

Purton. Magazine

November 2020



Libbie's lockdown wild flower border, Hoggs Lane 2020.

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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 eighth edition of *Purton Magazine* to be published during Covid-19 restrictions. Visit www.purtonmagazine.co.uk for previous issues and our advertisers' database for local businesses. The copy deadline for the December issue is the 10th November; please email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton. Magazine

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

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Tel: 01793 772954 email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Distribution & Delivery enquiries: Sandra Horsnall 01793 770157

Email: distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:

The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

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From the Editors

It's that time of year when birds gather in small clouds swirling around as if auditioning for some aerobatic Red Arrows stunt – yet all being blissfully unaware of Covid 19 ravaging the communities below. Back on terra firma the coronavirus is causing substantial changes to the events and activities that we would normally be able to experience and enjoy in the village.

For example, the Royal British Legion 2020 Poppy Appeal will be severely impacted because there will not be any face to face fundraising nor will the Remembrance service at the cenotaph go ahead. Poppies and remembrance crosses will still be available nationally with a reduced number of local shops being able to take stocks. While more details can be found on page 12 it would be a further sign of our caring community if villagers went a little further out of their way this year to help others support the appeal together with your contribution. Poppies are to be worn with pride because **we will remember them.**

In their article on page 20 the Gardeners' Guild bemoan the fact that their report in each November issue of your magazine would normally focus on their annual mini show some weeks earlier where members were always encouraged to show off their achievements in any of 23 classes within 4 main categories. The irony is that with so much spare time this year courtesy of Covid, coupled with warm spring weather and regular watering, the crops have been produced in abundance in both gardens and allotments. Perhaps the only blessing is that the cancellation has avoided any judging difficulties between many excellent exhibits.

On page 37 you will find a mini crossword, hopefully the first in an ongoing series. There are only six words to be found and there are no prizes – rather it is simply for readers to have a bit of fun as winter closes in and answers will be published in the December issue. If the levels of frustration get too much, we are hoping that readers will create their own mini crossword puzzle for future editions of Purton Magazine. Getting three horizontal words crossing three vertical words may be the easy bit. Perhaps the greater challenge is to create six clues with different levels of difficulty, with some tough enough to challenge those consummate crossword completers who regularly finish national newspaper offerings even before finishing their breakfast.

22

Miles is the length of
beating the bounds of
our Parish boundary
– see page 42

100+

Entries in a cake
decorating competition
held to mark European
day – see page 25

132

Years of Christmas carols
performed by Cricklade
Town Band
– see page 48



Resignation of a Councillor

The Parish Council wishes to formally thank Julie Ann Hurwood for her support in her role as councillor until her resignation on Monday 5th October 2020. She has worked tirelessly on the issues presented regarding the drainage and flooding issues within the parish. She will be missed however, we all wish her the very best in her new adventure.

The Rise Trust

The Council has agreed to support vital youth work within our community by engaging the services of The Rise Trust to be present in our community every Thursdays from 6–8 p.m. They will engage with the youths, talk openly and report any areas of concerns to the relevant bodies. They will be highly visible in their Rise Trust outfits and extremely approachable. If you see them give them a wave and say hi.

Venture Play Park

Sadly conversations and meetings with Greensquare regarding their changes without consultation at the Dogridge Play Park site has resulted in the permanent closure of this park. The land has now been handed back to Wiltshire Council.

Play Close Park Update

The Witches Hat has sadly been declared non-repairable due to its inability to spin! However the Council will be replacing it shortly with a new, fully accessible roundabout.

Fibre to the Property

Gigaclear are working with various bodies to install fibre optics to allow greater connectivity to the rural communities within Wiltshire. You should receive written notification from them with any works to your street/address, along with details of who to contact should there be issues. However, please see basic contact information should you need it: networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com 03707 740537

Hall Hire

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

The Village Hall, due to shared facilities, will be reviewed on a month by month basis and will reopen only when it is 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 question or queries that you wish to address to the Council, please email the

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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

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Councillor Vacancy

We have two vacancies for co-opted councillors. 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

- 20/00806/FUL Caring Hands (Wiltshire) Battlelake Farm, Braydon SN5 0AA. Demolition of existing barn. Proposed extension to provide 6no. bedrooms for residential care homes to include staff facilities.
- 20/01790/FUL The Village Centre, Church Street. SN5 4DT. Retrospective application for Village Centre sign.
- 20/01855/FUL The Gallops, The Pry, Purton SN5 4JU. Proposed rear extension.
- 19/11694/FUL Bridge Paddocks, Leigh SN5 6RQ. Change of use of land from agricultural to additional garden land to be used in association with established Gypsy site.
- 20/05358/FUL 6 High Street, Purton. SN5 4AA. Change of use from restaurant to staff accommodation, creation of 3 flats to first and second floors and internal alterations.
- 20/05475/FUL Battlewell Lodge, Battlewell, Purton SN5 4BT. Proposed alterations to kitchen and dining room at rear of property.
- 20/06836/FUL 34 Vasterne Close, Purton SN5 4EZ. 2 Storey front, side, and rear extension.
- 20/05215/FUL 3 New Road, Purton SN5 4HF. Timber framed carport with adjoining workshop and storage over.

Refused Applications

- 19/07914/PNCOU The Barn, Purkini Farm, Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke. SN5 4LL Notification for prior approval under class Q for a proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a single dwelling house (Use Class C3) and for associated operational development.
- 20/04437/FUL The Forge, Widham. Purton. SN5 4HP. Proposed new vehicular access, alterations to existing wall and fence, lay hardstanding, and other alterations.
- 20/05796/FUL Brockhurst Farm Stables, Greenhill SN4 8EH. Erection of replacement dwelling (Revised Plan) erection of detached outbuilding and change of land to residential.

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 have Facebook and Twitter Accounts

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

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



PPG work and Fundraising

Over the past years the PPG has fundraised for a number of items for the surgery, raising money to help fund items that benefit patients that the NHS does not provide.

The last item was the automated door for Purton Surgery. This was due to be fitted in March – you will not be surprised to learn that this was delayed because of lockdown. The automated door has now been fitted – however, because of Covid-19, the surgery currently needs to keep the door locked and use a buzzer system. This means that although fitted, the automated door is not able to be used. It's there ready for when things improve!

The PPG has raised funds through events and also through the sale of books and the table top sales in the waiting room of Purton Surgery and, in addition to the automated door, contributed to the patient check-in system, high backed chairs with arms for the waiting rooms in both Purton and Green Gable Surgeries (Purton & District Age Concern additionally funded two more of these), a new ECG machine, a Spirometer, a Dermatoscope and a Doppler machine. Sadly these are not happening at the moment, however we are in discussion with the surgery regarding our next fundraising and if you can think of any ways of supporting us then please do get in touch. We have been asked by a few people who to make cheques payable to, the answer is 'Purton Patient Participation Group'

We have also raised funds for Brighter Futures at Great Western Hospital when they were fundraising for the new Radiotherapy Unit.

In addition to fundraising we (normally!) hold information evenings twice a year when we invite medical professionals – often from Great Western Hospital – to talk on their speciality.

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

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

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The Royal British Legion Purton Branch

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we won't be holding the Remembrance Service as usual at the Cenotaph.

All the members of the Branch would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the people who gave so generously to the Poppy Appeal over the last year, giving a total of £9,504.81, and considering the problems over the last few months is excellent.

Our thanks also go to Shirley and Mike Lawrence, our Poppy Appeal organisers, for all their hard work, and to the customers of Asda who gave so generously.

Colin Pearson, Honorary Secretary

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

Memories of Door to Door Poppy Collection

By the time you read this many of you may have been expecting a knock on the door from your regular Poppy collector, but this year like many other traditions it is all change. The Royal British Legion has decided there will be no door to door collections, although some shops in the village will still have them available, plus there will be other means of donation which hopefully by now you will be aware of.

This news was very sad for me as I have been a collector since moving to the village in 1985 (always covering Highridge and Restrop Road) and previously, when I lived in North London, I had a very long road in Hendon which I had looked after since starting in the mid 70s. It has become a very enjoyable part of my life as each year, I mostly saw the same people who have waited for me to come as they know I will, always avoiding Halloween and Bonfire nights and any days that are wet and windy. You get to know the houses with wonky bell systems that often needed an extra knock on the door; those that preferred the back door rather than the front, the paving stone that was just a little bit higher waiting to trip you up or the shrub waiting to ambush you. In those thirty-five years, sadly a few have passed away and new faces and families have appeared, we have all become a little slower with age, so

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03/21

a patient wait is nearly always rewarded.

My early days of collecting in Hendon were a little nerve racking, as it was slightly unknown territory to me as I lived in Edgware a few miles further north, so I used to drive to the middle of my route so that it would not be quite so far to walk back to, especially if I had been busy at work and had already walked a fair distance in the day. The road I was allocated was, I discovered, in a fairly affluent area and the houses (some almost small mansions) had either very long drives or a security gate that had to be negotiated. However, the result was generally well worthwhile as people were almost without exception very generous, many having been refugees from Germany or thereabouts either just before the war or in the first few months. Sometimes I would run out of time and had to return to finish the road. Over the years I got to know many by name, and if I happened to bump into any during the day at work at the local hospital I would be greeted and introduced as Hazel, our Poppy lady, to any friends they had with them.

