 20. One to change the light bulb, and a church meeting to approve the change. Oh, and also to provide a casserole.

Mormons Five. One man to change the bulb, and four wives tell him how to do it.

Unitarian Universalists We choose not to make a statement either in favour of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is fine. In our next Sunday service, we will explore a number of light bulb traditions including, incandescent, fluorescent, three way, long life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

Lutherans None. Lutherans do not believe in change.

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Ten Years Ago...



The October 2010 edition of Purton Magazine opened with a dissertation on the homing instinct of snails. Those of us who live in upper-storey flats now know everything about coexistence at ground level. The unfortunates living there will never get rid of them.

The Parish Council report contained an item about a proposed Public Inquiry into the status of Mud Lane (or “Footpath 104” in officialese). It had to be postponed as, following a legal challenge, it was not clear whether it was a footpath or a bridleway. To determine that would need another inquiry first and the involvement of Wiltshire Council. Then an inquiry, possibly the first one mentioned, could take place to move it onto a “permissive” route. And then the status of Footpath 104 would be as clear as Mud.

The A-Z feature which started the previous month spawned a letter about the Angel Hotel. In 1649 Lord Clarendon wrote that it was superior to any inn in “Spayne” – long may it continue. This month, pride of place went to Braydon, the “smallest Parish in Wiltshire”. Unlike our large neighbour, Braydon’s population has remained steady throughout the history of censuses.

Being the end of summer, travel stories abounded. One recounted that when camping in Romania, it is advisable to leave food supplies on the opposite side of a river. That way the bears left you alone at night.

A more serious, and indeed moving, article by a (then) student described a month spent teaching in Malawi and the effect that it had on her life back in Purton. She assisted in a class of 160 pupils. Many children were barefoot and HIV was prevalent. Many parents had died of Aids. “The people I met truly had nothing. Yet they always had a smile to give generously and without reserve... Whatever I was able to teach the children pales into insignificance when I think about what these people have taught me about life... Before I left I was a habitual worrier but now I am at a loss to think of something that truly is worth worrying about.”

Finally, there was a collection of Maxims for Life. One that stood out was: Dijon vu – the same mustard as before. Sadly, this is no longer true. Production of the condiment in the city has since ceased.

Visit www.purtonmagazine.co.uk for previous issues of Purton Magazine, and our new advertisers’ database for local businesses. We welcome submissions for publication in the November issue. Our copy deadline is the 10th October, please email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



As the garden calendar slips into autumn, energy shifts to preparing our gardens and allotments for next year. On our allotments, where crops flourished in abundance this year, large patches of soil are now in evidence as the tidy up continues apace. Meanwhile large pumpkins still lie on the soil basking in the September sun and warmth as they continue to ripen many in readiness for Halloween.

Realising that this report would appear in the October magazine, it seemed appropriate to make mention of Halloween falling as it does on the last day of October when the festival is believed to have been a celebration of the end of harvest and a time of preparation for the coming winter.

Many of the traditions are thought to have evolved from an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain, pronounced sow-in meaning 'end of summer'. During Samhain, it was believed that the boundaries between the living and the dead thinned which made it easier for the souls of the departed to visit the living. Many Halloween traditions, like wearing masks, telling ghost stories, and carving vegetables into lanterns, sprung directly from Samhain celebrations.

The Church contributed to Halloween celebrations as we know it. An activity called souling, when a person would go from house to house asking for cakes in return for praying for the souls of those in the house, was popular during the Middle Ages, and maybe the inspiration for our modern day trick-or-treating.

Today intricately designed pumpkin creations make for impressive decorations, but back in the day, folks in Ireland dubbed their carved, fiery turnips 'jack-o'-lanterns' thanks in part to an ominous legend.

The story goes that one night a conniving local drunkard named Jack trapped the Prince of Darkness in a tree by hacking a sign of the cross into the bark. In exchange for letting Satan climb down, Jack had him vow to never claim his soul.

Jack proceeded to act like a jerk for his whole life and so, when he died, God would not allow him to enter Heaven. His attempts to then persuade the Devil to allow him into hell proved fruitless. Satan upheld his end of the deal, hurling a piece of burning coal from hell at the dead man for good measure. Left without anywhere to go, Jack placed the blazing coal in a turnip to use as a lantern. The dead man then set out, doomed to wander until he can find an eternal resting place.

In Ireland and Scotland, people began to make their own versions of Jack's lantern by carving scary faces into turnips or potatoes and placing them into windows or near doors to frighten away Jack and other wandering evil spirits.

Immigrants from these countries brought the jack-o'-lantern tradition with them when they came to the United States. They soon found that pumpkins, a fruit native to America, made perfect jack-o'-lanterns.

The tradition of 'trick or treat' is now an integral part of the Halloween tradition, the treat being some form of sweet, the trick referring to a threat, usually idle, to perform mischief on the homeowner or their property if no treat is given.

It may well be that Covid 19 restrictions will render Halloween, with all its traditions, a non-event this year and those plump pumpkins ripening in the September sun on the allotment may prove to be surplus to requirements!!

Stay safe.

Pumpkin Trivia

1. What are pumpkins?
2. According to the nursery rhyme, which character put his wife in a pumpkin shell?
3. The rock band, the Smashing Pumpkins, is from which American city?
4. Which ailment is said to be cured by pumpkins?
5. How much of a pumpkin is actually water?
6. Who is the genius behind the "super" pumpkin?
7. As of 2010, what was the weight of the world's largest pumpkin?
8. What colors are the flowers on a pumpkin vine?
9. Which of these is not a color of pumpkin - Purple, White or Blue?
10. Before pumpkins, what was commonly carved into jack-o'-lanterns?
11. How much did the largest pumpkin pie weigh?
12. Who rode in a carriage made out of a pumpkin?
13. Who spent Halloween in a pumpkin patch waiting for the great pumpkin to appear?
14. Who starred in the horror movie "Pumpkinhead"?
15. Jack Pumpkinhead is a character from which well-known book series?
16. Who starred in the film "Pumpkin"?
17. How many cups of seed are in an average pumpkin (30 pounds)?
18. Where do pumpkins originally come from?
19. Which comic book company released a series with a character by the name of Pumpkinhead?
20. What was unusual about Spookley the Pumpkin?
21. Monsters vs. Aliens Mutant Pumpkins from Outer Space stars which famous actress?

