

Purton. Magazine

December 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	Lindsey Hall	771890
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@googlemail.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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Purton. Magazine

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Also online at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk © 2004-2020

INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

Publishing a local monthly journal is always hostage to the calendar and this month it is even more apparent. When the November issue was published life was slowly returning towards a controlled version of partial normality with different restrictions for different areas of the country – remember medium, high and very high zones? Those already seem a long time ago even when this is being written in the middle of November.

Now to look forward. This December issue is due for delivery over the last weekend in November. The current Government directive is a national lockdown for the whole country and for us to stay at home whenever possible with shopping trips only for food and other essentials. That is due to expire on Wednesday 2nd December but who knows if we will then get a strengthened tier system for the run up to Christmas?

Ahh Christmas! The time when families and friends usually get together and villages like ours are full of events and celebrations – but this year? Our December issue last year was one of the biggest that we have ever produced with 84 pages. Purton Placard was again spread across two pages with 14 events being promoted but this year? For this December issue we are unable to announce Christmas events as organisers simply do not know what will even be allowed.

Surely there will be a lot of pent up energy waiting to enjoy whatever can be arranged at the last minute and we imagine that up to date details will be posted on the websites of many local organisations. Two events we do know about already are on page 50 when the Cricklade Band are asking us to keep an ear out for their seasonal songs on 14 and 15 December – performed outdoors, of course.

How often do you remember the killing of god Odin's son Baldur from Norse mythology at Christmas time? – see page 29. Sadly that treat of kissing under the mistletoe might be curtailed this year, even if outdoors.

Please ensure that your contributions for the January issue of Purton Magazine are received before Wednesday 9th December because there will then only be 7 working days to prepare, produce, proof and print the next edition in time for Christmas. Thank you!

60

Visitors to the cricket club exhibition at Purton Museum, including 2 from Yorkshire – see page 37

74

Bakewell tarts, and much more sold for St Mary's Church Renewal – see page 28

<100

Calls for assistance answered by Purton Outreach since March – see page 38

Welcome to the ninth 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 January issue is the 9th December please email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton Parish Council News



Christmas And New Year

The Parish Council offices and services will close for the Christmas period on Friday 18th December at 4 p.m. and return in the New Year on Monday 4th January 2021 at 9 a.m. Any emergencies during this period please call the office number which will be directed to an out of office number. Urgent emails to the clerk will be responded to during this period.

On behalf of the Council and Staff we thank you for your positive input and community spirit during this difficult period and we wish you all a Happy Christmas and more importantly a Healthy New Year. Please continue to stay safe.

Remembrance Service

Due to the COVID 19 restrictions placed upon us during the second lock down, the Remembrance Service in collaboration with the Royal British Legion, on Sunday 8th November, unfortunately could not take place. The Parish Council wish to thank all those who ensured that the fallen were not forgotten and residents for their kind messages of support. LEST WE FORGET

Christmas Lights

The Council plan to put the lights up around the village a little earlier this year to raise the spirits (village hall, village centre, Pavenhill shops)

The Rise Trust

The Rise Trust continues to be present in our community every Thursday from 6–8 p.m. They will engage with youths, talk openly and report any areas of concern to the relevant bodies. They will be highly visible in their Rise Trust outfits and extremely approachable. The Council believes it is important to support vital youth work within our community, please remind your younger family members that Rise staff are here to help if they see them out and about.

Play Close Park Update

If all has gone according to schedule there should now be a new roundabout installed in Play Close Park. We hope that this will be a great addition to the play equipment provided in this park. Thank you to all those who parked elsewhere during the days it was installed to allow access for the contractors.

The Dingle - Regeneration

You may see our Ground Staff working more regularly in the Dingle in months to come. We are assessing which trees have been affected by Ash Dieback and will

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01/21



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

Purton Magazine is available online!

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

www.purtonmagazine.co.uk



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

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

email: marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk

Tel Mary: 01793 772298,

Duty team: 07498 526872

need to be removed. Signage will be placed and the areas we will be working on will be cordoned off. If you see this taking place, please keep your dogs on a lead and stay clear of the area. We anticipate this being a three year programme of works and will sadly see our beautiful area removed of the majority of trees. We will work on replacements once we are sure the spores have gone and diseased areas are clear. We have started a bulb planting scheme in this area to aid the regeneration.

Hall Hire

With the restrictions now made upon us during the second lockdown, we sadly have had to close the Millennium Hall. The Trustees will review this situation in line with Government guidance as and when developments occur. If you are interested in hiring the Millennium Hall after lockdown, with COVID-19 safety controls in place, please contact the office 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 when it is safe to do so.

Council Meeting

There will be no Council meeting this month, the next meeting will now be on 11th January 2021, with the Council continuing to meet remotely until restrictions are lifted. Delegated powers are available for those matters that cannot wait until the next meeting for conclusion. If you have any questions or queries that you wish to address please email the Clerk on deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or call our offices direct.

Councillor Vacancies

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.

Approved Planning Applications

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 20/06126/FUL | The Annex, Pry Holding, The Pry, Purton SN5 4JP. Proposed extension and external alterations including the insertion of new windows, change of use of land to residential. |
| 20/06617/FUL | 5 Cross lanes, Purton Stoke SN5 4JN. Change of use from Bed and Breakfast (C1) to Dwelling house (C3) and Sub-divide into 2 dwellings and change of rear single door to a set of French doors and erect a porch to the side and internal alterations. |
| 20/14293/FUL | Pen Farm New Road, Purton SN5 4HF. Proposed development of Industrial units B1, B2 and B8 use. |

20/07514/FUL

29 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DE. Proposed loft conversion with rear dormer and single storey rear extension.

Appeal

APP/Y3940/D/20/3257206 | The Buffer, Purton. SN5 4GT Appeal against a refusal for a garage conversion & single storey extension.

Full Council details can be found on our website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk. Telephone number 01793 771066, email address: deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk We also hold Facebook and Twitter accounts.

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

Wiltshire Council news

For clarification – In last month’s magazine there was information from Gigaclear on the work they are doing in the village. As the Wiltshire Councillor I had a number of people contact me concerned about what was happening. I contacted James Gray, MP for more information on the future proposals that the Government are wanting by 2025 for all homes to be connected by fibre for telecommunications. This potentially would no longer use the Copper Lines that BT uses for landline telephones and broadband. BT responded to James Gray and that response was printed under my name in the magazine last month on pages 28 and 29 followed then by the article from Gigaclear.

A few years ago Wiltshire Council started a program with BT to put in Superfast Broadband across the county. This was done in several phases. The first phase was the north of the county including Purton. Superfast still relies on the copper lines from the second cabinet to the home. The Council’s current phase for fast broadband is for rural pockets in the county, where BT could not provide Superfast, and there are pockets in the parish and village which are included in this work. Gigaclear is doing the work for these pockets. The additional Gigaclear work is not connected to the Council but is part of their own commercial activity. Whilst they are putting in the infrastructure to the isolated and missed pockets they are extending their network so that all the village can connect to their really fast service if they want to.

Service providers such as utility companies apply to the Highways Authority (Wiltshire Council) to dig up the public roads and they have to replace the surface etc. to a set standard. This work is inspected by the Council and has to be guaranteed by the utility company for 2 years.