On moving to Purton I met Albert Clifford, such a lovely man who made us so welcome in the village and a chance conversation with him I think initially about the flower show, led me to doing a collection in the village. Sometime in October I would receive a call from either Mr or Mrs Berry (we were all much more formal in those days) and then later from their daughter Shirley. A box of poppies and a collecting tin were duly delivered a week or so before the official start of collections. It was indeed a tin in the first few years and then eventually the shaped red containers we have to-day, which are much easier to hold and to slip money into. One year a gentleman had recently discovered a piggy bank that had been mislaid, and he very kindly donated the contents. It took us several minutes to move the contents into the shaped coin slot but had it been the old tin straight slot that would have been trebled!

This is all why I will miss doing my Poppy collection (although sometimes I wouldn't have missed the weather, it's very hard holding onto a tray of poppies in the wind). Please support the Royal British Legion Poppies as you have done before and if you have a neighbour who is unable to go out please check if they would like one, as for many, especially those a little older it is very important to be able to wear their poppy with pride.

Hazel Woodbridge BEM



We Record ...

Burial at Purton Cemetery

8 October 2020 Edith Margaret Jones (76)



Non-Events!

The heading above seems to be the norm this year, whereas we have been used to organising events, we are now busy cancelling them, such a shame. We know that what we are doing is necessary but it still doesn't feel right.

The Purton Age Concern committee had a 'Zoom' meeting on the 6th October, for those that struggle with the technology this is a 'virtual' meeting which means we met but we didn't meet! You see it's simple really.

Our agenda was to discuss the relevance of producing our calendar and Christmas cards this year bearing in mind that we will have no events where we can sell them, and also we have no plans for any events in the new year either that we could include in the calendar. We decided not to produce the calendar but we will still produce the Christmas cards, at least we will try and bring a bit of festivity to the occasion.

Also on the agenda was the Christmas vouchers and despite the lack of fundraising opportunities this year we have decided that the Christmas vouchers will be issued. Hopefully that will be something for all eligible residents to look forward to.

Whilst we are mentioning the vouchers I should say that anybody not receiving them and who is of state retirement age will qualify, and if this applies to you then please contact Georgina, our Secretary, on secretary@purtonageconcern.com which is the email address from the website or ring me on 778119 for more information.

The run-up to Christmas is such a special time and we normally have so many events to organise, but I'm sure we all know that doing the right thing now will mean that next year we will be able to return to some sort of normality.

Special Thanks

We are always especially thankful to all the people that make donations themselves or on behalf of relatives and friends and this month is no exception. Jacqui Lay deserves our thanks this month with donations on behalf of her late mother from the sale of a wheelchair and also donation of two walkers and some crutches, so grateful to receive them. Her parents both supported their local Age Concern group in Surrey, her father driving the minibus for them.

We have also been able to pass on a walker to a villager for which we received a donation. Also another donation for use of a wheelchair. Thanks again.

Useful Contacts

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.

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.

Phoenix - Each month we will mention Phoenix, 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 and Twitter: @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

Purton Virtual Scarecrow Trail 2020

We would like to thank those that entered "artworks" into the 2020 virtual Scarecrow Trail and also the quizzers who sent in their answers.

Just as it has been a very unusual year for all of us, the entries were also an interesting mixture of the more traditional scarecrow along with some abstract and artistic designs.

Kim Fowler of Wootton Bassett was the quiz winner and has received a voucher for afternoon tea for two at The Bell in Malmesbury. We are very grateful for their support in providing this prize.

The public's favourite was Fish and Chips by Trevor Maxfield, who won chocolates supplied by Waitrose. The Judge's choice was Banksy by Barbara and Len Page and their family, who won a bottle of wine, also donated by Waitrose.

This year's entries and answers are available to view via www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail

We look forward to future scarecrow events when we can return to more normal fun-filled trails around the lovely village of Purton.

06/21

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Ten Years Ago...

In November 2010 the Parish Council was looking forward to the national census the following March. Indeed, it is probably gearing up again as, like this column, the census runs on a ten-year cycle. Having been living abroad, I have not been involved in one here for thirty years but I am still surprised to read in Purton Magazine that it is used by supermarkets to help them stock their customers' favourites. Is there really a section where I can specify all those continental delicacies that I have been missing? And this at a time when one sometimes cannot find anything as basic as a packet of flour in Waitrose.



Being November, Purton Magazine was beginning to look forward to Christmas. (It seems strange to be writing this in a late-summer heatwave!) We'll look at the preparations next month but in the meantime a local speaker was heavily booked. He was giving a lecture on metal detecting and another on the building of the Pyramids. It would be fascinating to know if there is any relationship between the two.

I have never played tennis seriously and now I know why. It's far too complicated! The Tennis Club noted that every summer in the local league "each pair plays both its equal and the other i.e. the first couple plays the second couple and then plays the first couple and vice versa." It's different in the winter but that involves a different strategy. I'll stick to ping-pong.

Bradon Forest School reported that two former pupils, Will Evans and Billy Bodin, had signed professional forms with Swindon Town. Both have now moved a number of times but are still playing in the Football League.

By the time it reached "C", the A-Z of Purton was running to three pages. Subjects ranged from Carriage Driving to Constables and I will be in trouble if I don't mention Cricket.

Purton Profferings

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

- Rear lights and number plate bar with electrics for trailer or car bike rack
- Two roof bars for car with roof rails. Please contact 771018

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



In previous years the Gardeners' Guild magazine entry for November would have included an account of our popular annual Mini Show, the regular focus of our September meetings, where members are invited to exhibit in any of the 23 classes within the 4 main categories – Flowers, Vegetables, Fruit and Domestic – and all those present have the opportunity to vote for their favourite in each of those classes.

However, Covid 19 and the subsequent lockdown resulted in a surfeit of spare time providing many of us with the opportunity for planting and the exceptionally warm spring weather and regular watering produced an abundance of vegetables and fruit on gardens and allotments whilst a multitude of colourful flowers filled our garden borders.

I have no doubt that this year the tables would have been heaving with exhibits in all categories and the voting would have been a far more difficult task.

Alas it was not to be and so what to write??

Having arrived early for a dental appointment last week, Steve and I took a stroll through Old Town Gardens on what was a glorious autumnal day. We hadn't gone far when we came across a young family, the children kicking their way through the fallen leaves of an enormous Horse Chestnut tree, searching for the shiny brown chestnut-like nuts scattered amongst the spiky husks on the ground.

The scene was reminiscent of childhood and made us think about how much we really know about conkers and what was, and still is, a favourite game for children.

So what follows are a few facts about 'Conkers'! Many you may already know but maybe there are a few you may not.

Conkers are the fruit of the Horse Chestnut tree, a deciduous tree, which is believed to have been brought to Britain in 1616 from the Balkans and was so called because the Turks would ground up the conkers to feed them to their ailing horses and to give them a shiny coat.

They contain the seeds from which new trees can grow.

The name may come from the dialect word conker meaning "knock out" (perhaps related to French conque meaning a conch as the game was originally played using snail shells and small bits of string).

They are unfit for human consumption, but are eaten by cattle, deer and horses.

In May the Horse Chestnut tree produces white and pink flowers which are pollinated by insects, each one developing into a conker (the seed) encased in a spiky green husk. In the autumn the husk splits open, falls to the ground and the conker falls out.

That's when the search for the best conker begins and the traditional game of conkers comes into its own. Apparently on finding your first conker of the season

you should say “Oddly oddly onker my first conker”. This ensures good fortune and few tangles throughout the coming season.

The game is played by two players each with a conker threaded onto a piece of string, knotted at one end. One player wraps the string around his hand and lets the conker dangle from the remaining length of the string while the opponent wraps his conker string around his hand and draws it back. Taking the conker in the other hand he draws it back and releasing it, swings it down and tries to hit his opponent’s conker.

The aim is to take turns striking each other’s conker until one or other of the two conkers is completely destroyed.

When It comes to scoring, a new conker is apparently a none-er meaning that it’s conquered none yet. However if a non-er breaks another non-er it becomes a two-er. In some regions the winning conker assimilates the previous score of the losing conker, as well as gaining the score from that particular game. For example, if a two-er plays a three-er the surviving conker will become a six-er (the sum of the two previous scores plus one for the current game). In other regions the winning conker simply gains one point irrespective of the points value of the loser. I hope you’re keeping up with this – there will be questions to answer!

The hardest conkers usually win. They can be hardened by keeping them for a year, baking them briefly, soaking or boiling in vinegar or painting with clear nail varnish, although such hardening is usually regarded as cheating.

One factor affecting the strength of the conker is the shape of the hole, a clean cylindrical hole being stronger as it has no notches or chips that can begin to crack or split.

For some time now Health and Safety issues have impacted on the popularity of the game. Afraid of the legal consequences if children are injured playing conkers, head teachers have banned them from their schools.

Since 2002 when the first case of a Horse Chestnut tree being infected with the leaf miner moth came to light, the voracious insect has been spreading through Britain at an estimated 60 miles per year with devastating consequences. Experts are now warning that the beloved conker of our childhood could soon become a thing of the past. Stay safe.

Margaret Goodall, Secretary Tel: 770906

St Mary’s Church Christmas cards

Raising funds for the St Mary’s Renewal Fund, cards are £1.50 each, (payment on receipt, p&p extra if required). Message inside reads ‘May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you’. Receipt of cards will be a 7-10 working days from order date. Contact Christine Gill: bwcegill@gmail.com to place your order.



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12/20

Does anyone know if we can take showers yet, or should we just keep washing our hands?