Answers on page 40

Margaret Goodall, Secretary Tel: 770906

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Rugby tickets: Lions vs Springboks 2nd test 31 July 2021 Cape Town

A friend of mine has two tickets in a corporate box for this match. He paid £300 each for them but didn't realise that it was going to be the same day as his wedding. If you are interested, he's looking for someone to take his place.

It's at Pontypridd Registry Office at 4.30pm. The bride's name is Megan, she's 5' 4", very pretty, has her own income and is a great cook.

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St Mary's Primary School

I must start by telling you how absolutely fabulous all the children have been. They have settled so well into new school routines and adapted without hesitation. There have been a few recurring questions, so I thought it would be worth sharing the answers with you.

Children should come to school if they are well enough, **UNLESS** they have **ONE** or **MORE** of the following three main symptoms related to Covid-19:

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A change in their sense of taste or smell

If they have **ANY** of these symptoms, they (and any siblings) should not come to school until they have had a negative test result.

Children should still attend school if they have a cold, sore throat, headache, runny nose as long as they don't have any of the symptoms above.

Please remember, if children have an upset stomach, they should remain off school for 48 hours (from the last episode of illness), as has always been the recommendation.

We are currently finalising our arrangements for homework. It will consist of online activities on Mathletics, Times Tables Rock-stars and Spelling Shed. Children must continue to read at least three times a week at home, as has always been the case.

To access homework activities, each week, children will need to go to their class page on the website (just as you did during lockdown) and they will find short instructions for their homework there. Homework will be given from 21st September and every Monday thereafter. Children should complete it online and teachers are able to access this remotely to check on their progress. Spelling check arrangements will be given by individual class teachers in the homework explanation.

Any families who are self-isolating will be able to access work on our website's Home Learning Hub in the same way that you did during lockdown. The format will be similar. The tasks available will complement the work in school, with the aim that children will not have to 'catch up' on their return. It is essential that children complete this work if they are at home and are well enough. The work will be available daily and remain available. Children who are in school can also access the Home Learning Hub work to revisit or continue their learning at home, should they wish. Many parents enjoyed having more knowledge of the learning taking place in school during lockdown and we hope that you will continue to look at the Home Learning Hub with your children to enhance their school experience. The Home Learning Hub will be 'live' again from 21st September.

Other Information

Please don't allow your children to ride bikes or scooters on the playground.

Please ensure that your children remain with you on the playground and do not run

off playing with others at the start and end of the day.

Please arrive no earlier than 8.40am or 3pm in order that we avoid long queues where it is difficult to socially distance.

The timber trails/climbing equipment absolutely must not be used at the start and end of the day by any children from school or younger siblings. These are timetabled for specific year groups in order to aid any track and trace that might be required.

As the cases of the virus are increasing again in the community (with Swindon being an area of enhanced concern) we reiterate the messages from Government regarding everyone following the rules around social distancing, wearing of face coverings and only meeting in groups of up to 6.

Please contact the school by 8.45am if your child is away and give a reason for their absence. Tel 01793 770239 and leave a message on the dedicated absence answerphone.

Please continue to help us by following the one-way system. Please ensure anyone else collecting your child knows and understands the route for drop off and collection, and does not use the footpath from College Road to The Peak which goes around the back of the school during drop off/pick up time.

Finally, thank you to everyone for your co-operation – there have been lots of changes at school for all of us to become familiar with, but I know if we can all work together and support each other, we will continue to provide the very best for our St Mary's children.

Mrs Naomi Clarke, Headteacher



Sunflowers for Christian Aid



The competition was to grow the tallest sunflower.

Each person who took part gave a donation to Christian Aid. And the worthy winner is?... Without doubt it is Harry Oram and family of Hogs Lane.

Their sunflower was 3 metres 20cm or over 10 foot 6 inches. A magnificent achievement!

Sue and Colin Giles came next, very closely followed by Alice Hart and family. David Manfield (honorary Purtonian now living in Wales!) and Freya Crump were very close runners up.

All of these sunflowers were over 8 foot high (over 2 metres 40) Thank you all for taking part. Prizes of sunflower mugs were distributed!

Libbie and the Christian Aid Team

Coronavirus: what you can and can't do

Updated 14 September 2020, This is national guidance that applies to England only.

On 9 September, the government announced upcoming changes to simplify restrictions and ensure the virus is controlled. These new restrictions took effect from 14 September. They are set out in the law, and the police and other enforcement officers are able to issue penalties to those that don't comply.

Social contact - further detail available at: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Can I visit people indoors? Yes. There is a legal limit on the number of people you don't live with you are able to meet. When meeting with people you don't live with you can socialise in groups of up to 6.

How many people am I allowed to meet outdoors? When meeting with people you don't live with (or have formed a support bubble with) you can socialise in groups of up to 6. You should continue to maintain social distancing with anyone you do not live with.

Can I use public transport if I'm seeing friends in a park or going to my parents' garden? You can help control coronavirus and travel safely by walking and cycling, if you can. However where this is not possible, you can use public transport or drive. If you do use public transport, you must wear a face covering and you should follow the safer travel guidance for passengers.

Are children counted in the group of 6? Yes.