I hope that helps to explain a little more on what is happening but as always I am available for people to ring me – 01793 770704/07449 978789

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Wiltshire Council launched the new version of the Online Reporting App and also the new website recently. The App went live on 22nd September 2020 which means that any issues you have that need reporting to the Council can be done easily. See page 22.

The options are to go online and register to have the App downloaded onto your device or you can use the links on the web page to report anonymously. You can also go online to see what issues have been reported so you don't repeat the report and also to see what action is being taken.

There are easy tutorials by video to watch if you need help. www.wiltshire.gov.uk/report-online. For those who do not have a device or use the internet then you can still ring Customer Services. However the App is the most efficient and cost saving way for the council and ultimately us the tax payers.

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/contact - Customer Services 0300 456 0100

Wiltshire Cllr Jacqui Lay

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

A message from Kai Howard, Practice Manager - Flu vaccine update



We have received our next batch of flu vaccines for patients aged 65 years of age or over. Please call the surgery to make an appointment.

We are still waiting for the government to release vaccines for under 65s in 'at risk' groups. As soon as we have received these, we will contact eligible patients.

We have been told by public health that after all at risk groups have been vaccinated, and subject to availability, we can invite other 50-64 years olds – we suspect this will not be for some weeks.

National lockdown

Some patients have asked if they should still attend their appointments at the surgery. Yes, it is important that you do attend your appointments, we are keeping patients safe when they attend the practice, and have received very supportive feedback from patients that they feel very safe when attending. We are open, as we have been throughout the pandemic.

A message from Marietta Crockford, Chair of Purton PPG

Dear Patients and Friends of Purton Medical Practice

The Patient Participation Group would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas. We understand that Christmas this year may be different from the way we all usually celebrate but we hope that each and every one of you will remember that we must look forward to 2021 with hope for a better time ahead.

We are lucky to have an extremely dedicated practice who will all go that extra mile and we thank you all for your continued support.

Marietta, Chair of PPG

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03/21

We have been asked by a few people who to make cheques payable to, the answer is 'Purton Patient Participation Group', with the cheque being taken into the surgery. Please label your envelope: 'For the attention of Kai Howard'.

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*

Purton Surgery does not work efficiently If we choose to ignore the opportunities to safeguard our health.

There are still patients in the local area who haven't had their flu vaccination yet, some of them in the vulnerable group.

Purton surgery will be inviting all eligible patients, so when you receive an invite reminder please contact the surgery and make an appointment: (01793 770207) as soon as possible.

Don't risk your health by ignoring this warning.

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) have decided to encourage all those people who have not made the decision, to make it now.

Purton Silver Threads

Just to say "Happy Christmas" to all our friends & members who unfortunately have missed out on raffles, meetings and Christmas celebrations this year. Silver Threads is suspended until further notice as the safety of our members is paramount. We hope to resume when it is safe to do so.

Silver Threads Committee

Christmas in limbo?

We must make sure that we continue to believe there will be an end to all the restrictions we are having to endure. A cure for the virus might still be some time away, but it will be available eventually.

Let's hope that 2021 will enable us to mix as we are used to and enjoy some of the normal activities that this village is so well known for. We can't wait to continue with our outings, parties and events. Especially remembered this time of the year when we normally have so many functions to organise.

By the time this article appears we will be almost out of lockdown, or at least we hope so. Christmas this year is going to feel different to any other one that most of us have ever experienced. Modern technology enables us to see, talk and interact with our family and friends but unlike wars, our houses are still standing and our possessions are all around us, so things are not really that difficult to cope with! Let's concentrate on the positives and life will seem more like it ought to be.

Our sympathies go out to all those that have lost family and friends during this pandemic, and as such, we must make sure we follow the guidelines if we are going to get back to normal eventually.

Purton Surgery are concerned about the amount of people that have not yet had their flu jab, and some of those are in the 'at risk' zone. When you get invited to have it please make sure that you do, it is most important to be safe, especially now.

Christmas cards

We have produced a pack of 8 Christmas cards with envelopes that we are selling for £4 per pack. There are two each of four different kinds, all photographs taken around the village, by local 'snappers'. These will be available online or through your Street Warden. Online from peterberry@uwclub.net or georgina@acolman.com

Vouchers

I expect by now you should have received your vouchers and there are a couple of things you will need to know. The 'Use by' date has been extended to 10th January 2021. Also one more participant is Sheer Success on the corner of Witts Lane.

Special mentions

We were sorry to hear of the death of Pierce Bolger whose funeral was held on the 6th November, he was a great supporter of Age Concern, and I know that there will be an obituary in this magazine from somebody that knew more about him than I did. I would like to send our condolences to his family and especially his daughter Charlotte who works hard on our committee.

We were also very sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Donald Cakebread who lived in Purton Stoke and was the one-time owner of Associated Dental Products in Cricklade Road (known locally as the Dental Factory). The factory moved down

from London during the second world war when Donald's father was in charge and when Donald came out of the RAF after the war he joined the firm. Donald eventually took over from his father and became involved in village life at Purton Stoke where he and his wife had made their home. He was very much more part of the village than his father – perhaps because his father had moved the firm from London and had to get the factory established. This firm has given work to so many people in the area and Donald made sure that local charities and events were well supported in Purton as well as Purton Stoke.

Associated Dental Products were very generous to Age Concern through the years. Donald and his wife were always at the coffee mornings we held at Purton Stoke with Mrs. Cakebread running competitions for our funds. In the days when we had the Horse Shows at Purton House they always sponsored an event and usually there was a bit more besides. So thank you Donald for everything – your support, along with your family, was greatly appreciated. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

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 for replacement batteries or if the smoke alarms are not working properly then 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 home 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 using your bus pass. You need to ring 01249 890794 to book with them. Remember if we don't use it, we lose it!

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

We still have a couple of wheelchairs and some walkers, so if you think you might need these at any time then ring me on 778119.

Peter Berry

06/21

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12/20

Remembering Pierce Bolger

Could I say how sorry I was to hear of the passing of Pierce Bolger, former steward of the Red House Club assisted by his wife Ruth. They had to weather a lot of ups and downs during the years they were in charge but Pierce always came up smiling with Ruth backing him up. I had a great deal of respect for him.

I always found Pierce the ideal person for the steward's job. You could have a chat with him and put the world to rights but, most importantly, he was always the same. Thank you Pierce for what you did for the Club because, if it wasn't for people like you, things could have been different. You helped to keep the Club going so that we have the excellent club that we have today.

Tony Price

We Record ...

In memoriam

Remembering Duncan Bamford, on November 19th, on what would have been his birthday. Always loved and sadly missed by Jean, Gary, Tracey, Howard and family

Remembering my wife, Elsie Goodings, on December 19th, on what would have been her birthday. Pete Goodings

Kingsdown Crematorium

27 October 2020 Ann Burge (79)

North Wiltshire Crematorium

6 November 2020 Pierce Bolger (77)



Our Covid Christmas?

No nativity this year because the three Wise Men face a travel ban
The shepherds have been furloughed.

The Inn keeper has shut under tier 3 regulations and has had a slump in bookings.
Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. As for Rudolph with that red nose, he really should be isolating.

A Coronavirus Christmas! From Malcolm Morrison (former Purtonian)

Christmas is coming – and we're all feeling flat;
Please take some lockdown out of the PM's hat.
If we can't all be 'let out', just a little will do;
If you can't use the Mistletoe, God help you!