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St Mary's Primary School

At St Mary's we have 'Faith in Everyone to Shine Brightly'. We wanted to tell you about some of the ways the children have been shining brightly this term...

Pottering about...

Year 5's work this term had been linked with 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' by JK Rowling. They've done all sorts of writing and even made up their own fantastic creatures!

ROCK-olate!

Year 3 are currently studying the Stone Age as their topic, and rocks in Science. So, we decided to make rocks using chocolate!



First, they layered three types of chocolate in a cling film wrapped cup and compressed it. When they pulled the chocolate out it was almost solid and had three distinct layers – dark, milk and white chocolate – just like

sedimentary rock. Then they took a quarter of the rock and squeezed it into a ball. They held it long enough for the outside of the chocolate to melt. When the ball was split, the layers were merged into patches of colour. They had made metamorphic rock.

Then Year 3 took half of the metamorphic rock and re-wrapped it. They held it in their hands until the chocolate melted and went runny. This was left on the table to go hard and was then broken open. The chocolate was a consistent colour all the way through. Year 3 had made igneous rock.

Natural Sculptures

Year 2 has been making the most of the autumn weather and have recently enjoyed some outdoor learning. We made Andy Goldsworthy inspired sculptures using natural materials found on our autumn walk.



In our Science topic, we have been investigating minibeasts and their microhabitats in our school Nature Area.

Virtually Harvest

The Harvest Festival usually entails a lovely walk from the school to St Mary's church, but of course that wasn't possible this year. Instead, we all joined together on our computer screens (using Zoom) so the children in the classrooms, Mrs Clarke and Mr Payne in their offices joined Reverend Judith from her home. Judith talked about our local harvest in Purton with some wonderful photos from her husband at work with the tractor and combine in the local fields. Each class presented a poem on a different aspect of harvest as we went. It ended up being a really wonderful harvest festival which brought us all closer together and closer to our local environment, even though none of us left our rooms!



Russ Payne, Deputy Head Teacher

As a Governing Body we are extremely proud of the role the school has played at the heart of our community during this time of uncertainty. We currently have a vacancy for a Community Governor to join us and be part of this successful school. If you have enthusiasm, dedication and a passion to give back to your community we would welcome you to join us. For more information please contact the Clerk at clerk@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk by Friday 13th November.

Eleanor Amos, Chair of Governors

One Stop Christmas fundraiser

It will come as no surprise that due to ongoing Covid 19 restrictions, we have made the decision to cancel our fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, December 5th. We will however be holding our usual raffle. Tickets will be on sale from mid-November. Prizes will include a Bumper Hamper, Christmas Cakes, various Bottles and other festive treats. Just ask one of our colleagues for tickets when you shop.

The Management and Staff are grateful for your continued support and hope that we will be able to resume our fundraising functions in the near future, until then "Keep Safe".

We would like to take this opportunity, albeit a bit early, to wish our valued customers a healthy and happy Christmas and hope that the New Year will bring hope for the end to this very uncertain and stressful time.

Best wishes to you all from Your Local One Stop Team.

Bradon Forest School

Opening the school virtually

This year we had to do things a little differently! We held our first ever Virtual Open Evening on Thursday 24 September. The evening started with a presentation from our Headteacher, Julie Dickson. Two of our Assistant Headteachers, Catherine Chappell and Paul Dipple, answered questions submitted by families and then our Head Boy and Girl, Cole and Hannah, gave a student's perspective of the school. We were delighted to have over 700 views during the evening.

On a normal Open Evening parents and pupils would also have the chance to tour the school and chat with staff and students. Various members of our school community recorded a number of short videos. We had clips from Heads of Faculty, students, pastoral staff, our SENCO and many more.

Feedback from a parent: "I just wanted to say how impressed I was with the videos and open evening. I imagine when you decided to enter the teaching vocation that social media videos were not part of the remit! – yet you've all come across well and have represented the school in a really positive light. As parents, we feel reassured that Bradon Forest is the school we would like to send our children to and we don't feel we need to see any of the others. I felt you all came across as very approachable, down to earth and caring. We look forward to working with you in the next part of our children's journey!"

These videos can be viewed on the school's YouTube account.

If your child is due to start Year 7 in September 2021, you will need to complete the secondary application by 12 midnight on 31 October 2020.

European Day of Languages



Our Modern Foreign Languages team ran several competitions to mark European Day of Languages on 26 September. We had over 100 entries for the cake decorating competition alone and here are just a few of them. MFL teacher, Mrs Wiltshire, had the very difficult tasks of judging the cake competition. Shame we couldn't sample them this year!

Black History Month

October is Black History Month and we have been marking this in a variety of ways at Bradon Forest – quizzes and competitions, videos celebrating diversity playing at lunchtime in the hall, tutor time activities, book readings and diversity celebrated within lessons across the curriculum.



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Harvest Table Trail

On Saturday October 31st there will be a Harvest Table Trail around the village from 10-12 noon. The hope is to raise some money for St Mary's Church Renewal Fund.

I am sure you are all aware that St Mary's Church is closed at the moment for urgent repair and updating. We are hoping for better heating, better lighting, better toilets and all sorts of other improvements, to make it a building fit for use during the next hundred years or so, not only for adults but for the children of Purton and the children's children!

So we are desperate for a bit more money to improve the access and facilities within the church for the benefit of everyone in Purton.

On October 31st we are asking for as many people as possible to have another table top/garage style sale, as so many did for the school funds last month. Could you have a table..of toys or books, bric a brac or things from your home that need re-cycling? Or could you make a cake for someone else to sell on their table?

Could you go to Pips to see what is available there... hopefully jams and preserves; could you come and buy a Bakewell Tart at the top of the High St?...they are already being baked ready for action!

If you would like to take part please let me know and I'll make sure people know where to find your table on the day.

If the weather is too unfriendly then please don't get wet but maybe have your table another day to suit you.

We are not asking for a fee for the table but would be so grateful for a donation towards RENEW, the Church Renewal Funds.

Please give me a call 01793 771018... and I will explain more .

The more the merrier

GOOD LUCK! And Thank you

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Saturday 31st October
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yourself and sell
whatever you want.*
(Locations publicised
on 30th Oct)

More details : Libbie 771018
Donations from sales to St Mary's Church
Renewal Fund

Libbie

Copper switch off

With regard to concerns on “Copper switch off” we can safely lay constituents’ fears to rest as there’s no plans to turn off or remove the copper broadband lines from BT or indeed any other provider that supplies broadband services via the Openreach infrastructure. What’s planned to happen by 2025 is the removal of the old analogue telephone service (known as the Public Switched telephone network – PSTN). This relies on the electrical signal sent over the copper network, however the broadband service will continue to be delivered over the copper lines (either using FTTC or the older ADSL copper service) as this uses digital technology.

Of course, eventually though, the old analogue phone service will be withdrawn, that doesn’t mean the telephone service itself will be withdrawn or existing telephones won’t work, rather we, and other service providers are introducing and indeed have already launched modern digital telephone services. These will replace the older analogue voice services over the next 5 years by a modern digital voice service (the BT Consumer service is known as “Digital Voice” where the signal is sent over the broadband line, but this works perfectly well over copper or fibre broadband lines.

BT recognise that this is confusing to some users, and we’re seeking to work as an industry, making sure that these messages and changes do not result in confusion. Readers can take a look at the recently launched website (June 2020) on this issue of Digital Voice and the removal of the PSTN run by the Broadband Stakeholder Group, on behalf of the industry www.futureofvoice.co.uk/

In addition to the industry/BSG website offering information on change to digital voice/removal of the analogue/copper based voice service, BT have a specific one as well www.bt.com/about/all-ip

Copper broadband users can continue to use their broadband service, without the need for full fibre to be connected to their premises. Although, if and when full fibre does become available to their premises, they may of course, want to upgrade to it, if they wish, given its ability to deliver faster more reliable broadband services with speeds and performance that can increase significantly to meet their current and future needs.

Access to ducts

With regard to Gigaclear (or any other non-Openreach fibre builder) digging up the road to install new fibre, although these companies are entitled to install their own fibre down UK roads and streets, all such builders are required to comply with the civil engineering standards of the Government and local authority, as indeed are Openreach. In addition Openreach also offer the ability to use their existing ducts and poles, on equivalent terms, to any other fibre provider, thus avoiding the need for multiple digs, and so potentially lowering costs for all, minimising disruption and ensuring the new companies can benefit from existing ducts in an equivalent way to BT/Openreach. So for example Gigaclear could choose to deploy their new fibre in

an existing Openreach underground duct down the street if they wish to, assuming a suitable duct is present, thus avoiding most and potentially all new digging work (the exact amount of new work, if any will depend on the local situation). There is, though, no compulsion for Gigaclear or anyone else to use the Openreach ducts however, if they decide that it is better to build their own.

*Jacqui Lay, Wiltshire Councillor for Purton and Braydon
Tel: 01793 770704/07449 978789*

Knit a Blanket (South Africa) and Knit for Peace (UK)



During lockdown the Knitting Group and friends who normally meet at Silver Threads Hall have still been busy knitting small toys, Fish and Chip sets, baby blankets, beanie hats, hand warmers and 8” squares for larger blankets. We post these items to South Africa. Knit for Peace requires knitted hats, scarves, gloves, sweaters of all sizes but not premature baby items.

October has always been the month when we do our main fundraising event – Coffee Morning followed by a two course lunch. Sadly this year, due to Covid 19, we cannot invite you to coffee or lunch but our knitting is still needed. This requires money for postage to South Africa and London. The money we raise also helps with the distribution costs within the various countries.