Can I share a private vehicle with someone from another household? You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or social bubble. If you need to, try to: share the transport with the same people each time, keep to small groups of people of up to the legal limit of 6 people at any one time (this limit of 6 people will apply and have legal force from 14 September). Open windows for ventilation, travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow, clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch, make sure the driver and passengers wear a face covering.

Can I stay overnight in someone else's home? Yes, you can stay overnight in someone else's home, but only if you do not form a gathering of more than 6 people. This limit does not apply if you are in a support bubble with the person whose home you are staying in. You should ensure you maintain social distancing with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble. Take particular care to maintain excellent hygiene – washing hands and surfaces – especially when using shared facilities like bathrooms wherever possible. People in the same support bubble can stay overnight with each other in larger groups as they count as one household.

Can I look after my grandchildren? Yes. People in groups of up to 6 can meet indoors or outdoors, which enables you to spend time with your grandchildren (although whole families may not be able to meet up at once). We recognise that grandparents and other relatives often provide informal childcare for young children, and this can be very

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important. Although you should try to maintain social distance from people you do not live with wherever possible, it may not always be practicable to do so when providing care to a young child or infant. If this is this case - and where young children may struggle to keep social distance – you should still limit close contact as much as possible, and take other precautions such as washing hands and clothes regularly.

If you have formed a support bubble with your grandchildren's household, which is allowed if either you or they live in a 'single adult household', then there can be close contact and social distancing is not necessary.

When can I gather in groups of more than 6? If you live in a household with more than 6 people, you can continue to gather in and attend all settings together. This same applies for your support bubbles. All venues should continue to accommodate groups larger than 6 who live together or are in the same support bubble to gather in and use their services and venues.

There are exceptions where groups can be larger than 6 people, including: for work, or the provision of voluntary or charitable services, registered childcare, education or training, supervised activities provided for children, including wraparound care, youth groups and activities, and children's playgroups, providing support to a vulnerable person, providing emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm, for arrangements where children do not live in the same household as both their parents, fulfilling a legal obligation such as attending court or jury service, weddings and civil partnership ceremonies and receptions – up to 30 people, in a public place, funerals – up to 30 people. This does not include wakes, other than for religious ceremonial purposes, other religious and belief-based life cycle ceremonies – up to 30 people, in a public place. This only covers the ceremonies, and does not include celebrations of these events. Organised sport or exercises classes or licensed outdoor physical activity. This does not include informal sport or fitness activity with family or friends – this must be limited to a group of 6.

Does this mean that no more than six people can be in a pub, restaurant or place of worship at once? Venues following COVID-19 Secure guidelines can host more than 6 people in total, but no one should visit in a group of greater than 6 (unless you are all from the same household or support bubble). When you visit one of these places, such as a pub, shop, leisure venue, restaurant or place of worship you should: avoid mingling with anyone outside the group you are with, even if you see other people you know, provide your contact details to the organiser so that you can be contacted if needed by the NHS Test and Trace programme

Do I have to wear a face covering in public? Face coverings are currently mandatory on public transport, and in shops, supermarkets, indoor shopping centres, banks, building societies, post offices, indoor transport hubs, museums, galleries, cinemas, places of worship, and public libraries. People are also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in any other enclosed public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet.

If you start to feel unwell and have any covid-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, a loss of, or change to your sense of smell or taste), book a test either online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119, and stay at home.

Purton Village Diary - October 2020

4 Su 10.30am Online United Family Harvest Festival service
11 Su 9.45am Online Messy Church
10.30am Communion
18 Su 9.45am Online United Junior Church
10.30am Family Communion
25 Su 10.30am Communion

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

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

Please use this link from 10.20am:

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

Meeting ID: 549 593 510

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

EITHER 0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

OR 0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

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

Please note that call charges may apply.

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

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

Purton Methodist Church services

Revd David Perkins records a weekly Sunday Service of Worship which can be accessed on You Tube at any time: www.youtube.com/channel/UCYZpw6oX_1ef-68tycPGT3Q?

Has anyone seen
our cat?

He is a male, microchipped, neutered cat called smokey from Widham. He's all black except for white feet, paws, chest, belly and a stripe on his mouth. If you see Smokey, please call 07432 803 638 or email: jayco89411@yahoo.co.uk



Thanks in advance, Jo Robinson

Purton Village Diary - when life returns to normal

Every week

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

Every month

1st Wednesday	10.00am	Story Time at Purton Library for pre-school children (except Aug)
2nd Wednesday	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church
2nd & 4th Tuesday	10.00am	Purton Probus meet in the Red House lounge
2nd & 4th Tuesday		Purton Silver Threads meet at the Silver Threads Hall
3rd Monday		St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church
3rd Tuesday		Royal British Legion meet at the Red House
3rd Wednesday	2.15pm	Rhyme Time at Purton Library for babies, toddlers and their carers
	7.30pm	Purton Evening WI meet at the Silver Threads Hall
4th Thursday		(September to May) Purton Historical Society meet at 7.30pm in Purton Village Hall.

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

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

A Book I will Always Remember

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



The Stonor Eagles by William Horwood

William Horwood is probably best known for “Duncton Wood”, the story of Bracken and Rebecca, two moles as they rebuild a defunct community. For me, however, he has a lesser known but significant work which caught my imagination and aroused my emotions so that the storyline has stayed with me some thirty years later.

The book is a subtle mix of fiction and history as it tracks the life of one of Britain’s most magnificent bird breeds – the white-tailed sea eagles.

Historically as a breed they were considered to be incompatible with agricultural activities and fishing, resulting in them being hunted, poisoned, shot and their nests destroyed. In the 18th Century there was even a bounty on their heads. Such was the persecution that by the beginning of the 20th century they were extinct in Britain and most of Europe. A last pair was recorded nesting in Skye in 1916. Scandinavia was a small exception, Norway being a relatively safe haven as were parts of Eastern Europe.