MCTM

Happy Christmas to everyone from Purton Churches

Because of publication deadlines I pen this message on the day the new month-long lockdown started in England. Trying to anticipate what situation we will be in for Christmas is very difficult, but I hope that we will be able to share in a family Christmas of some sorts. It will certainly be different! The Churches in the village are trying very hard to organise a number of Christmas worship opportunities for us all to share in, but they will certainly be different!

In 1976 when my wife and I got married, it was Chris's parent's home for Christmas dinner and my mum and dad's for Boxing Day lunch and thereafter vice versa. Until, after four years of to-ing and fro-ing we decided it was time to make our own Christmas – it was certainly different! Just the two of us instead of the dozen in my home and the eight in Chris's. But it was special.

Although not with the family, we surrounded ourselves with the trappings and were able to shape Christmas in our image not that of our pasts. It is almost certain that we will all need to do the same this year. The wider family may be absent, but not other important things that make Christmas distinct and special. We will need to think imaginatively and carefully about how we can take the Christmas message and its meaning into our homes, into our experience. That message tells us that when we provide a space for God, He is “born among us”, He is earthed in our experience and the new life that then becomes possible is certainly different!

Take care, Happy Christmas and God Bless.

Revd David Perkins (Methodist Minister)

Purton Methodist Church Special Christmas Services

Our reduced Sunday pattern during Covid is as follows:

With St Mary's Church - All on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/549593510>

Passcode 928294

9.45am Family Church (Including Messy Church and United Junior Church) (Every School Term Time Week except 1st Sundays of the month)

10.30am Family Service (1st Sunday) or Informal Service (3rd Sunday)

Act of Celebration of Communion (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays). With Purton Methodist Church

10.30am Service at the Methodist Church (hopefully each 1st Sunday)

(space limited – phone or email to book your place) Also each Sunday on the Upper Thames Methodist Church YouTube Channel.

www.youtube.com/channel/UCYZpw6oX_1ef-68tycPGT3Q

This channel also has a number of Worship Services going back to March 2020.

For more Information see website: www.stmaryspurton.org.uk, Facebook: St. Mary's Church, Purton, Wiltshire

Purton Churches - Christmas 2020

St Mary's Church, Church End SN5 4EB. Methodist Church, Play Close SN5 4DP

Nativity Scene Trail – Friday 11th – Sunday 13th December Walk round Purton (when exercising) to see the different scenes. A map is on the website or in the shops – more details soon!

Parish Christmas Tree: Decorations on the St Mary's Church Yew Tree

From Monday 14th December, could this be Purton's oldest Christmas Tree? The Churchwardens are decorating the Yew Tree outside the South Door. So please come and view it when exercising.

Sunday 20th December, 6.00 pm

United Candlelit Christmas Lessons and Carols

United Service on Upper Thames Methodist Church YouTube Channel
www.youtube.com/channel/UCYZpw6oX_lEf-68tycPGT3Q

Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th December, 4.00pm

United Village Carol and Nativity Service on Purton Churches YouTube Channel
www.youtube.com/channel/UCQXwo6TgtqvhFqDPIUEJC-g?pbjreload=1020
available to view from 24th December – See website for more details

Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th December, 11.30pm

United Act of Celebration of Midnight Communion.

Live on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/549593510>, Passcode 928294

Christmas Day, Friday 25th December 10.30am

United Christmas Day Family Festival with Act of Celebration of Communion and Live Drama! Live on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/549593510>, Passcode 928294

Sunday 27th December, 10.30am

United Covenant Service

Historic Methodist Service – Show our united desire to offer our lives to God in obedient service for the coming year.

Live on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/549593510> Passcode 928294

If you or any of your family or friends need our prayers please contact: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith 01793 770077 email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk or Revd Judith Wells 01793 770627 for St Mary's Church. Or Revd David Perkins 01793 853197 for Purton Methodist Church.

When exercising why not come and see St Mary's Church Christmas Decorations on the old Yew tree by the South Door? from 14th December.

Jane Smith (Churchwarden)

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St Mary's Church Proposed Alternative Christmas Market

Wednesday 9 to Saturday 12 December 2020

To be held in Pips Cafe over four days. This should avoid a large gathering of people at any one time and ensure that we adhere to Covid-19 guidelines. Suggested stalls, run on different days: preserves, toys, cakes, tombolas, hamper raffle, books, crafts etc. The event of course, will be dependent on the community being released from lockdown!!

Worth a virtual visit – www.stmaryspurton.org.uk Check out how the renewal work is progressing...

Contact: Sandra 770157

St Mary's Church Purton Bellringers 2020 Update + photo

2020 has been a very strange year for everybody and it's been very strange for us too. We haven't been able to ring the bells at St Mary's Church since March which many people will be aware of. We were originally scheduled to not be ringing the bells anyway this year because of the renewal, but because of Covid 19 this has been extended longer than we had thought. However, if it wasn't for Covid 19 we had planned to ring at other churches locally to us. Despite this we have been meeting as a group on Zoom on our usual Friday nights which has kept us all in touch during these times.

As well as this we have had some relatively minor repairs done to the bells while they have been out of action as it was a good time to carry them out. We have had five of the clappers (the part which strikes the bell) completely overhauled as they had been getting quite worn which is to be expected as they have been there since 1924, with only very few repairs done to them in that time. As well as this we've had a new clapper made for the tenor (the largest bell) as the one from 1924 broke in half several years ago and a replacement was found quickly but didn't match the old one. The clapper that has now been replaced was far too heavy for the bell and an exact replica has been made to the 1924 one. To have this work done they had to go to a specialist, which was Matthew Higby just outside Bath. They are all back and waiting to be put back in and hopefully everyone will hear them very soon.



Unfortunately we received some sad news last week that Maureen Quincy had died. Maureen was a regular ringer at Purton for many years and she will be greatly

missed by all of us and we hope to mark this when we are able to ring again. Our thoughts and prayers go to Graham and the family at this difficult time.

Many people associate the bells with Christmas and unfortunately they won't be ringing out this year but we would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and hopefully you will hear the bells ring out again in the new year.

St Mary's Church Bellringers

Ten Years Ago...

How things can change in ten years! In Purton Magazine then the editorial opened with: "Predictably your magazine this month has details of many Christmas events in and around our community." Indeed, Purton Placard contained no less than twelve announcements of such events all relating to Christmas. And yet, at the time of writing, we have no indication of what festivities our government will sanction. Let us hope that when this column comes to be written in ten years' time, we will be able to look back and think it was all worth it.

Some items, though, did avoid the subject. A thoughtful review of the work of St. Mary's Church during an interregnum between vicars highlighted the benefits it offered to the village. May it continue to do so during its prolonged closure. Whilst Ps and Qs lauded the work done on maintaining our roads by the Wiltshire Highways Stewards.

"Who discovered America?" was the question asked at the October WI meeting. The speaker was talking about the Viking expeditions long before Columbus and showed pictures of "a bleak, harsh landscape". Writing this a few days before the American election, it appears that the landscape he described has permeated into the country's soul. Whoever wins (or has won) the Presidency has a task none before him has ever faced.

The Historical Society noted that another year had nearly gone by and "it's true that the years go faster as you get older". So there it is – not a figment of the imagination but an historical fact. Another historical fact, this time gleaned from the A-Z of Purton, was that the village appeared in the Domesday Book as "Piritone".

A recent arrival in the village loved everything about it – except the Internet speed. One hopes that in the intervening time the problem has been resolved but it is worth noting that the article is headed "Race to Infinity". It doesn't feel that the sky's the limit at present but let us enjoy what we can this Christmas.