These photos are of a distribution done last week in Zamdela Free State, South Africa. Perhaps some of you can see your work. Alison Instone’s blankets, Sue Moon’s Fish and Chip set and in another photo the child is wearing a hat made by Bernice Seviour.

This week 50 Fish and Chip sets were taken to Pietermaritzburg Hospital, this is just one of the hospitals where the babies go home wrapped in newspaper, hence the Fish and Chip sets.

Sylvia, Sue, Bernice and myself will gladly collect donations through our letter boxes (Sylv’s front door is inside her porch). Sylv is 35 High Street, Sue is 11 Reid’s Piece, Bernice is 23 Norbury Court. Me (Jude Sullivan) 12 College Road.

We will be very grateful for any donations to support this work.

Many thanks, Jude 01793 771520

Gigaclear[®]

Your community's journey to ultrafast full fibre broadband is about to begin...

Gigaclear, the ultrafast full fibre broadband provider, has recently begun work in Purton, to build their new network. Gigaclear builds networks with commercial investment and through the Building Digital UK (BDUK) programme in partnership with Local Authorities, such as Wiltshire Online.

Rural communities have been at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to accessing good digital connectivity – something that has negatively impacted the ability for individuals to enjoy online activities and has restricted the growth potential of local businesses. We have seen first-hand how full fibre broadband can enable a community and those who live and work within it. As such, Gigaclear have identified Purton as an area that does not currently have a full fibre solution, and in some places slower than average broadband speeds, indicating a necessity for a new full fibre network.

As with any utility, there is a degree of construction and temporary disruption throughout the build phase. We aim to minimise the inconvenience to community life, and always be mindful of the natural landscape. Where possible we use minimally invasive build methodology, such as narrow trenching, where we excavate about 350 mm wide and deep, primarily using a mini digger. This is done as much as possible in the publicly adopted space, such as verges, footways or if necessary, carriageway.

On occasion we will need to excavate in privately owned areas. If this is the case, we will send the registered landowner a document called a wayleave or Network Access Agreement, seeking their permission to dig across their land to install our apparatus.

We excavate in these spaces to place a Gigaclear connection Pot (Point of Termination) at the public boundary of every property. When the Pot is activated, the fibre is then blown through the ducting to this Pot. Alternatively, you can wait, and the connection Pot is there and ready ahead of an order being placed. Once an order is placed, we install the fibre from the connection pot into the property and connect the customer up with our new Gigaclear powered by Linksys router. For a full list of our ISPs (Internet Service Providers) you can go to www.gigaclear.com/our-partners or you can go to www.gigaclear.com/home-broadband to view our current residential packages, there is also a business link here www.gigaclear.com/get-fibre-broadband-your-business.

The build in Purton is split into five cabinet areas. Hayes Knoll rurally to the North, Widham which is south of the railway bridge to the High Street junction, Church

End which is the middle of Purton and the rural east around Church End itself, Purton which goes from the war memorial west to Restrop Road and Dogridge which is Restrop Road and East. Each of these have their own requirements and dependencies to be completed or activated. These are currently estimated to be by the end of calendar Q2 2021, although live services for some might be the following quarter of Q3 2021. Residents can register for updates via the link www.gigaclear.com/mycommunity and then as soon as their connection is ready, they will receive notification from our marketing teams.

For any questions during the build phase, our Network Build Care team can be contacted on 01865 591 137 or by emailing networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com

Christopher Morris, Community Engagement Manager

Purton Tennis Club

As November approaches, we are planning our AGM and hopefully making plans for the coming year. We will be holding our AGM on Wednesday 4th November however, this year we may be using Zoom instead of an actual meeting. This is a time when the big decisions are made and we will be looking for willing bodies to serve on the committee; new faces are always welcome. If you wish to take part, please get in touch so we can give you the necessary passwords.

Winter league matches have started and hopefully will run until the end of February. Likewise, Jon Bastin has started an adult coaching session on Thursday mornings which will run throughout the winter. Social tennis is on-going as we have four all-weather courts that can be booked on-line and be used all year round.

Tennis is a sociable game that can be played by anyone of any age, and we are pleased to say, in line with the Government's Covid guidelines. If you would like to join us for competitive or social tennis, please get in touch via our website; www.purtontennis.com or our Facebook page, follow the link on the LTA website or of course, email me directly: janetsaunders@gmail.com

All information is on our website: www.purtontennisclub.com

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

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.

Purton Village Diary - November 2020

- 4 W Purton Tennis Club Zoom AGM, contact the club for details
5 Th Guy Fawkes night
8 Su Remembrance Sunday
11 W Armistice Day
12 Th Zoom Youth Eco Workshop hosted by Wiltshire Climate Alliance
13 F Application deadline for St Mary's Primary School Community Governor vacancy
26 Th 7.30pm Purton Historical Society meet on Zoom

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

It is planned to resume worship at Purton Methodist Church by holding Holy Communion services once a month on the first Sunday of each month until it is possible to meet on a more regular basis. Unfortunately, because of Government and Methodist Church restrictions regarding social distancing, these services will need to be limited to Methodist Church members only until restrictions are reviewed and more people can be accommodated. In the meantime Rev David Perkins is continuing with his recorded services on YouTube and these can be accessed from 10.30 a.m. every Sunday morning. The link is www.youtube.com/channel/UCYZpw6oX_l ef-68tycPGT3Q?

We look forward to a time in the future when we can meet together again in the chapel for weekly Sunday worship services and other church activities and we will keep you informed as changes are made.

Heather Hunt

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
2nd Wednesday	(except Aug) 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

DISCLAIMER

Contributions to Purton Magazine are welcome for consideration, the contributor's name and address must be supplied (but may be withheld on request). Copyright must be agreed for publication in this magazine - especially those recognisable in photographs. Opinions expressed in the Magazine are solely those of the respective contributors. Contributions are to be written concisely and we reserve the right to edit contributions and advertisements. Submissions received after the copy deadline will only be included at the editors' discretion and if space allows. Articles and information relating to the Parish of Purton and relevant to its residents, will be given priority. Advertising is accepted in good faith and does not imply the Magazine's endorsement of the product or service.

Broken bones and 15 rejections – nothing was going to stop me running the 2020 London Marathon

Running in the London Marathon has been a dream of mine for nearly two decades. I started applying for the marathon 15 years ago but every year my application was declined. Then last October after 15 years of receiving rejection letters I finally was accepted by St John's Ambulance to run on their behalf in the 40th London Marathon in my 40th year – I finally thought my luck had changed. I even had an article written about my marathon plight in the respected running magazine 'Runner's World'!



However, nothing worthwhile is ever easy and should not be taken for granted. I tripped over a door stop over the New Year holidays and broke two toes in my foot which meant my training had to move to the cross trainer at the gym which really focused the mind when using it for 2 ½ hours straight at the weekends. In February I was finally able to run outside again so took advantage of the fantastic routes around the village and ended up on the cricket pitch. Sadly while enjoying the surroundings I took my eyes off the ground and did not see the rabbit hole until my foot went in. The crack of my ankle breaking is a noise I will never forget, especially as I heard it over my headphones! The family were quick to rescue me and



take me to A&E to be told my marathon dreams were over for this year. Then Covid happened which postponed the marathon and actually, if I look back, was a good thing for my recovery as I was able to take time and recover properly. When they announced in August that people could run the marathon their way on Sunday 4th October I took it as a sign to get my trainers back on and rounded up some people to sign up too. Abby Beatie became my running buddy and Kate South signed up her friends too to ensure Purton was very well represented.

I would love to have said that the sun was shining for the Virtual London Marathon but sadly it was not meant to be. In fact you could say the weather was biblical, we

had vertical rain, horizontal rain, wind, flooding, and water was up to my knees at one point but then just as I hit 26 miles the sun came out.

The route was varied to allow for enough comfort stops and socially distant cheering and food stations. Starting off from The Angel, once round the Purton Pounders Wednesday night running route before a slight wading through water towards Moulden Lake before admitting defeat and doubling back through “New” Purton and North Swindon. The David Lloyd gym was a welcome sight at 12 miles for a comfort break, change of socks and the opportunity to spin my outer clothes through the swimming costume dryer before heading around Tadpole Farm. A short stop in “New” Purton allowed for a full change of clothes and cup of tea before heading back out to Lydiard Park and Lydiard Millicent. Finally re-entering Purton through the fields and heading back down the High Street to the welcoming sight of The Angel and the loud cheering to the finish line in the car park.

Sadly my running buddy, Abby, was injured a week before so could not run on the day but thanks to the amazing local community and the Purton Pounders, a number of people joined me for sections which was extremely welcome especially in the second half. Kate and her team finished in a fantastic 5 hours 14 mins and I finished in a very respectable 6 hours 7 minutes.

There were 35000+ other runners out pounding the streets all around the world to either to raise money for charity or just to prove they can conquer a challenge. Even though the conditions were challenging to say the least I loved



every moment and had a smile on my face at every step. I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone for coming on this journey with me. For the people who put their trainers on, the ones who honked their horns and shouted encouragement. A special mention must go to Abby who started the journey with me but could not run on the day – her face was there at every rest stop and in my head most of the way. A massive thank you goes to my family who have spent years listening to me talking about the marathon. I look forward with anticipation to my medal arriving in the post and will be wearing it for months with pride. I do have a just giving page for anyone who would like to sponsor me which links directly to the fantastic St John Ambulance who do such an amazing job and without charitable donations they would not be able to operate as they receive no government funding for the amazing work they do. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/eleanorsofftolondon

VE Day & VJ Day Memories - out now!