Horwood manages to capture the great tragedy that is the history of this breed through simultaneous plots. The haunted life of Jim Macskill Stonor as he grew up in Kent and driven by stories told by his father about the last of the sea eagles on Skye, something that the father was deeply involved in. Stonor eventually becomes an artist and sculptor, his works consisting of a series of paintings, drawings and sculptures of these magnificent birds. When, for the first time, his works are brought together at an exhibition in New York, Stonor tells the story of his inspiration.

In parallel there is Cuillin, the last great sea eagle on Skye who, in 1917 leaves the island and makes it to Norway where she finds others of her breed. She encounters conflict but manages to raise her own brood.

Throughout the two stories share common emotions, Stonor and his relationship to his father and the other members of his family and his struggle to express himself artistically. Cuillin as she fights to survive in hostile conditions and then undertake a return journey to repopulate her homeland.

Today, more than ever, this book is a must-read to help understand the destruction that humans can do to their natural environment but also a book that carries a message of hope. It is a long read and at times an emotional roller-coaster but a book that once read will not be forgotten.

Footnote: Sea Eagle chicks were brought back to Scotland from Norway in the 1970s. Largely centered on the Isle of Mull there are about 130 breeding pairs. In August 2019, 240 years after their extinction, 6 breeding pairs were released on the Isle of Wight as the first step in a five year programme in which it is hoped up to 60 birds may be released.

Paul Ballard

Church Floodlighting

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



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

Please contact Libbie 771018 if you need further explanation.

VE Day & VJ Day Memories.

Look out next month for a new souvenir booklet of VE Day and VJ Day memories, plus newspaper reports, collected during Lockdown by Marion Parsons. To commemorate the end of WW2, it contains stories from 33 local people recalled from wherever they were living at the time in 1945.

This one-off limited edition hopes to raise funds for Cricklade Open Door and the Royal British Legion when it appears in November. For more details, or to order your copy in advance, ring Marion on 01793 750542 or email her at mfp Parsons071@btinternet.com

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

11/20



Sandra Horsnall helps to look after one of the Church's many visitors during the recent public open days.

Putting out a chair for someone special to you

“Wow! Isn't it Big! We never realised.” “Just think of the good things you could do in here.” Those were some of the first reactions of many who visited on the first day our parish church was open to the public prior to contractor's craftsmen moving in to take over the building for six months as part of the church's renewal project.

Indeed the Parochial Church Council is keen that after alterations are complete the church building will provide a resource in the village for a variety of meetings and cultural events. It is the hope of many that as it was for many centuries – the church building will again be a key centre of village life. Fixed pews limited the expression of this. But ‘Comfortable and Flexible’ is how one of our clergy described the value of the planned refurbishments.

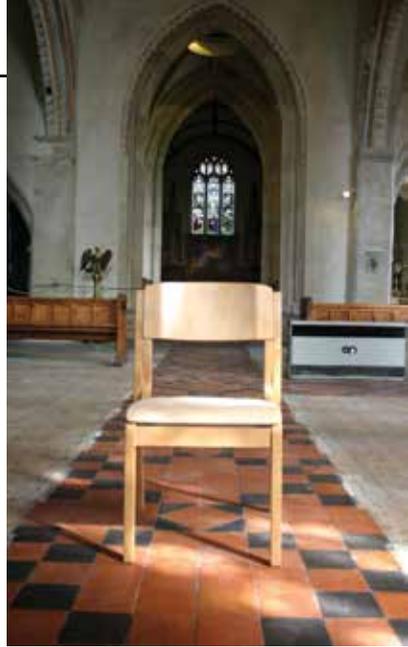
So for the many village events as well as residents' weddings, baptisms, funeral and life thanksgiving services, Christmas and all the other services the church offers – comfortable seats will feature. We have been grateful to all who have so far seen the potential of using this furniture to remember and

honour those special to them. Deceased partners, newborn grandchildren, and a general thanksgiving to all who have made village life so rich have featured so far. We look forward to others.

Details of the chairs, their Aquaclean upholstery, on seat and backs, were given in the September edition of this magazine. As a reminder of how chairs can be marked and dedicated in this public place – either email renewal@stmaryspurton.org.uk (NOT co.uk as given in last month's magazine) or phone 770171. A simple form for your dedication wording will then be sent to you. The contribution, which includes a small donation towards the renewal of the floor on which the chair stands, of £170 for a chair with a dedication plaque, or £140 without, can be paid either with order – or billed at a later date.

2020 will be remembered for many things. A noted point in the future history of our village will inevitably be that this was the year our church building was renewed and its interior took the best of its seven centuries of heritage and equipped it for years to come. We thank and welcome all who wish to play a part in this provision and in the process honour a special life in a special place. A computer generated impression of how chairs will fit into one of the configurations adopted in the renewed building.

David Martin, Co-ordinator of this element of the church renewal project.





From the archives – more interesting facts about our area

There were two water mills, one recorded in the Domesday Book, the manuscript record of the 'Great Survey' of much of England completed in 1086 by the order of King William the Conqueror. The second Mill was built in the late 13th century. Both mills belonged to Malmesbury Abbey until its dissolution and they continued to work until around 1900.

An information leaflet is available on Ridgeway Mill, which is posted on our website or alternatively, a hard copy can be supplied on request. Purton Mill will be featured in the November edition of the magazine.

A ramble has been researched that starts at Collins Lane Toll Gate and continues via Mouldon Hill Country Park, passing many places of historical interest, i.e. the steam engine, mill grinding stones, Kingshall Check, the Cottage Hospital, the Swindon and Cheltenham Railway, The Pry, the North Wilts Canal, the boundary stone at Berriman's Wood near the River Ray, the aqueduct, sites of the Mills and a Saxon burial ground. A detailed itinerary and brief history, with photographs, of the above is on the PHS website or a hard copy can be supplied on request.

The walk is about 5 miles and will take between 2 and 3 hours.