Pips Community Café Christmas Meal



Assuming that lockdown is over by then, we are going to hold a community Christmas lunch at Pips on 23rd December at 12.00. Our hope is that this will provide a good festive occasion for those who are unable to join family for Christmas this year. It's going to have to be very complicated to organise it to comply with the government's Covid rules. There will be different size tables for 2 – 6. Singles will be put together on a table at opposite ends. Spaces must be booked in advance via email to marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk on a first come first served basis.

If you would like to reserve a space please email with the following information:

1. Name
2. Email address
3. Number of places required
4. Menu choices
5. Any dietary requirements

(Mary will confirm/deny if you have a place at the dinner as soon as she can work it all out!)

❖ **Menu** ❖

Cream of mushroom soup or broccoli and stilton soup



Turkey dinner or veggie option



Christmas pudding with brandy butter or Chocolate fudge cake with cream



Tea/coffee and mince pie

The cost will be £20 per head.

Please bring your own drink and glasses (water will be provided)

There will be an optional secret Santa so people have a gift to open on Christmas Day. If you wish to take part, please buy a gift costing up to £5 appropriate for your gender (does not have to be gender specific) wrap and, if possible, bring to Pips the week before (to quarantine from Covid). Presents will be laid out at the end of the meal and you can choose one to take home.

Pips openings (government permitting!)

Pips will be closing during the Christmas/New Year break to give all our volunteers a well earned rest. We will close at 1.30pm on Saturday 19th December and will reopen on Wednesday 6th January at 10.00am. We would like to thank everyone who has supported Pips this year – cooks, washers up, waiting staff, cake makers and

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01/21

**Now is not the time to
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last, but by no means least, our customers. We couldn't do it without you all. I think this year has shown just how needed the café is in the village and we look forward to a better 2021.

The Pips team

After 8 Lunch at Pips

As we have been unable to meet up as a group recently we decided to try another way of doing it. We decided to meet for a socially distanced lunch at Pips (so that we could support them and see each other). When I put it to the group only 12 of us were able to meet.

Ideal we thought as at this time of planning it was possible to have 2 groups of 6. But as the time drew nearer Boris put an end to these plans as only 6 people could meet up. So we had to rearrange to two separate dates with a table of six on each day. Pips kindly put several tables together so we were able to keep 1 metre apart.

It was a great success and we hope to do it again soon. This time we will mix the groups up so we can see different sets of people. I asked each person to write a one liner to represent our lunch date:

“Good to meet physically with folks again and savour Pips food variety!” *Sandra*

“Enjoying lunch with laughter and good conversation was a bit of normality” *Diane*

“Delightfully distanced dining” *Marion*

“Lovely to see everyone, much missed because of the virus” *Barb C*

“Times are still not normal, So we met for lunch, Very informal, A satisfied bunch.” *Sheila*

“Lovely meeting up again and exchanging news but just meeting more than one person is exhausting as it's so unusual.” *Eve*

“Really enjoyed meeting at Pips on Friday... great suggestion, company... and, of course, food.” *Barbara G*

“A shame we had to do it in groups of six AND on different days, but I suppose rules are rules if we are to try our best to control the spread of COVID-19.” *Yvonne*

“Lovely to see at least some of our group” *Cathy*

“It felt good to sit in our own community and to chat to a group of friends around a table” *Mary H*

“Many thanks to all Pips volunteers for keeping the café open and providing us with a refuge to meet in; it was so enjoyable to greet each other in person” *Mary S*

Of course since writing this Boris has changed the rules again. So it is highly unlikely that we will be doing anything like this again in the near future.

Stay safe everyone and wherever you are and whoever you are with, we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Avril and all at After 8



Harvest Table Trail: Saturday October 31st, 10am – 12noon

It is important that I have mentioned the time of this fundraising event in the title! At precisely 10am that particular morning Storm Aiden passed through Purton and the whole village was awash with rain, wind, tempest and puddles. But did this stop the 20 or so intrepid table holders that morning? Not a bit of it! They wanted to support RENEW, the fundraising campaign to raise additional funds for the St Mary's Church Renewal Project. So some were sweeping out garages, some were battening down gazebos. The two tables in Hoggs Lane were delayed until the afternoon, as they were at risk of being blown away! People were still selling their wares even though they were in porches, behind windows and under carports. It was an amazing example of resilience! One supporter arrived with a wheelbarrow full of books to sell, but when she lifted off the covering tarpaulin the books were at risk of turning into pulp fiction! And yet some bold supporters came out to buy: and 74 Bakewell tarts were sold during the course of the day! Yes... 74! One lovely man bought a pair of boots even though the soles were falling off! Dozens of cakes had been made and were sold: plus jams, preserves and 20 hand knitted baby outfits! And even now people are still selling the things they had left over... using Facebook, Nextdoor Purton and any other means of advertising they can find.

Two Christmas cards of St Mary's Church have been designed and orders are being taken; and small wooden souvenir items have been made from the wood and nails of the old pews taken out of the church, let us know if you would like to put in an order. People have been so creative and imaginative and have refused to be daunted or downhearted by the appalling weather. And the result of all this activity? First of all the event raised over £1,500... a miracle!

And secondly, more people in Purton became involved in RENEW, the fundraising side of the Renewal of St Mary's Church. Many people want to contribute in one way or another, by buying or selling or making something for the day. The Church has always been there for them; now we all have to be there to support the Church. Some incredible work has gone on, during the past three or four years, to apply for grants to cover most of the main structural reorganisation work. But we still need to raise a bit more to make sure that all needs are met, including our Purton children. We want the building to be fit for the next hundred years!

So... Storm Saturday was a wacky day with a wonderful result and thank you to all who participated. And now on to the next fundraising event... only another £58,500 to go! Any ideas folks?

Libbie: 771018



Coming across our programme of speakers for 2020 I noted that Jonathan Briggs should have been joining us at our November meeting to present his talk on mistletoe. At the time of booking Jonathan it seemed a very apt subject for the time of year. Alas he has joined the list of speakers we have been forced to cancel in light of Coronavirus restrictions and it left me thinking what we might have learned about this iconic plant had normal activities prevailed.

Researching the subject I learned that mistletoe is a common name for many plants of the Santalales family and that there is one native species in the UK, namely *Viscum album*, which is often best spotted during winter when many other plants have lost their leaves.

Birds such as blackcaps and mistle thrushes are thought to have helped this Christmas icon spread across the UK. Folks had known for some time that the berry of mistletoe plants is a favourite treat of the mistle thrush so it comes as no surprise that its name derives from the bird most responsible for spreading it around. It was believed by the Victorians that the seeds of the mistletoe would only germinate if they passed through a mistle thrush and, although not true, research has shown that when seeds do pass through a bird's digestive tracts they will germinate faster. Blackcaps adore mistletoe berries, and those that visit the UK for the winter from Germany and Austria devour the autumn-ripening fruit. After eating the flesh, they wipe off the sticky seeds on the branches of trees, sowing the seeds of future harvests.

Some may not realise that mistletoe does not grow in the ground but rather on trees as a hemi or partial parasite. It attaches to a tree via suckers then roots and absorbs water and nutrients from its host plant. However, it also produces some of its own food via photosynthesis in its green leaves.

It can be found on a variety of trees including apple, lime, poplar, sycamore, ash and hawthorn. but is rarely found on oak.