This new VE Day & VJ Day booklet now on sale is a souvenir collection to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War 2. The memories and archive newspaper accounts it includes were collected during the lockdown restrictions in May and June when it became clear that the planned public events could no longer take place. Instead, it describes the events of May 8th and August 15th 1945 from a personal perspective. Cricklade sets the scene, and is followed by the accounts of local people who remember their lives in 1945 and how they celebrated these two events from wherever they were living at that time. Now in their eighties and nineties, all 33 contributors were then either children or young adults, but their stories from local towns and villages as well as from all corners of the country add up to a fascinating read.

The A4 booklet with its bright patriotic cover is also interspersed with pictures, cartoons and advertisements taken from a copy of The Daily Sketch newspaper published in London on VE Day itself. The paper describes the events that took place in the city as they unfolded, including speeches by King George VI and Sir Winston Churchill. Local reports are taken from The Wilts. & Gloucestershire Standard.

Due to the current Covid 19 restrictions, this one-off limited edition is only available from Marion Parsons, so please contact her on 01793 750542 or email: mfparsons071@btinternet.com for your copy. Local home delivery/collection can be arranged or your copy can be posted to you.

The booklets are £3.00 each and, after production costs, proceeds will be donated to Cricklade Open Door and the Cricklade Branch of The Royal British Legion, both of which are currently greatly missed by the older generation. Thank you for your support.

New three-tier local COVID-19 restrictions explained

A three-tier system of local restrictions to curb the transmission of COVID-19 has been introduced in England. The new system sees different parts of the country placed under varying restrictions depending on their rates of infection.

Wiltshire is currently in the medium (lowest) tier of the COVID-19 alert levels. This means current restrictions will stay the same. Please help to keep the rate of transmission low by continuing to:

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly, wear a face mask in enclosed spaces and keep two metres apart or one metre+ with a face covering or other protection
- Follow the rule of six if meeting indoors or outdoors
- Self isolate if: you develop symptoms, you have tested positive for COVID-19, someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive, you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app, or you arrive in the UK from a country with a high COVID-19 risk. It is now a legal requirement to do so.

Mini crossword

With the dark nights getting longer and perhaps with further Covid restrictions, we have thought that a mini crossword might provide a little distraction for readers of different ages. Most importantly we must point out that there will not be any prizes and you will have to wait for the December issue for the answers. Of course, if you can't wait as long as that, you could always ask around to see if others have worked out the answers – after all, it is only designed to be a bit of fun in these darker times.

Here are the clues for this month

1. Ignominy (8)
2. Frightened bird (9)
3. Head Office (6)
4. 1990s music (6)
5. Local bicentenary (7)
6. Treats for tricky children (9)

We would be delighted if any reader would like to create their own Mini Crossword for publication in a future issue. Simply to keep things consistent for the moment

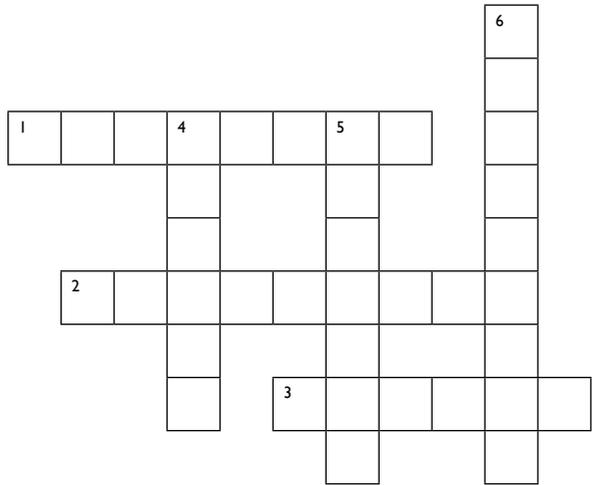
there should only be three words horizontally and three words vertically with a maximum of 9 letters for each word. Naturally you can create your own shape of empty boxes within an 11 x 11 square, perhaps as a table in Word or Excel software, or hand drawn on a piece of paper and submitted in the usual way – our contact details are on page 4.

With regard to the clues, we think that a spread of difficulty would help broaden the levels of interest. However, creating crossword clues is a very individual task and it would be helpful to hear how the clues this month have been received. As a general clue this time, we have tried to use words from the October issue with some from the advertisements as another little way of encouraging advertisers.

It could be fun to include a new mini crossword in each future issue of Purton Magazine throughout the winter especially if enough readers are interested and we look forward to some feedback, please!

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Church Path, Church Street, Hyde Lane, The Hyde, Parkside, Church End, Manor Hill, and from Moulden View; Criollo Place and Oldenburg Close*





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.



North South – A programme for Survival by Willy Brandt

In a slight break with the series, rather than “A Book I Will Always Remember” I would rather refer to a Report that has made a huge difference locally.

The Brandt Report – “North South – A Programme for Survival”, so called because it was the brainchild of Willy Brandt, Chancellor of what was then West Germany, was published in 1980 and was the outcome of several months of research and deliberation by 18 politicians from the North (Europe and America – including our ex Prime Minister Edward Heath) and the South (Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America).

The report explored the question of why it was that there was such a huge disparity between the rich North from where on the one hand, at that time, we could afford to send people to the moon at vast expense, and the poor South, where, in Africa in particular, people were dying of starvation through lack of food.

Two particular points in the report that drew their attention to me and others in Marlborough, where I was a GP, were

1. the use of the word “interdependence (we are all dependent on each other – “where did that coffee that I have just drunk and those bananas and the chocolate on those biscuits I have just eaten come from?” – and

-
- the suggestion that one way in which this imbalance could be addressed was by the formation of new partnerships between communities in the North and in the South.

It was this latter recommendation from Willy Brandt that appealed to a small group of us in Marlborough and resulted in our writing to the High Commissioners in London of 10 countries in the South expressing the desire we had to form a partnership between our small market town in Wiltshire and a community in their country.

We, in what was now called the Marlborough Brandt Group www.mbg.org, stressed the point that we saw this not as a means for us 'the powerful rich' to give support to 'those poor people in Africa' but rather recognising that we might have as much to learn from the people of their country as they might have to learn from us. Perhaps we could sit under a mango tree together, recognising that we all have strengths and weaknesses and that by addressing those in collaboration we might build a more peaceful, just and prosperous world.

It was the High Commissioner for The Gambia, Abdoulie Bojang who responded with the greatest enthusiasm and suggested we form a partnership with his home community, the predominantly Islamic town of Gunjur. And even now, 37 years later, as you drive into Marlborough you may notice the signs at the entrance to the town "Marlborough linked to Gunjur in The Gambia".

The partnership has seen the exchange of some 1750 predominantly young people between our two communities with young Gambians coming both to help us introduce school children in Wiltshire schools to people from a very different culture and faith (Islam) and also coming to gain skills in plumbing, welding, hotel management, early childhood education etc. Likewise many young people from Marlborough have either spent a gap year teaching in the secondary school in Gunjur or have gone in groups to engage in a project, building classrooms, a market shelter or a fence around a mango orchard etc.

We and our friends and colleagues in Gunjur have together collaborated to address some of the problems facing the Gunjur community; lack of early childhood education, lack of access to clean water, low levels of literacy particularly amongst women, high incidence of deaths from malaria etc.

Much knowledge has been gained and many attitudes and lives have been changed at both ends of the partnerships, all ultimately as a result of the publication of the Brandt Report.

The recommendations in Willy Brandt's Report and our example of what can be done to make the world a safer place have been taken up by many communities, schools and hospitals in the UK that now have partnerships with communities in the Global South. It is never too late...!

Dr Nick Maurice

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

11/20

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.



Michael Painter

The family of Michael Painter wanted to announce that he sadly passed away on the 17th September aged 71.

He was born in 1948 and grew up in Purton, and his mum and dad were Mervyn and Mildred Painter of Reids Piece. Michael played for Purton FC with

his brother Richard. He left and joined the Navy but returned in 1978 and lived here until 1997 with his wife Beverley (deceased) and daughters Shelley and Lynsay. Michael lived the last 20 years of his life in Melksham. There were many Purton friends who knew him and will remember him.

Lynsay Marshall nee Painter

Keeping Purton Magazine sustainable

Regular readers may well remember that we have had to make some changes recently to keep Purton Magazine sustainable. To provide an expanded and more up to date service for our advertisers we have created a new and substantially improved website at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk. Readers are encouraged to visit the site and have a look at the new directory of magazine advertisements – it is now the modern gateway for finding a huge range of local services and suppliers with only a few clicks of your mouse or taps on your touchscreen.



Unfortunately we have also been forced to increase the price of the magazine. From the January 2021 issue, copies will cost £1.00 each. However, subscriptions for the full year will only be going up to £10.00. So, in addition to a free monthly delivery service, annual subscribers will also save £2.00 over the 12 months. Distributors will be contacting readers about collecting subscriptions before the end of the year (please!) as that also helps the way we manage the magazine. Please feel free to contact any committee member if you have any questions.

Francis Sheppard, Treasurer.



Review – Past discoveries and current activities

Did you ever wonder why the monks in the 13th century had two grain mills in the parish, just a stone's throw away from each other? The answer can be found in "Victoria County History of Wiltshire Volume XVIII":

"In 1268 Sir Peter of Moredon diverted water from the River Ray, which prevented the Abbey's mill from grinding corn. A new mill and an adjacent fishpond were built on a tributary of the River Ray by the abbot William of Colerne."