Future programme

Due to the Covid-19 virus situation we are unfortunately unable to follow our planned programme of meetings for September, October and November.

We are, however, planning to hold our first Zoom meeting on 22nd October 2020 with a second meeting planned for November. The presenter will be Joe Wright:

In his talk, split over two meetings, Joe takes us on a journey around the earliest known documented bounds of the 'Vill of Purton', believed to date back to the late eighth century. A journey he has completed a number of times himself, in true 'beating the bounds' fashion, by walking the entire 22-mile boundary and documenting the journey with photographs.

In the first meeting Joe will introduce this project, provide historical context, cover his research methods and materials, and take us on the first stages of the journey around the bounds.

In the second meeting Joe will recap the previously presented narrative, complete the journey around the bounds and explore the legend of a mid first millenia heathen sanctuary whose alleged existence still shapes the Parish boundary today.

Zoom meetings

Thursday 22nd October 2020 at 7.30pm

Thursday 26th November 2020 at 7.30pm

If you are interested in joining the Zoom Meetings, please email Jim Mosley on j.mosley1@btinternet.com

Proposed Outing

We have reluctantly decided that the outing to Winchester Cathedral and Christmas Market will not take place but a coach outing is being considered for next year.

Friday, 4th December 2020 at 7.30pm Christmas Social Evening

It does look unlikely that we will be able to hold our Social in the normal way due to the Covid-19 situation but again Zoom is being considered. A final decision will be given in the November magazine, on our Website and on posters around the village.

Museum Re-Opening News

Purton Museum Cricket Club Bicentenary Exhibition – Researched and Compiled by Mr Joe Gardner

The museum re-opened on Saturday 5th September enabling The Cricket Club bicentenary Exhibition to be viewed. The morning was very successful and visitors were welcomed from near and far which was very encouraging. The exhibition will be available to view on Saturday mornings only, 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., until Saturday 31st October 2020. The museum will then be closed for the winter months but this important exhibition will continue to be available to view in the Spring 2021.

Admission is free of charge. The opening is in accordance with the Government's opening up plan from lockdown, following the guidance of the South West Museum Development Programme. In accordance with Government guidelines, all visitors to Purton Museum must wear a face mask.

Thank you to all who made the opening possible.

Bicentenary of Purton Cricket Club

Delayed opening (due to Coronavirus) in the Museum 5th September 2020

This explanation in verse below was to be given by former member and Purton resident, Malcolm Morrison at the planned opening in September.

Two centuries ago – so the archivists say –
Some Purtonian gentlemen decided to play
A game called cricket – up on the hill.
They've been playing there since; and they're playing there still.

MCTM, 5.9.20

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

Prayer for Purton

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

Purton in the time of Victoria

Part 15: Education & Voting Reform

Education of the poor during the 18th and early 19th centuries was provided largely by humanitarian or religious charitable organisations. These felt that a modicum of education would combat vice, irreligion and subversive tendencies. It would enable 'the poor' to live upright and industrious lives "in that station of life unto which it has pleased God to call them". A Charity School began in Purton in 1776 with a schoolmaster, paid from Parish Rates, who chose the children*.

By 1806 the school had 20 children, some of them boarders, with building improvements funded by voluntary subscriptions and contributions from the Earl of Shaftesbury and Dr Maskelyne. In 1836 the Master still received only £16 a year "for teaching 20 poor children reading, writing and arithmetic". Children attended the school for two years free of charge.

In March 1858 a Wiltshire schooling census (the Warbuton Census) gave the population of Purton as 2,067. It found that 50 boys were taught by an uncertificated master in a small room on an upper storey with poor ventilation. 50 girls were taught in another small room with a boarded floor in a bad condition, by an uncertificated mistress. There were other schools in Purton including one run by the Primitive Methodists with 6 boys and 14 girls. There were also Sunday Schools consisting of more than just a short session alongside church. Although the aims were religious and social rather than intellectual, the nonconformists considered reading lessons to be necessary in order to read the Bible. There was also a school run by the Workhouse for children living inside.

From 1859, funds were raised and plans were drawn up to enable the building of a Church School in Purton. The Parish received a grant from the National Society (full title "The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church throughout England and Wales"). This grant alongside locally raised money, enabled the building of the new National School to open in 1861, at a cost of £1,569. It consisted of 4 classrooms for 240 children plus a house for the Head.

Education reform cannot be divorced from voting reform: an expanded entitlement to vote would dilute the urge towards rebellion, but that electorate needed to be able to make educated decisions! The late 1860s through to the end of the century saw major changes in both educational and voting reform in Britain, particularly under the Prime Ministerships of Benjamin Disraeli (Conservative) and William Ewart Gladstone (Liberal). These two alternated in power over a period of some 29 years. Gladstone is remembered particularly for an ethical government ideal, whereas Disraeli is remembered for his practical approach to foreign affairs. However reforms were made under both administrations.

Although much of the groundwork had been done during the Earl of Derby's Liberal administration (1866-1868), the short Disraeli administration (1868) didn't prevent the 2nd Reform Act passing in 1869 under Gladstone. This extended the right to vote to those in boroughs and towns who rented property, not just property owners. Forster's Education Act in 1870 attempted to provide elementary education for all children and permitted school boards to be set up where voluntary school places were insufficient. Weekly fees of a few pence were charged, with exemption for poorer parents.

Under Disraeli's 1874-79 administration, Sandon's Act (1876) placed a duty on parents to ensure that their children received elementary instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic. The Poor Law guardians were authorised to subsidise school fees as needed. Once again under Gladstone, Mundella's Act (1880) made school attendance compulsory for children from five to ten years old.

The 3rd Reform Act (1884) extended the voting entitlement to all men over 21 who owned or rented property, not just those in the towns and boroughs. This was a significant step in the enfranchisement of Purton men.