As the mistletoe takes nutrients away from the host tree, it does reduce the development of the branches on which it grows. Where there are a lot of mistletoe plants on a relatively small tree, the tree may be affected by wind-blow and water stress and a reduction in the fruit crop. However with management both the mistletoe and its host can be kept healthy.

Unlike many plants which are both male and female, mistletoe is in a group of plants that are dioecious meaning that plants are either male or female although it is the female plants that have the white berries.

Its history as a symbolic herb dates back thousands of years. Many ancient cultures prized mistletoe for its healing qualities. The Greeks were known to use it as a cure for everything from menstrual cramps to spleen disorders, and the Roman naturalist

Pliny the Elder noted it could be used as a balm against epilepsy, ulcers and poisons. So putting botanical information aside, probably the all important question for many of us is:

Why do we kiss under the mistletoe?

A famous chapter in mistletoe folklore comes from Norse mythology. As the story goes, when the god Odin's son, Baldur, was prophesied to die, his mother Frigg, the goddess of love, went to all the animals and plants of the natural world to secure an oath that they would not harm him. However, Frigg overlooked the mistletoe plant and the scheming god Loki took advantage of the oversight by tricking one of the other gods into killing Baldur with an arrow made from mistletoe.

After the death of Baldur, Frigg declared that from then on mistletoe would bring love rather than death into the world, and that any two people passing under it would exchange a kiss in memory of Baldur. Another version of the myth adds that the tears shed over the slain Baldur became the mistletoe berries.

Myths aside, it's believed that the plant's romantic overtones most likely started with the Celtic Druids of the 1st century A.D. Because mistletoe could blossom even during the frozen winter, the Druids came to view it as a sacred symbol of fertility and good health incorporating it into religious festivals. They initiated the custom of hanging it over their door around the winter solstice to ward off evil and to bring good tidings.

It's not clear just how mistletoe made the jump from sacred herb to Christmas decoration but it appears to have gained popularity as the 'kissing plant' among the serving classes in Victorian England before spreading to the middle classes.

In 1820, Washington Irving wrote of mistletoe in "Christmas Eve" as contributing to the festive feel of the holiday "to the imminent peril of all the pretty housemaids" and Charles Dickens later made mention of this romantic herb in "Pickwick Papers".

People of the time decorated their homes with kissing balls or boughs made from trimmed evergreen, mistletoe, ribbon and ornaments.

As part of the early custom, men were allowed to steal a kiss from any woman caught standing under one of these balls and refusing was viewed as bad luck.

Yet another tradition required the merrymakers to pluck a single berry from the mistletoe with each kiss, and to stop smooching when they were all gone.

So there you have it. An unassuming plant with a long history. Sad to think that this long standing Christmas tradition will be marred by the Coronavirus restrictions and those stolen "under the mistletoe" kisses will have to wait for another year.

Of course should you be lucky enough to have access to some mistletoe you can still continue the tradition with the loved ones in your 'bubble'. Have fun!

Wishing everyone a very happy, healthy Christmas. Stay safe.

Margaret Goodall, Secretary Tel: 770906

St Mary's Primary School

We had fabulous fundraising support from our parents and carers for the Children In Need non-uniform day. We've just had our #shiningbrightly assembly – the children looked great in all their colours!

We all observed two minutes silence at 11 a.m. on 11th November as part of our Remembrance Day service, led by Reverend Judith. Whilst we can't have any children visit the Purton cenotaph this year, some Y5 children painted pebbles which have been placed at the memorial.



Foundation Stage's Big Question is "Why should we remember?" They made these poppy biscuits to help them remember when the war ended.

Sophie has received her winners' certificate for the Network Rail 'World Without Women' competition entered as part of her Y5 lockdown school work. Her poster was all about the early computer pioneer Ada Lovelace. It will be displayed in stations across the UK. #shiningbrightly

It was fabulous to hear about the children's weekend lock-down #shiningbrightly challenges. Siena and William & James all say they loved making the chocolate bars – Siena particularly enjoyed using the scales! They also all found some fungi on their walks too!

Do you have a laptop or tablet device that you no longer need or are planning on replacing soon? If your unwanted device is reasonably up-to-date, it could provide invaluable help to vulnerable pupils to support them with their home learning during the pandemic. Please consider donating these devices to St Mary's Primary School, by contacting us on admin@st-marys-puton.wilts.sch.uk with details about the device. We need to know its age and specification in order for us to check compatibility with our systems. (Note: Please do not bring devices directly to the school, unless we have asked you to do so.)

Russ Payne, Deputy Head Teacher

Bradon Forest School

Sixth form open evening

We held a joint virtual open evening for our sixth form which is run in conjunction with Malmesbury School, one of the other schools in our multi-academy Trust. Purton residents can view it here: <https://www.malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/sixth-form/>

Almost half of the students who go to Malmesbury sixth form go on to Oxbridge or Russell Group universities, which is way above the national average and higher than the local colleges.

- 31-41% of A-Level grades were A*-A (percentage range from the past four years)
- 64-71% of A-Level grades were A*-B (percentage range from the past four years)

Students spend some of their time at Malmesbury and some of their time at Bradon Forest. Transport to and from Purton and Malmesbury is provided.

Purton residents who are interested in finding out more about our sixth form offer can contact Mr Dipple, Assistant Headteacher, at Bradon Forest on: dipplep@bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk

Pumpkin Carving Competition

We held a pumpkin carving house competition for over half term. Here are a few of the fabulous entries from our students.



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.

On the mend with neighbourly help

I would just like to say thank you to all Mum and Dad's friends and neighbours who have been so kind during Mum's recent stays in hospital. A special thanks to Anne and David Sweet next door, and to Sylvia Freemantle for her "tasty morsels"! Hopefully Mum is on the mend now and gaining strength. Once again an example of the caring community we live in.

Lindsey Hall

Thank you

I'd like to say thank you to all those who have purchased my cards throughout the year and to my Mum who has been delivering them around the village. It has given me projects to work on during these strange times.

Penni Seviour

Appreciation for Age Concern

Could I through the medium of the magazine thank Purton Age Concern for the way in which they run the charity. Considering that they have not been able to do their normal fund raising it is some achievement that they have been able to give us the same value Christmas voucher this year with their good wishes.

Through the street warden scheme help is not too far away should any of us need it, so many thanks to all the street wardens for being there for us, and many thanks also to the trade personnel for exchanging the vouchers for goods. I hope everyone enjoys their vouchers, with Age Concern's good wishes as Sheila and I will.

Tony Price BEM

Purton Profferings

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

- A reclining armchair, beige/fawn colour, in good condition, free to a good home. It has manual controls i.e. not electric. If interested please phone 770307 to arrange a chance to see it under Covid rules.