This tributary rises from a spring known as Harvest Water in the field named Croft Yew Tree Mead south of Battlewell. The stream flows east, south of the High Street through the fields and emerges into the Weir Pond at Church End. Then the brook continues east to flow into Purton House Pond and passes north of Milk House to Purton/Fox Mill Pond, site of the grain mill where the water generated power to drive the grain mill.

The stream then flows north east towards Bremhill Bridge and through the sluice at the Oil Storage Depot. Finally, the tributary joins the River Ray south of Moredon Aqueduct 'the North Wiltshire Canal crossing the River Ray'. The River Ray flows into the River Thames on the southern bank near Calcutt east of Cricklade.

There is an article "The History of Purton Mill" in our Autumn 2010 Bulletin Issue No. 37 written by Hamish Orr-Ewing. A copy of the article can be obtained on request and pictures of the ponds can be viewed on our website.

A ramble through Purton's Past: Full details are available on the website to either print or download and includes photographs with brief explanations. Please tell your family, friends and neighbours about this wonderful new initiative for the society.

Cancellation Christmas Social: In view of the current Covid-19 situation we have made the final decision to cancel our usual social. We are, however, joining with Purton Twinning Association to take part in a Christmas quiz on Zoom – see Zoom meetings.

Zoom Meetings

Thursday 22nd October at 7.30 p.m. and Thursday 26th November at 7.30pm: A journey around the earliest documented bounds of Purton Village. Presented by Joe Wright

Joe is a talented photographer and we have seen a preview of his presentation. It is an excellent opportunity to view Joe's beautiful photographs.

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 who's alleged existence still shapes the Parish boundary today.

Friday 18th December, 7.30 p.m.

Christmas Quiz - A joint venture with Purton Twinning Association

Thursday 28th January 2021 at 7.30pm: Zoom presentation on "Our local canal at Royal Wootton Bassett" with Steve Bacon. Further details of this presentation will be published in the December 2020 magazines.

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

Request for future speakers on local historical talks via Zoom

If you can help or if you have any suggestions for our 2021 programme please contact Marion Hobbs on roy.marion@btinternet.com

Looking to the future when we return to meeting in the Village Hall:

Jenny Barnes will be presenting "Shopping over half a century ago in Purton"

Museum News

The museum will be open on Saturday morning 31st October and then will be closed until the spring, when Purton Cricket Club bi-centenary exhibition will continue to be on show.

We have been very encouraged by the interest in the Cricket Club Exhibition over the past two months. We thank Joe Gardner and his family for sharing their enthusiasm of cricket in Purton. We would like to thank all the volunteers that have helped to make the opening possible.

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

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

Panto 2021 Cancelled

October is normally the time of year when PADs starts rehearsing for the next panto production, but as a result of the ongoing restrictions due to the COVID-19 virus, we have had to make the difficult, but unavoidable, decision to cancel the 2021 panto. We are all very sad about this, and disappointed not to be able to stage the panto, but hopefully early in the New Year we will be able to resume our normal activities, and look forward to putting on another production in early Spring. Watch this space for further news in early 2021. In the meantime, stay safe.

Kate Bath

Purton in the time of Victoria

Part 16: More Reform - Health and Local Governance

The industrial revolution had created great upheavals in British society. The largely unplanned human migration from villages to cities brought huge pressures on housing and with it a rise in shoddy, overcrowded and squalid living conditions, amongst which disease spread rapidly. No one knew how diseases spread nor how to treat those diseases since antibiotics were yet to be discovered. Vaccination (from the Latin word for a cow) had already been pioneered by Edward Jenner who had produced a vaccine for smallpox by 1797 by creating a culture from cowpox strains and spreading it on abraded skin of patients – inoculation or variolation. But this was a preventative remedy for a single disease and not even a cure for it.

The first Public Health Act arose more from economic than social concerns. In 1842, Edwin Chadwick, secretary to the Poor Law Commissioners, prepared a report. In it he concluded that lack of sanitation among the poor contributed to the early death of the wage-earner of the household. That meant everyone else had to subsidise such families through Poor Law payments and Workhouse admissions. The report's damning description of insanitary conditions led to Lord John Russell's Liberal government passing the Public Health Act in 1848. The Act was also eased through Parliament by a London outbreak of a cholera pandemic early in 1848 that lasted worldwide from 1846-1860.

The 1848 Act established a Central Board of Health but didn't give it much power nor any finance. Rather, it set up a framework under which local authorities, mainly cities and boroughs, could set up and finance local boards to take responsibility for drainage, water supplies, paving and the removal of nuisances. Its provisions were enabling, not compelling.

A later wave of the cholera pandemic occurred in 1854 in Soho, London. The Broad Street or Golden Square outbreak killed 616 people but is considered a pivotal point in epidemiology as a physician, John Snow, mapped the cases and pinpointed the cause as contaminated water at a street water pump. This discovery influenced the construction of improved sanitation facilities.

In the hot weather of July and August 1858 the smell of untreated human waste and industrial effluent on the banks of the River Thames became unbearable and was called "The Great Stink". A dilapidated and inadequate sewer system emptied directly into the Thames polluting the water, poisoning all it touched and transmitting disease. The London authorities looked for solutions and accepted a proposal from a civil engineer, Joseph Bazalgette, to build new sewers north and south of the Thames, with pumping stations, to remove waste to outfalls in the estuary beyond the metropolitan area. Sewage treatment as we know it today wasn't included in this scheme but this massive project is believed to have saved more lives than any

other action of the period.

In 1874, Benjamin Disraeli's Conservative government came to power committed to social change and the improvement of public health. The 1875 Public Health Act established rural and urban sanitary authorities which would replace the local boards of 1848. These authorities were given jurisdiction over new sanitary districts to provide clean water, dispose of sewage and refuse and ensure that only safe food was sold.

Following the 1886 general election, a Conservative government headed by Lord Salisbury did not have a majority of seats and had to rely on the support of the Liberals. In exchange for this support the Liberals pushed forward the 1888 Local Government Act to place county government under the control of elected councils, modelled on the borough councils introduced by the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835.

The Counties, and new County Boroughs, became responsible for their own finances (rates and accounts); their officers' employment; council buildings (county halls, courts, police stations); classification and maintenance of main roads and their bridges; provision of reformatory and industrial schools and of "lunatic asylums"; arrangements for polling for parliamentary elections; entertainment and racing licensing; weights and measures; fish conservancy and control of wild birds; control of contagious diseases in animals, and of destructive insects.¹

Those roads that had been turnpike toll roads nearly all passed into County control around this time if they hadn't already. Several deemed not especially important became the "byways" that we see today; the one running from Barbury Castle over Burderop Down to Rockley would have been part of an important route from Swindon via Wroughton to Marlborough in its day.

Despite this, local government was a mish-mash of pre-modern city administrations and medieval local ones. The very local tier of government was hardly changed since the days of Queen Elizabeth I. The "parishes" were Church of England parishes run by the Vestry – a committee consisting of the vicar and other notable local worthies mostly self-elected.

At the height of their powers, the Vestries had under their charge the maintenance of the church and its services, the keeping of the peace, the repression of vagrancy, the relief of destitution, the mending of roads, the suppression of nuisances, the destruction of vermin, the furnishing of soldiers and sailors, even to some extent the enforcement of religious and moral discipline. They appointed the parish clerk, overseers of the poor, sextons and scavengers, constables and nightwatchmen. They were responsible for churches and burial grounds, parish cottages and workhouses, endowed charities, market crosses, pumps, pounds, whipping posts, stocks, cages, watch houses, weights and scales, clocks and fire engines. Some of this was under the authority of the law of the land, but others by local custom and practice as the situation demanded². Little had changed at the local level from the days of Dickens'

Oliver Twist.

Gladstone's Liberals won the August 1892 General Election and brought in measures to bring the lower tiers of local government and their electoral accountability into line with that introduced at County level under the 1888 Act. The Local Government Act 1894 created a second tier where Counties (and County Boroughs) were divided into either rural or urban districts, allowing more localised and elected administration. These districts incorporated the sanitary districts but the sanitary boundaries were adjusted so they did not overlap two counties. Purton was part of Cricklade & Wootton Bassett Rural District.

This 1894 Act introduced a system of civil parishes, separate from the church Vestry parishes. Some of the Vestry responsibilities were transferred to the District Councils, others to the Counties, while a few came under the Civil Parish remit. The Vestries became Parochial Church Councils with only the functioning of the church building, its clergy and its services in their charge.

The Civil Parish Councils, including Purton, were set up automatically under the Act for all villages and smaller towns (settlements) with more than 300 residents in rural districts, and by application for smaller places. Urban parishes were absorbed into the new urban districts or boroughs – you may recently have seen road signs showing Haydon Wick Parish Council which was absorbed into Swindon Borough but has been re-established following Swindon reorganisation.

Civil Parishes were not however set up as a complete third tier of local government but rather as community councils. They have far more powers than they have duties³ but only have an advisory role in subjects such as local planning and highways which are a responsibility at County level.

The 1894 Act also confirmed all women, married or single, who owned property would be allowed to vote in local elections, become poor law guardians, and act on school boards. However, many married women (excluded in the 1869 Municipal Franchise Act) were still excluded, because married men and women could not both qualify to vote through residence at the same property. Women, single or married, were entitled to stand for election for district or parish councils.⁴ They still remained unable to vote in national elections as this was not within the remit of the Act.