As a result of these national moves and with local support for education, Purton's National School which had opened in 1861 with 150 children found its numbers had steadily increased to 258 by 1883. Overcrowding in this 'Mixed School' resulted in a separate Infants' School, completed in 1884 and placed under the control of a new and separate Mistress. When a new school was opened at Purton Stoke in 1898, 22 boys and 25 girls including Infants, were transferred from the Purton Schools. This relieved the overcrowding in the Mixed School for a time, but an increasing number of Infants made it necessary to build an extra classroom in 1901, increasing the accommodation from 90 to 150 pupils. Under the new Code of 1902, the limit was revised to 140.

Alongside the learning in schools, technical education also flourished. An example of this is the itinerant butter schools, run by Wiltshire County Council. These would be set up in one of the local farms or an outhouse in one of the big houses and girls (usually) from the village and outlying farms would attend classes in the making of butter. A lot of pride was taken in it and photographs of the class of students would be taken and certificates issued, such as this one at Restrop Farm (c1890). This photograph is in the collection at Purton Museum, together with a Champion Butter Maker medal.

Also from the collection is this small scale domestic butter churn consisting of a glass jar with a screw neck. Onto the neck was fitted a modified screw cap with a handle and gear assembly similar to an egg-whisk which attached to a wooden paddle on the inside of the jar. The jar would have held about 4 pints (2.3 litres) of full cream skimmed from milk but only half-filled when in use.

The butter maker would turn the handle agitating the cream for half-an-hour to an hour, depending on skill and the temperature, until butter formed and separated from

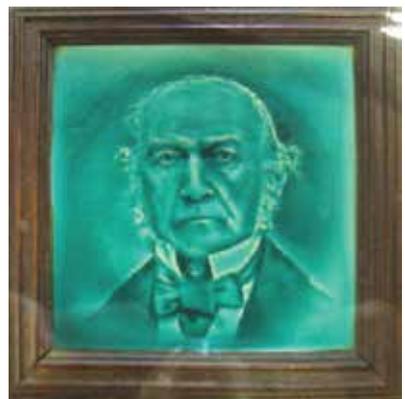


the liquid which is called buttermilk. Once sieved, the butter would then be shaped under running water using wooden pats, sometimes called Scotch Hands. The pats squeezed out any trapped liquid cream and shaped the butter into a usable block. Out of the water again, salt was incorporated and kneaded in using the pats. Initially this was done as a preservative but eventually because salted butter became the expected taste.

Farm-made butter uses cream directly from whole milk. Today's commercially made butter is made by centrifuging whey, a by-product of cheese-making, to extract the small amounts of cream it still contains. Although butter has been getting bad press as an unnecessary fat in our diet, in former times, when work was more manual and refrigeration was way in the future, butter was a valuable energy source and a good use of excess quantities of cream on the farm.

An Act of 1899 set up the Board of Education (from 1900) to co-ordinate the work of higher grade elementary schools, county technical schools and endowed grammar schools, and set up a register of teachers.

The Museum also has a glazed tile found at the former Maltster's at 7 High Street. It is about 6½ inches square, turquoise in colour and framed with wood. It depicts the face of William Ewart. When he died in 1898, he was seen as one of



the greatest politicians of his century and there were many commemorative pieces produced on his death which is perhaps what this tile represents.

Next month: More reform

*Much of the information on Purton schools above is taken from Purton's Past by the late Alec Robbins.

Rick Dixon

Pumpkin Trivia Answers

1. Fruit – Pumpkins are a fruit. They are members of the squash family.
2. Peter – He kept her very well.
3. Chicago – The group was formed in 1988.
4. Freckles – They are also said to be of use in treating snakebites.
5. 90% – This is the reason why pumpkins are so heavy.
6. Howard Dill – Perfecting the super heavyweight pumpkin, Howard Dill was a Canadian farmer from Nova Scotia
7. 1810 pounds – This massive pumpkin was grown by Chris Stevens.
8. Orange – The flowers are a yellowish orange
9. Purple – They also come in red and green.
10. Turnips – Pumpkins were far easier to hollow out.
11. 3699 pounds – Baked in New Bremen, it had a diameter of 20 feet.
12. Cinderella – Her fairy godmother made the carriage
13. Linus Van Pelt – He was not alone, Charlie Brown's sister Sally waited with him.
14. Lance Henriksen – The film was released in 1988.
15. Oz Series – The character was created by Frank Baum.
16. Christina Ricci – The film is about a girl who was attracted to a disabled man
17. One cup – Seeds can be roasted and eaten
18. Mexico - The North American natives were eating pumpkins long before the pilgrims arrived.
19. Marvel - Pumpkinhead is both his real name and his superhero name.
20. He was square – The story of Spookley the Square Pumpkin was a book written by Joe Troiano.
21. Reese Witherspoon – The film was released by Dreamworks.

Purton Profferings

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

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Beneath the Wool

This past month has been a very busy one on the farm with a lot of jobs done which I hadn't remembered until starting to write this. First job of the month was to top off the dead grass at the bottom of College Farm in an attempt to get the sheep to eat the regrowth and in the hope of improving the quality of the grass in that particular section. It's amazing what a few sheep can do to a rough piece of ground in a small amount of time. The next job was to take three lambs from last year and a cull ewe to the slaughter house on 17th August. This involved loading them up before we left which had its moments as the cull ewe was notorious for going slightly crazy when it came to human contact. Luckily they behaved and they all made it very peacefully.

Grenville decided this month that he'd start to become a pain in the backside, which is an annual tradition. This time he decided he'd bend the fence wire and get out of his pen, unfortunately for him this majorly backfired, as he found himself basically in the hedge, although he still had the very pleased look on his face.