Purton Village Diary - December 2020

9	W		until 12th St Mary's Church alternative Christmas market at Pips
11	F		until 13th Purton Nativity Scene Trail
14	M		St Mary's ancient yew tree decorated for Christmas
		7.00pm	Cricklade Band playing around the village: starting at Orchard Gardens and following a sort of circular route around Pavenhill, finishing in Highridge Close
15	Tu	7.00pm	Cricklade Band playing around the village: starting at Pear Tree Close, Willowbrook, and then the Witts Lane estates
18	F	4.00pm	Parish Council Office and service close for Christmas, re-opening at 9am on 4 January.
		7.30pm	Purton Historical Society with Purton Twinning Association Christmas quiz on Zoom
19	Sa	9.30am	Cricklade Band playing in Cricklade High Street
20	Su	6.00pm	United Candlelit Christmas lessons and carols on Upper Thames Methodist Church YouTube channel
23	W	12noon	Community Christmas meal at Pips
24	Th	4.00pm	United Village carols and nativity service on Purton Churches YouTube channel
		11.30pm	Act of celebration and communion live on Zoom
25	F	10.30am	United Christmas family festival with live drama on Zoom
26	Sa		St Stephen's Day, Boxing day
27	Su	10.30am	United Covenant service live on Zoom
31	Th		New Year's Eve

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)

Purton Village Diary - when life returns to normal

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, suspended until further notice
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

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.

Keep playing your part and prevent increased restrictions being introduced in Wiltshire:



Keep washing hands regularly



Wear face coverings in enclosed spaces



Stay at least 2 metres apart



Follow rule of six



Self-isolate when instructed

#WiltshireTogether

Purton Historical Society



Every year Purton History Society lays a wreath on our cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of members & families, to remember the war dead of Purton. This year there was no ceremony. We still laid a wreath. They died without ceremony.

Jill Watts, Purton History Society

Review – Past discoveries and current activities

The Parishes of Purton and Braydon have 161 footpaths and bridleways. These rights of way criss cross each other. By way of stiles and bridle gates, one can walk the length and breadth of the parishes.

At the turn of the 21st century, Wiltshire County Council had a programme of supplying kissing gates to parishes to replace stiles. At this time Purton Stile Gang were Brian Broad, Alec Dodson and George Young. They all embraced this opportunity to enhance the footpath network.

They installed six kissing gates in 2001. Although sadly Alec Dodson has died and Brian Broad and George Young have both retired, the good work continues. Nearly 20 years later there are over 50 kissing/rambler gates.

The Stile Gang has now changed its name to Footpath Team.

Since lock down they have been busy maintaining stiles, bridges and handrails assisted by the Ramblers Association. To view their progress check Purton Parish Council web page. On the top right hand corner with a box stating 'Search the site' -- type in 'footpaths' and click on SEARCH.

A stile-free circular walk can be viewed and downloaded from our web page or a paper copy on request.

Photographs of stiles and kissing/rambler gates are available to view on our website. The Parish Council welcomes requests to sponsor a kissing gate. This might be something you would like to do for Christmas 2020.

Zoom Meetings

Friday 18th December 2020, 7.30pm Christmas Quiz – a joint venture with Purton Twinning Association

See web page www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com or local posters for further details.

If you would like to take part please Email Jim Mosley on j.mosley1@btinternet.com

Thursday 28th January 2021 at 7.30pm

Steve and Heather Bacon chose to move to Royal Wootton Bassett on Steve's retirement in 2015 with the aim of having a restored canal behind their back garden. Steve has researched the history of the rise and fall of the Wilts & Berks Canal and the North Wilts Canal. He has spent many weekly work-parties getting muddy while

helping to restore and maintain it. He's also a Trustee of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust.

Wilts & Berks Canal opened 14th September, 1810. By 1900 boat movement ceased. In 1977 a group formed called the Wilts & Berks Canal Amenity Group whose aim was to totally restore the canal using as much of the original route as possible. The Zoom meeting will cover the past, how the canal restoration has progressed and their plans for the future.

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

Museum News

The museum is now closed for the Winter Months. The Cricket Club Bicentenary Exhibition was a great success and we were delighted to welcome over 60 visitors during the two months that the museum was open on Saturday mornings. The visitors especially enjoyed chatting with Joe Gardner who assembled and organised the exhibition.

The current plan is to re-open the Museum on Saturday 10th April, 2021 and the Cricket Club Bicentenary Exhibition will remain in place for three months until Saturday 26th June, 2021.

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

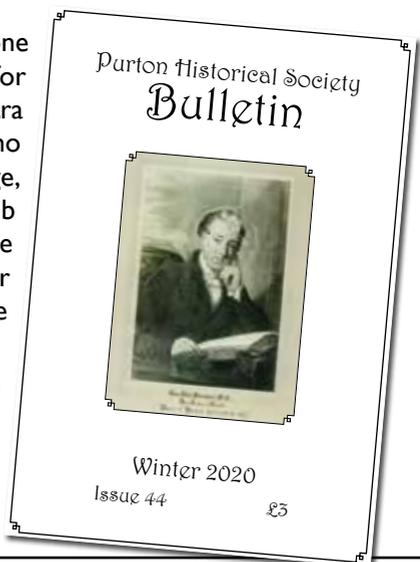
The Purton Historical Society Bulletin, Issue 44, £3

Bulletin 44 is to be published in December and will be available from Flawless Floors, 115 Pavenhill, Cyclecare, 89 High Street, or by phoning either 770331 or 770178 to reserve copies. They can be collected or delivered. We are very grateful to Lea and Tim for agreeing to sell the Bulletin.

This publication should be of interest to anyone living in Purton and beyond! It is not just for members of the PHS. It could be an extra Christmas present for a relative or friend who would like to find out more about the village, including the early days of Purton Cricket Club (celebrating its 200th anniversary), the village station, Ada and Ivy Woodward, the Butter School, the Institute and memories of the courses we used to run.

We aim to enlighten and intrigue you and hope that reading about our village history will give you some enjoyment during the dark winter days ahead.

Jean Belt



Outreach Purton

Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the UK in March, the Purton parish has pulled together to help the most vulnerable members of our community. To date Purton Outreach has answered almost 100 calls for assistance; from shopping and prescriptions, to taking elderly residents to appointments and generally making sure we are all safe and well, and know who to call for help.

Many community volunteers continue to assist on a regular basis and their commitment to help others is very much appreciated.

Purton has a tradition of being a caring community and Purton Outreach was formed at the beginning of 2020 following the closure of Purton Helping Hand. It was when it became obvious that a global pandemic required the mobilisation of village volunteers that the group really took off. It's clear that an organisation of this kind is still as relevant today as it was when Helping Hand formed, and that help is required long-term.

I recently had a conference call with Jane Vaughan, Community Engagement Manager for Royal Wootton Bassett, Cricklade and Calne Community Area, Frances Barrone, Local Area Co-ordinator, Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade (both from Wiltshire Council), and the volunteer group co-ordinators from Cricklade, Lyneham and Bradenstoke and Royal Wootton Bassett. It was interesting to hear how the other groups have responded to the various needs in their communities. However, it was clear that although we are all adapting to a new way of life, there is still a need in our towns and villages for long term help to tackle issues such as loneliness amongst elderly people living alone. This is all being fed back to Wiltshire Council so that response and recovery plans can be put in place.

Needless to say, we are still on hand to answer calls for help and will do our very best to assist with enquiries.

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank all those who have helped and continue to help on a regular basis:

Local organisations and businesses: Purton Surgery - doctors, nurses, and practice staff, Purton Age Concern Street Wardens, Wiltshire Council and Purton Parish Council, Lloyds Pharmacy, The Co-op, One Stop, Purton Farm Shop, Hiscocks Butchers, Dora's Dairy, The Maharajah and Purton's pubs and food outlets, particularly Jon Cook and Sarah Brookes, and Khalique Ali for their offers of help to those in need of food, St Mary's Church volunteers, St Mary's Primary School and Bradon Forest School for all their online learning resources and support for homeschooling and vulnerable families. And not forgetting the team of fabulous Purton Magazine distributors who kept even those in isolation updated with village news. (You may be interested to hear that while Purton Magazine continued to be published throughout the pandemic, Royal Wootton Bassett, Cricklade and many other towns and villages suspended their magazines.)