The first elections to the district councils and reconstituted boards of guardians were delayed a month to December 1894, as it took longer than expected to complete the new electoral register. Over 729,000 women were now eligible to vote in local elections in England and Wales. Parish Councils were not elected unless more candidates came forward than there were seats.

After the passing of the 1894 Act, Gladstone retired. He was succeeded as Prime Minister by Archibald Primrose, 5th Earl of Rosebery, not so much because the Liberals liked him but that Queen Victoria disliked most of the other leading suggestions. Rosebery had a hard time in Government since he sat in the House of

Lords and Sir William Harcourt, Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the more left-wing Liberals, led the party in the Commons and often contradicted him. He also had side-comments from the retired Gladstone to contend with. Rosebery lost the 1895 General Election and the Conservatives saw out two terms of parliament and the final years of Queen Victoria's reign under Lord Salisbury.

Since Victoria's time and the 1894 Act, Rural and Urban Districts were rolled up into District Councils – Cricklade & Wootton Bassett RDC became part of North Wiltshire District in 1972, which in turn was absorbed into the Wiltshire Unitary Authority in 2009. A memory of the old RDC exists in the name of the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board. The water responsibilities of Sanitary Districts eventually evolved into Regional Water Authorities based on river watershed basins. These were privatised in 1989 and Purton's water and sewage needs are provided by Thames Water plc. The Environment Agency was set up in 1995.

Rick Dixon

Next month: Victoria's Death & Legacy

¹ Local Government Act 1888, Part I, clause 3.

² <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vestry>, quoting Sidney Webb & Beatrice Potter (1906): English Local Government from the Revolution to the Municipal Corporations London: Longmans, Green & Co.

³ Local Government Act 1894, Part I, clause 8.

⁴ *ibid*, clauses 23 & 43.

Wiltshire Climate Alliance

Wiltshire Climate Alliance is an umbrella organisation for different groups and individuals to come together to campaign for action on climate change. We have recently held a successful workshop with Wiltshire Council where members have had a chance to put their suggestions directly to councillors.

At WCA we now want to offer this opportunity to the youth of Wiltshire as it is the youngest in the county whose futures are most at stake. We will be hosting a workshop for under 25s and Wiltshire Council in early November.

Wiltshire Climate Alliance Invites under 25s of Wiltshire to our: Youth Eco-Workshop. A chance to have your say with Wiltshire Council on the environmental issues that matter to you. The workshop will take place on 12th November 2020 6.30-8pm via Zoom

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The Cricklade Band – Autumn News

On Monday 16 March this year, all live BandAcademy rehearsals, all live Performance Band rehearsals and the one-to-one mentoring lessons of our beginner musicians came to an abrupt stop.

As time went on, every single event the band had been booked to attend in the spring, summer and autumn was also cancelled.

Regardless of all that, the band's instrument teams began to meet regularly on WhatsApp or Skype to rehearse and chat. We even managed to play an online Bandagram greeting of Happy Birthday and an Act of Remembrance for the VE Anniversary! The whole band was invited for a weekly 'catch-up' on Skype, everyone had a say on a variety of topics and there was the inevitable banter between us, as ever!

There was also something called the 'Tuesday Ramble', a weekly email newsletter thing running for 27 editions. Everyone seemed to like Tuesday Ramble, not least because they knew when Tuesday was!

When we were able, the instrument groups moved from Skype rehearsals to live outdoor rehearsals, six people at a time, two metres apart!

On 1st October the biggest step forward was the move back inside with the whole band able to rehearse again – with the most stringent of Covid-19 precautions in place. We have to abide by the guidance of Brass Bands England, who take their instructions from the seemingly befuddled Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

For 132 years now the band has upheld the most firm of our traditions of playing carols around and about Cricklade in the lead-up to Christmas. Right from the first Christmas of the band's existence in 1887 the coppers that were donated were designated towards paying for the band's rehearsal facilities for the next year. Not only do we plan to keep this magnificent tradition going – it's also going to be the only income the band receives this year!

We've had to rethink how we do it of course, there won't be any door knocking going on! Instead, we'll have some bright red buckets near the band for you to drop in some coins (or notes!). We'll also have an online funding facility for all our tech-savvy supporters!

In the next edition we'll publish our carol-playing routes and approximate timings so that you can watch and listen out for us – at a distance!

If you're a bit jaded – and who isn't at the moment – then have a look at our Facebook page, please do get in touch with a message, and if you like what we're doing, then look forward with us to making more music together – live!



Beneath the Wool

The last month has been break time for the farmer with two weekends away from the farm as September is usually the best month to go away. This has meant I needed someone to look after and check the sheep and my thanks to this goes to Harry, he did a really good job. Also this month the ewes have been moved to College Farm and at this point they finally got the memo from last month and have finally been contained, until last week when they started to decide they fancied another move. They always choose to start escaping just as I think they are fed up with it. Luckily for them, the plan this next weekend to move them into the next field.

The lambs down at the farm have been tucking into some hay that was made in the summer just to top their diet up a little bit. Grenville is starting to get a bit excited now in readiness for November and is starting to display his growling behaviour. By the time you read this he will be in and should be well into the job.

Finally after what I think is about 6 months of waiting, Network Rail finally have come to investigate the blocked drain in our ditch which in winter floods the gateway and some of the field. They spent 4 days investigating the problem and unfortunately it's still not fixed as was demonstrated by the large amount of rain we had recently.

I thought I'd start writing about a different sheep each month and this month I have chosen to write about our beloved pain in the back side, Long Tail. Long Tail was one of the original sheep and she's always been a bit on the excited side as we'll put it. She's always been the one that's the hardest to get into the pen, and while the others are in the pen waiting to be shut in, Long Tail always runs off in the wrong direction. Someone asked me why I've still got her – a very good question! – but I suppose she adds a bit of spice to your day, sometimes just a mild jalapeño and other times a Habanero chilli. If you can remember from last month, Long Tail is the ring leader in the escaping of ewes. If you're walking by the ewes look out for Long Tail. As the name suggests she's the one with the long tail.

We have a selection of meat available at the moment there's some joints, mince and chops as well as burgers available. The burgers are mint, spicy and Russian shashlik. If you would like more information about the meat that is available from us please email us at rogersfarmlamb@gmail.com

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton

The other side of the gate

It's been a quiet month on the farm.

I'm sure a few of you saw my contractor going up and down the village spreading manure behind the school. It's a big machine and can move an impressive amount of dung very quickly. We also covered 30 acres on the grazing ground to boost the soil for next year.

Two more cows have calved and both with drama. Jester had her calf in the field opposite the yard. I could see she was ok and left her to feed her calf. A few hours later, she'd moved out of sight so I went to see where she was. I found her on her side unable to get up. The chamber of the ground had effectively 'cast' her. This was aggravated by hypocalcaemia (milk fever) whereby her body was extracting calcium to produce milk from her body rather than the stomach and leads to muscle paralysis and confusion. The instant fix is to inject calcium borogluconate intravenously. This raises blood calcium levels instantly and the results can be seen within a few minutes. With help from Sarah, we managed to sit her up. This is nearly always followed by lots of burping and pooing as the muscles regain coordination. The calf was hungry so I attached him to her teat whilst she recovered. She stood up a short while later and has been fine ever since.



Estelle presented another problem that resulted in a vet visit. I'd been watching her all day walking around and finding quiet places (they like to calve away from other cows and usually against a hedge), but she just wasn't getting on with it. I brought her into the tunnel for the night so I could check her in the early hours. Slightly concerned about her lack of enthusiasm, I put on a glove and had a quick feel to see if the calf was presented properly. What I found was a farmer's nightmare: Breach presentation. I tried to push the calf in to see if I could rotate a leg, but there was just no room! I didn't want to get into that battle as it was about 11pm and I was already tired, so Sarah called for a vet. Kate arrived 30 minutes later and agreed that she needed to stand so we could get more room. Estelle didn't want to stand (she was pretty sulky at this point) so we have a contraption to lift cows. It's called a hip

hoist and tightens under their pin bones and with a tractor you can then lift the cow. Still sulking (which worked in our favour) she hung there whilst Kate rotated both legs and we pulled the calf out. He was a good-sized calf and Brown Swiss cows are quite large, so it wasn't a big pull. I told Kate to check for a twin and I was right. This boy was facing the right way, but was a lot bigger. Good result all round. Kate was packed up and gone within an hour and a half. We had two healthy calves and a far less sulky cow and we could get a few hours sleep before starting again. I did oversleep the next day!

Jonathan Cook

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Purton Cricket Club



We were not expecting to play cricket this year and we were very pleased when, in July, clubs were given permission to start. We were blessed with some fine weather and we played until the end of September, which was the warmest September ever recorded.

At the time of writing we know that the 1st XI and the under 13 XI won their leagues and we await the positions of our other teams. Many 'under age' groups played County Cricket at Purton and opponents were full of praise for the fine pitches on which they played. An immaculate outfield also helped to promote Purton as a great place to play cricket.



The committee would like to thank our hard working coaches and team managers and the grounds men who produced such good pitches and outfields.

The committee would also like to thank Rosemary and Nicola Gardner who presented the 200 year exhibition

in the museum and those who supervised it. It has attracted many congratulatory comments.