On the 30th August it was time to prepare the fence in College Farm ready for the ewes to arrive and on the 31st we moved the ewes in. This meant that this was the day the lambs were weaned from their mothers, which is usually a noisy affair, but luckily this year wasn't too bad. While all the lambs were in, I took the opportunity to put tags in the ones that got missed in the spring when I ran out of tags.

As I'm sure most of you are aware the ewes in College Farm have been getting out the electric fence in usual Rogers Farm style. I was watching *This Farming Life* on BBC 2 one night and the narrator said that modern livestock had been bred to stay in one place and be used to human contact, well I think my sheep never got the memo about staying in one place. However this adds to the character of them and certainly keeps all of us in a job even though it gets rather irritating. The saying grass is always greener on the other side is very true, especially to Long Tail (the ewe with the long tail) who is the leader and mastermind of the trouble.

The final job this month was to change the sheet on the polytunnel, this is quite a big job and my thanks go out to Tris and Harry for helping. We had to choose the right day to get the new sheet over but we were successful and the shed now looks like new.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton



The other side of the gate

Autumn 2020 calving has started. The first arrival was on Wednesday 9th September. Number 881, aka Shakey, had a large British Blue bull calf with Bubba (I didn't name her!) having a smaller British Blue heifer.

The Cricklade Club now takes our milk to make their superb coffee. The club is owned and run by our neighbours Simon and Talia Maddison and their children, nieces and nephews. Kris, the manager, came for a farm visit to see the cows and what we do here. There's not many coffee shops that have met the animals that produce their milk.



The Cricklade Club is a regular bolthole for us. We don't get much time off the farm, but this is where we choose to take a 'business' meeting – we often take a pen and pad and plan to jot down plans and ideas. The atmosphere is very friendly and relaxed and if you haven't sampled their scrambled eggs yet then you're missing a treat!

Last week we took our milk to another local pop-up shop. Lydiard Turkeys (the Rumming family) have started to hold a fortnightly market at their farm, Park Farm, opposite Lydiard Park. This was the second market and appears to be growing as the word gets out. As well as our milk, cream and yogurt they also sell other local produce. John Perrin from Stone Lane takes his fruit and vegetables and they've just got a lardy cake supplier – how that competes with Brian Godwin's legendary lardy I can't tell you as they sold out before we got there! The next pop-up shop is October 3rd, Park Farm, Hook Street, SN5 3NY.

Sarah and I spent a night away, probably the only time away we'll get this year. We have farming friends near Shaftesbury that do similar business to us. It's always great to catch up with them and bounce ideas between ourselves. Their set up is quite different from ours; they have 180 cows and they're milked by robots. They also sell



the majority of their retail milk in local shops and coffee houses which is where our developing market clearly is. The Sunday saw us heading to another farm near Yeovil with my Raw Milk Producers director's hat on. John Corpe has had water buffalo for many years as beef animals, but more recently has started to milk them. We spent six hours with him getting the low-down on these incredible creatures. There are clearly many similarities between cows and water buffalo, but there's no way I'd have any! I thought some of my cows can be precious but these are super queens! We arrived when he was milking. Just the sound of his dogs barking and seeing someone new was enough to stop the milk flowing! We had to hide out of sight until he'd finished! He told us how they are always escaping to find water which is annoying, but the fact that he can't get them out of the water is what he finds most frustrating. The story of him and his cow dog circling the lake trying to move them to dry ground was hilarious! Their milk is much higher in fat than ours, but the taste of the milk and mozzarella is incredible. We came away £100 lighter from buying his burgers, pastrami, mozzarella, sausages, ice cream and steaks. It was all consumed within a few days!

Jonathan Cook



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Keeping Purton Magazine sustainable

Our new website went live on Tuesday 15th September and everyone is invited to visit www.purtonmagazine.co.uk to see what we have been up to these last few months. Regular readers will know that selling advertisements brings in the largest proportion of our income but recently local advertisers have preferred to spend their budgets on internet advertising.



Our new website now features classified listings detailing all advertisements for that month. Residents of Purton and beyond are now able to find suppliers of local products and services with only a few clicks. So, instead of asking friends and neighbours if they know anyone who could mend this or help with that, all advertisers are listed online. Each advertiser has a 'business card' which has a link to their printed advertisement as well as their contact details, including web and email addresses where provided.

Contacting the advertisers by clicking on the email link also lets advertisers know that you are responding to their advertisement and helps us demonstrate the additional benefits of advertising with Purton Magazine.

Do please contact the magazine (details on page 4) if you have any questions or suggestions – it would be great to hear from many readers especially with ideas about how to improve this new facility.

Francis Sheppard, Treasurer.



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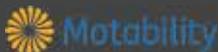
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Purton Tennis Club

We are pleased to say that the Swindon & District League will be going ahead with the Winter League matches. There will, of course, be rules to adhere to with regard to Covid restrictions, but at least some matches will be played. Purton has entered two teams and we will be playing our home matches on Sunday mornings and on Monday evenings – under the flood lights.

The other good news is that our coach, Jon Bastin, will continue to run individual coaching on Fridays and Saturdays, but he now is looking to start group adult coaching and cardio sessions on Fridays as well. Cardio is a fun way to get fit and you don't need to be a tennis player to take part. Should you be interested in giving it a go, get in touch – we can even lend you a racquet!

Jon also hopes to team up with Richard Watkins and together they can provide a comprehensive coaching plan for juniors. So, if adult coaching, junior coaching, or cardio interests you, then please contact Jon Bastin on +44 7900 613449.

Alternatively, if you would like to join Purton Tennis Club as a social member, we would be pleased to hear from you. We have 4 excellent all weather courts (two of which have flood lights) at the Red House in Purton. Please see our website for more details. www.purtontennisclub.com or follow our link on the LTA website.