Individuals who have helped include; Peter Berry, Debbie Lawrence, Kai Howard, Jacqui Lay, Naomi Clarke, Helen Fudge, Nicola Hewlett, Richard Gosden, Kerry Shave, Sarah Grigg, Arindam Roy Choudhury, Louise Hallett, Fiona Hedges, Sue Giles, Lisa Brown, Alison Davies, Bernice Seviour, Joanne Clarke, Sylvia Freemantle, Mary Nettleton, Amy Coulton, Vanessa Robinson, Tip Osbourne, Paula Leyden, Sarah Murray, Jenny Kinnett, Kate South and Karen Wright.

Had we been able to, I was planning to organise some kind of social event to thank everyone in person - hopefully next year!

Please continue to look after each other, especially during the colder, darker months and over the festive period when vulnerable people may not be able to access their usual services. Encourage all those who are entitled to a flu vaccination to make an appointment, and most of all enjoy Christmas with your families (government guidelines permitting).

*Heather Ponting-Bather, Outreach Purton
helpline 772954, (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, at other times in an emergency)*

Does anyone remember Jean Charman, formerly Jean Gilbert?

Jean phoned me to say that she wanted to support St Mary's Renewal Fund. She is now 87 years old and she lived in Purton from 1938-1947, leaving the village when she was 13 years old. She was evacuated here, with her sisters and Mother from outer London, and first stayed in Taunton, then Wootton Bassett, then The Fox and finally Ambridge Farm at the end of Upper Pavenhill.

Here is part of her letter.

My name is Jean Charman (nee Gilbert)

Siblings: Alfred, Marion, Sylvia

Mother: Amelia (known as Jenny) Gilbert

Father: Alfred Gilbert

Dad was a demolition worker, he visited at weekends.

We were billeted with a family named Driscoll (daughter Eve) at 18, The Fox (1941) There was a sweet shop at the end of the run of houses. From there we went on to live at Upper Pavenhill Farm. Name was Ambridge, daughter Dulcie.

There were two houses linked by a passage. We lived in one and the farmer in the other. From there we moved to a cottage on the same farm.

We attended Upper Square Methodist Sunday School and I was presented with a Bible. My Mother played piano in the Live and Let Live Public House sometimes. I think my sister Ivy May was christened in St Mary's Church in 1945.

We went to St Mary's Primary School and I remember one teacher (Mr Romain) would throw the blackboard eraser at the back of the class if we didn't pay attention.

Hope you find this interesting (all dates approximate).

Jean sent a donation to the Church Renewal Fund as St Mary's Purton obviously holds special memories for her. If anyone remembers Jean (she mentions a friend called Sylvia Trollope), please contact me and I will let you read the letter in full. She also wonders whether there are any descendents of the Ambridge family still in Purton.

Libbie: 771018

St Mary's Renewal Project now supported by the Co-op Local Community Fund

You can now support the Renewal Project to improve facilities at St Mary's Church, just by shopping at the new Co-op in the village. The Co-op gives 2p of every £1 you spend on selected Co-op products and services to their Local Community Fund. Each year the Co-op selects 3 local causes for support by this fund and, from November this year, St Mary's Church Renewal Project is one of them. (The other two are the Swindon City of Sanctuary and Blue Cross Swindon.)

The Renewal Project will improve the Church by installing improved toilet facilities (including wheelchair access), a kitchen servery, a stage, more suitable spaces for children, upholstered wooden chairs, and improved heating and lighting. The building will also have its internal fabric repaired and redecorated. Not only will this make the Church more flexible and comfortable for Church services, but also make the building more suitable for wider community use.

You can help us fund the improved facilities for St Mary's just by:

- Shopping at the Co-op and signing up to be a Co-op member (you can do this as you pay in the shop)
- Select St Mary's Church Purton as your designated local cause for support. You do this on the Co-op website (<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes>)
- If you are already a Co-op member, all you need to do is select St Mary's Purton as your local cause.

So if, like me, you want to keep the Co-op Community Fund divvy in the village, please select St Mary's Church as your Co-op local cause. Thank you. Hopefully, next year someone else will nominate another Purton cause we can all support.

Keep up to date with progress on the Renewal work at: www.stmaryspurton.org.uk/renewal

Dave Nettleton, St Mary's Church Purton

Prayer for Purton

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

Mini crossword

This month we are continuing with our second in our new series of mini crosswords that are designed purely to be a bit of fun in these darker days. The answers to the November puzzle are 1) Disgrace 2) Scarecrow 3) Center 4) Garage 5) Cricket 6) Halloween.

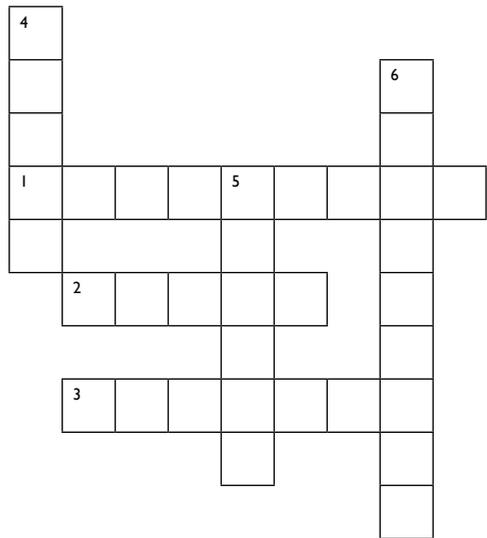
1. (across) citric measure blocks pipes (9)
2. (across) cool (5)
3. (across) Turkish chocolate (7)
4. (down) magazine, greeting (5)
5. (down) ghostly feeling(6)
6. (down) professional practitioner (9)

As before, there are no prizes and you will have to wait for the January issue for the answers.

However, there must be some regular crossword completers among our readership who may well be aghast at how poor our attempts have been so far with this little initiative – and we already have to apologise for an American spelling last month! It follows that we really would be delighted if readers would like to create their own mini crosswords for publication in future issues. Just to keep things consistent for the moment there should only be three words down and three words across, each with a maximum of 9 letters.

So far we have taken words from several of the advertisements recently printed in the magazine but of course there is a whole dictionary to choose from. 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 simply hand drawn on a piece of paper. Contact details for all contributions can be found on page 4 and on our website.

Creating crossword clues is a very individual task and we have tried to make a spread of difficulty to broaden the levels of interest. Please feel free to contact the magazine if you have any questions – or better suggestions! Thank you.





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

A Book I will Always Remember

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



Bernie Gunther series by Philip Kerr

Unlike previous reviews where I have chosen to focus on one specific novel or non-fiction work this time I would like to recommend to you a series of historical detective thrillers written by the Scottish author Philip Kerr. If you are a fan of “Nordic Noir”, Kerr will take you on a similar journey through Germany in the first half of the twentieth century.

Kerr unfortunately died in 2018 at the relatively young age of 62 but he has left a legacy of superbly-written novels based on the character Bernie Gunther, a tough, no nonsense ex-policeman turned private investigator in Berlin during the 1930s and 1940s with the Nazis at the height of their power. In an interview he gave in 2012 Kerr commented he began his literary career writing pornographic stories for his classmates which he lent to them for a fee.