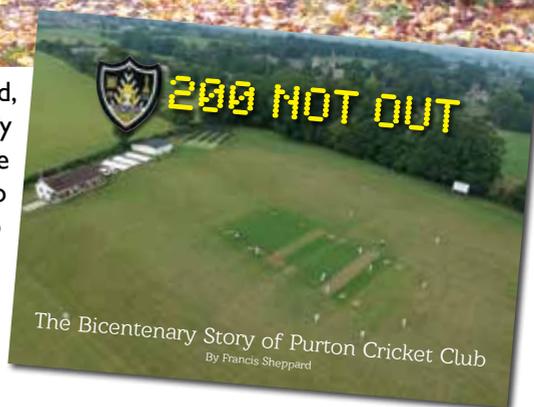
We leave our 200th Anniversary year with a photo of our future; Purton under 11 squad.

Joe Gardner, 770681

2020, our 200th anniversary, had been very much looked forward to for a number of years. However, hopes of a memorable season seemed dashed as the ramifications of Covid-19 became apparent. Any cricket at all seemed unlikely and the prodigious fixture at the end of May, when the MCC team was to visit, was an early casualty. Our one disappointment was that Francis Sheppard's book '200 Not Out' – a history of 200 years of cricket in Purton, did not enjoy the exposure it would have done in a full season. We still have copies of the book to sell – it would make an excellent Christmas present for any sports fan. Copies are still available at £10 plus £2 postage and packing from francis.sheppard@live.com or telephone 01793 771018



As it turned out, as rules were relaxed, cricket at Purton did start in early July and some thirty or so games were staged at the ground – a tribute to groundsman Mark Gardner who prepared so many wickets from July to September. A full review of the season I will leave to others but there is one event that I feel privileged to expand on.



This article provides an opportunity to thank Joe Gardner for the wonderful job he did in mounting a memorable exhibition celebrating our bicentenary. The scope and extent of the objects and written material on show at our Museum each Saturday morning during September and October was beyond expectation. Joe would be the first to say that he has a fine backup team in his wife Rosemary and daughter Nicola; so good too that the Historical Society helped sponsor the event with a number of members, well masked, on hand to supervise social distancing and numbers.

There was one unlikely item on display – that probably few visitors would have noticed – which recalls an intriguing event in the story of Purton CC. As every cricketer knows, a cricket pitch is 22 yards long or, as we used to be taught, a chain. A surveyor's chain was made up of 66 interlinked foot long metal rods which, when not in use, were folded. The Club's chain was on display; its age unknown, a rusting heap of metal. In the late seventies older members may recall one John Stringer who played for us for a season or two. John was tall and wore thick lenses while his wife Rita was short. For a while they made a familiar pair at the Red House bar. They were a likeable and social couple. On one occasion John turned up to lend a hand



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02/21

with pitch preparation. Stalwarts of the ground staff at that time Alec Grant and Michael Canter were there when John proclaimed that he felt sure that our pitch was a 'bit short'. (Alec's disdain can be imagined.) So sure was John, that he fetched a tape measure from his car and the pitch was found to be missing 12 inches. Further examination of our surveyor's chain revealed that one link was missing! So for how many years had our famous old pitch been illegal in cricketing law? John, incidentally, was a professional surveyor which in part explains his misgivings. Without John's brief sojourn at Purton, would our pitches still be 65 feet rather than 66?

David Bisset

Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group

The news can be pretty bleak at the best of times and more so since the outbreak of Covid 19. There are plenty of positive things going on but for some reason we humans are attracted to bad news stories which is what sells papers and TV programmes!

Of course, it's important to be aware of the big issues that threaten us and future generations. David Attenborough's programme 'Extinction: The Facts' was a timely reminder of the dangers we face. Protesters like Greta Thunberg and Extinction Rebellion are making necessary waves in an attempt to make us and our Governments see what needs to be done at national and international levels. But, as individuals, we can sometimes feel overwhelmed and powerless in the face of all these problems.

Purton Magazine is, of course, a great source of positive news and another is the RWB Environment Group! We have a Facebook page that is full of good news stories about small actions that are adding up to big changes. Here's a selection:

There is a new Refill Shop in Royal Wootton Bassett. You may have seen Jo Portsmouth with her converted horse box at the weekly markets and now she has moved into a shop in the Arcade. You can bring your own bottles and jars to refill with cleaning and body products, pasta, rice, seeds, nuts, tea and more. We need to save plastic more now than ever.



Having just been shopping in RWB I was thrilled to see the High Street is really buzzing now. All the units in the Arcade seem to be in use with a watchmaker, electrical supplies, pet foods and shoe repairs to name a few, all giving a personal service and time for a quick chat. The sewing shop, Cloth of Gold has a lovely new owner and the old Deacons Jewellers is now a book and



puzzle shop. Just across the road are Bassett Stationers and Rouse's Hardware who keep us stocked up with essentials.

Shopping local is a great way to rebuild the economy as well as saving 'product miles' and reducing packaging. It's also more enjoyable, in my view, as you see many familiar faces as you're out and about and it creates a strong sense of community. And you might be surprised that a lot of the products are actually cheaper than in the big stores.

Chris Rummung of Lydiard Turkeys has recently started a pop up shop every fortnight at Park Farm, Hook Street (almost opposite the entrance to Lydiard Park). As well as his own meat, he has produce from other local suppliers including veg from Lydiard Millicent and, again, very little plastic packaging!

Jon and Sarah at Dora's Dairy have a vending machine at their farm (bottom of the Hyde) to collect raw milk in your own glass bottles. We at Purton Farm Shop, Andrew Hiscock's Butchers and several other local shops are selling their pasteurised milk and we'll soon have vending machines too.

These farmers really are 'cutting edge' in their techniques to improve animal welfare, human nutrition and the environment. Dora's Dairy is one of only 10 farms in the UK signed up to the 'Calf at Foot' method of allowing calves to stay with their mothers for 9 months before weaning. Chris farms using mob grazing to increase soil depth and biodiversity and Rowie and Rob of Purton House Organics use green manures, among other things, to improve the soil and grow organic veg. Soil degradation is one of the biggest issues facing our ability to feed ourselves in the near future, so these



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‘Cake & Conservation’ group at Purton Farm Shop, before Covid restrictions moved it to Zoom.

farmers and several others in our local area are leading the way for improving the way our food is produced.

The RVB Environment Group is sparking off conversations in all directions, covering issues such as recycling, energy conservation, plastics and biodiversity. By bringing people together it's also leading to new groups. Glynis Hales from Swindon has set up one called 'Cake and Conservation' which was meeting at various farm locations but is now running on Zoom for a while until Covid risks subside again. Her daughter made the cakes originally but now I guess we'll have to supply our own!

She managed to bring along all sorts of local decision makers including most of the Swindon Borough Council Cabinet. It has been great to speak with councillors, show them what we do on local farms and find out what they are doing to tackle Climate Change. Talking together really does lead to better solutions. Glynis hosts a show on community radio station Swindon 105.5 called 'The Birds and the Bees' on Friday afternoons at 2 p.m. It is another positive news outlet with light hearted banter about important issues and, for me, a weekly dose of sanity!

You can find out more about RVB Environment Group through our Facebook page, or if you don't use computers, you can join their monthly Zoom meetings using your phone. Please do get in touch with me if you'd like to join the next meeting or if you need any more information about the groups or businesses I write about.

Kate Robinson, email: purtonfarmshop@gmail.com Tel. 01793 772930

More young volunteers wanted for mental health mystery shop

Healthwatch Wiltshire is looking for more young people to help us review online mental health services in the county. We would like people aged 16-25 to take part in our mystery shop focusing on what's good and what could be improved about mental health support available locally for young people.

Julie Brown, Acting Healthwatch Wiltshire Manager, said:

“We're asking young people to help us with this project so we can understand how well online mental health support works for them and what changes they would like to see. Anyone can be a mystery shopper, but we'd particularly like to hear from young men, and members of the LGBTQ+ and BAME communities, so we can get their perspectives on these services. Sharing your views can make a real impact on how these services are developed, and even if you can only spare a small amount of time, your feedback will be invaluable in ensuring young people's voices are heard.

“A group of young people have already taken part in our project and we'd like to thank them for taking the time to tell us what they think.”

Sign up today

If you would like to become a mystery shopper, please email Jo Woodsford, Volunteer and Partnerships Lead at joanne.woodsford@healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk All volunteers will receive full training and support from the Healthwatch Wiltshire team.

Why volunteer with us?

- Make a difference to your community
- Meet new people
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What can I do as a volunteer?

Young Healthwatch Wiltshire volunteer roles include:

- Storyteller – create a blog or video about your experiences of health and care.
- Listener – listen to the experiences of others.
- Young Ambassador – spread the word of Healthwatch Wiltshire and empower others to speak out.
- Media Guru – help create promotional materials and help us reach more young people on social media.
- Influencer – come to our meetings and talk to us about what we should be working on.

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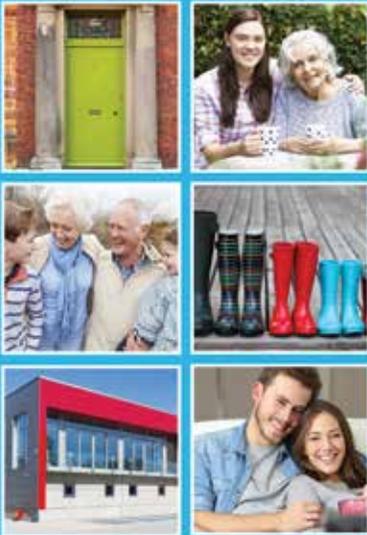
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