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

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

Purton Club

Hello from Purton Club, I hope you are all keeping well. At the Club we are open three days a week Friday, Saturday and Sunday and still battling on in the face of the virus. We have taken all the usual precautions against spreading covid and happy to report that we are doing ok. It is hoped that the pub games such as darts, skittles and air rifle shooting will be able to start as soon as the government gives us the go ahead and some guidelines to follow. I would urge team captains who are keen on restarting the games to do a risk assessment on how the games could be played and sound out their team members who are willing to play. We already have one in place for the air rifle club in readiness.

Membership fees are to be waived until October 2021 although membership cards will still have to be renewed during this October as usual.

That's about it for now, keep well and hope to see you at the club sometime.

Gerry White (Club Secretary)

Purton Football Club



Well at last we have been given the go ahead to start the 2020/2021 season and kick off on 12th September away at Shrewton. There are still restrictions in place with no changing facilities available to date, social distancing for supporters in place with sanitisers available for all, Risk Assessments made out to satisfy the Wilts FA and the Parish Council, and an allocated Covid 19 officer. Difficult times indeed and so we are not even allowed to give the officials their match fee and it must now be in a bank transfer or made up prior to the match and put in an envelope. But at least we are under way!

We have two new joint managers out here this season namely Dave Terry and Wayne Petrie and as these things work out with new managerial teams a lot of new faces joining the club, as their background in local football is extensive with clubs such as Shrivenham and Royal Wootton Bassett.

We wish Dave and Wayne all the best for the 2020/2021 season and hope our supporters enjoy watching some entertaining matches.

May I finally thank the individuals and companies for their support in advertising in the football club programme and special thanks to Stephen Trowbridge of First City Homecare for their main sponsorship as without this support we would struggle to maintain the level of Senior Wiltshire League football.

Our pontoon and £1 a point is still available for any supporters to join to assist with club finances.

Alan Eastwood

In memory of our past President, of course known to all of us associated with Purton Football Club as 'Mr. Purton Football Club', my two sons Scott and Arron arranged a memorial match to raise funds to put a lasting memorial to Alan within the Village Centre and obviously overlooking the football pitch.

Ex-players totalling 30+ were involved and they travelled from North Yorkshire in the North and Cornwall in the South to show their appreciation and respect for Alan.

We raised £720 on the day and would like via this magazine to thank everybody that donated and to inform you that I have applied to the Parish Council for a memorial bench to be sited alongside the benches for John Scott and Harry Bunce. To date I have not had a reply but that is due to the Parish Council not meeting until 14th September, which is after the deadline needed by Heather to get this into the October magazine.

I will inform everybody of the progress in the next magazine issue. Many thanks yet again to all those that donated.

Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC

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Kennings as a riddle

Regular readers will know that we like to encourage new contributions to Purton Magazine and provide a wider variety of articles for your enjoyment. Last month we started a challenge for readers to write a riddle wrapped up in pairs of words – known as a kenning – with a maximum of 12 pairs (24 words) or less if preferred. A kenning is a poem which uses two-word phrases to describe an animal, an object or a type of person (but not a specific individual) based on what they do. We hope that readers will enjoy composing some kennings as riddles for us to include in the November issue for others to work out what or who is being described in each kenning. Here are a few to get you thinking.

(Answers on page 54.)

<p>1. Shady sunhat Cool customer Brown bodied Helpfully handsome Articulate artist Women watcher Lazy Lothario Fast fingered Classic cad</p>	<p>2. Children’s chairs Alphabetical arrangements Financial fines Sometimes silent Vital volunteers</p>	<p>3. Beautiful banks Cheerful companions Interesting itineraries Special staff Varied views Complete cabins</p>
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Hello from The Cedars Care Home

'Cor blimey what a scorcher!'



The last day of July was the hottest day of the year so far. It had been nothing but rain till then, upsetting for both residents and relatives as our only place for visits to take place safely was a large gazebo in the back garden – no heating and after a while not very waterproof. We couldn't get out to enjoy a bit of gardening or outside games, so we reverted to the usual indoor activities of music and movement, sing-a-longs and arts and craft sessions. However, when done with social distancing, they lost their appeal for many.

However, our seaside themed event held on the last day of July couldn't have been more needed. Glorious weather, ice-creams from the ice cream van, fish & chips, a paddling pool of cooling water, fishing games and fruit punches from the Tiki bar. It was lovely to have a full day of fun, games and dressing up. The relaxed atmosphere of the day was enjoyed by all involved.

Ellen & Francis stormed in to ruin the party!

August swept in with the British summer we all know and love, sunshine and showers. Although temperatures were said to be average our residents were not convinced. If it's windy it must be cold, so encouraging residents into the garden for some fresh air wasn't easy. Then Ellen and Francis came along causing storm damage to our garden and our gazebo, putting garden fun and visits on hold.

All was not lost though!

Tish and I started a mini clearance of the summer house and our wonderful handyman at Cedars finished the clear up. He painted and transformed it into a Covid compliant meeting place so visits could resume once again. This was very well received by residents and their visitors, so a huge thank you to him for all the hard work.

Covid-19 continues to spoil the party

The end of August saw further changes implemented to protect our residents and abide by the ever-changing restrictions. It's very hard for carers and activities to manage these requirements whilst continuing to provide an enjoyable, happy and entertaining environment. However, if the weather or Covid stops a visit we arrange Zoom, Skype and good old telephone conversations. Although a Zoom call is strange to some residents, it's also joyous. When a resident sees their family on screen and smiles, it's a lovely moment.

So, as we go forward with the 'new normal', anyone with innovative ideas for activities please contact Tish on her email: t.kalra@osjct.co.uk All suggestions greatly received.

Contact Tish on her email: t.kalra@osjct.co.uk or myself Jane j.pitcher@osjct.co.uk if you have any suggestions for activities. Also if you have skills to share on a regular basis then contact: www.osjct.co.uk/volunteering/ Thank you!



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Kennings Answers: 1 = A thief, 2 = A library, 3 = A river cruise



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