In all there are some fourteen novels and it is worthwhile, although not absolutely necessary to read them in chronological order. Kerr wrote the novels over a thirty year period with the first three, March Violets, The Pale Criminal and A German Requiem, recently republished as the “Berlin Noir” series but dating from 1989 – 1991. He came back to Gunther in 2006 and wrote the remaining novels over an eleven year period.

Gunther is an enigma in a world turned upside down by the rise of the Nazis, an honest policeman trying to do his job irrespective of the consequences. Most of all Gunther is a survivor. A policeman with a background of trench-warfare in the Great

War and, like Hitler, awarded an Iron Cross for heroism, eleven years as a detective in the Kriminalpolizei before he quit as the National Socialists came to power. As a private investigator his main role is searching for missing persons working his old contacts in the city of Berlin thrown into chaos by its new leaders. It is his honesty and detective skills that makes him a useful tool to the Nazi power elite and part of the fascination of the novels is the detail with which Kerr paints major characters; Himmler, Heydrich and lesser known officials of the Third Reich. Gunther, while not hiding his detestation of the Nazis is too good at his job to be ignored and so he is drawn into the web.

Kerr had a great grasp of detail and the novels are packed with historically accurate descriptions of a war-ravaged Berlin, Prague, Zagreb, the Katyn Forest Massacre as Gunther moves through the war period into the Cold War and the French Riviera. There Gunther is caught up in an intricate blackmail plot involving Somerset Maughan, Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean.

As a footnote: Last year Metropolis was published and is a portrait of Bernie Gunther in his twenties. It can be read in isolation and serves as an excellent introduction to the dark underbelly of Berlin in the late 1920s as the country moves inexorably to the rise of the Third Reich.

Paul Ballard

Keeping Purton Magazine sustainable

The last piece of our planned changes to keep your magazine sustainable is now within sight. From the January 2021 issue, we have unfortunately had to increase the price of the magazine to £1.00 – making this December issue the last at 80p.

The better news is that although annual subscriptions are also increasing to £10.00 from January, that does give subscribers a saving of £2.00 to go together with our usual household delivery arrangements – with continued grateful thanks to our wonderful and faithful group of distributors. Please make sure that your distributor gets your 2021 subscription to maintain your monthly delivery. If you have any difficulties, please contact anyone in the magazine team, details on page 4.

We are also pleased to announce that our new website has been very well received, especially by our advertisers who are delighted to be benefitting from the new online directory of local advertisers. One of the reasons is that anyone wanting to find a local business, product or service is now being directed to our website instead of having to ask if anyone knows anyone who could do or supply anything specific – our website usually has a much greater range of suppliers than any neighbour can remember. Readers are also encouraged to visit the website to search the database of advertisers as well as to find any magazine archive copy back number to January 2010 with other issues before then back to January 2004 available on request. Do visit www.purtonmagazine.co.uk to see what we have been doing -- if you haven't already. Thank you.

Francis Sheppard, Treasurer.

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12/20

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

02/21

Purton in the time of Victoria

Part 17: Queen Victoria's death & funeral

Queen Victoria wrote in her diary that 1900 had been an 'annus horribilis': a horrible year, nothing but sadness and horrors of one kind and another."

The events of 1900 had indeed been horrible for her. The Boer War was continuing and Edward Prince of Wales, her eldest son, was shot at during a visit to Belgium; the assailant was a young boy protesting against the war siding with the "Dutch" boers. Disease was hitting her family. Her eldest daughter, Vicky the Dowager Empress of Germany, was suffering painfully from terminal breast cancer in Kronberg. Victoria's third child, Alfred Duke of Edinburgh, died of throat cancer in August 1900, just before her grandson, Prince Christian Victor, died of enteric fever (probably typhoid) while serving with the British Army in South Africa. While staying with Victoria at Osborne House, the Queen's closest friend, Jane Lady Churchill, was found dead in bed on Christmas Day 1900.

Up until this time, Queen Victoria had been in good health. No plans had been made for her death and she was expected to reign almost forever. Her decline in health was rapid and court circles and the government were taken by surprise - the public was totally unaware. She lost her appetite and about half her body weight, confined to a wheelchair, with signs of blindness and perhaps dementia. Early in January she was able to write in her diary: "Another year begun, I am feeling so weak and unwell, that I enter upon it sadly."

On 17 January 1901, the Queen suffered a series of strokes and telegrams were sent to all the Royal Family summoning them urgently. Her eldest son and successor, Edward the Prince of Wales, and her eldest grandson Emperor Wilhelm II, were with her when she died on Tuesday 22 January 1901, at half past six in the evening, aged 81. Her last request had been for her favourite pet Pomeranian dog, Turi, to be laid by her side on her deathbed.

While the news was announced to the world, her death stunned the nation and the authorities. Since she had been on the throne for 63 years, no one alive could remember how to conduct a funeral for a monarch. After all she had seen out five Archbishops of Canterbury as well as 10 prime ministers. Not to mention 18 presidents of the United States. When the late Queen's personal instructions for her funeral were read, they were not simple either. Previous royal funerals had been private and at night either in Westminster Abbey or St George's Chapel at Windsor. The instructions were for a full military state funeral, but with no embalming and no lying-in-state. It was to be a purple and white funeral, with white ponies and a gun carriage. Interment was to be alongside her late husband, Prince Albert, at the mausoleum she had built at Frogmore, next to Windsor Castle.

The arrangements for the funeral were an object lesson in chaos. With no plans

in place and only a few days left for the arrangements, the newly appointed commander-in-chief of the British Army, Lord Roberts, gave the queen's assistant private secretary, Sir Frederick Ponsonby, his blessing to organise the military as he saw fit.

A local carpenter built the royal coffin and had it delivered to Osborne House. As Victoria had refused embalming, charcoal was placed in the bottom of the coffin to take away the smell and absorb any moisture. She was placed in the coffin by the now King Edward VII, the Kaiser and the royal dukes, and her wedding veil was placed over her face. The queen's physician, Dr Reid, and her dresser, Mrs Tuck, carried out the queen's secret instructions in private: a photograph of John Brown, her personal servant, and a lock of his hair were placed by her side together with his pocket handkerchief. Brown's mother's wedding ring was placed on her finger and all was carefully tucked out of sight.

On 1 February 1901, the coffin was carried on the Royal Yacht Alberta over the 11-mile crossing of the Solent to Portsmouth, flanked by battleships and cruisers each firing a gun salute as the yacht passed. After a night in harbour, the coffin was taken by train to Victoria station in London early on the morning of 2 February. 33,000 soldiers had been assembled in London and the military procession, the largest since the 1842 funeral of the Duke of Wellington, took the coffin through Hyde Park to Paddington. In the two-hour procession, the coffin was borne on a gun carriage pulled by eight white and cream ponies through crowded streets. The journey then continued by train from Paddington station to Windsor.

At the Windsor end, the welcoming party had been standing in the freezing cold for a long time. The coffin was put onto the gun carriage for the final part of the journey, but the over-stressed horses broke away and nearly toppled the coffin. The harnesses were broken and couldn't be fixed on the spot. So the 138-strong naval guard of honour was assembled to pull the gun carriage by rope to the chapel. A new royal tradition was born.

Only half the guests had arrived at the chapel owing to a timing error, so they were placed further apart to make the congregation look larger. Otherwise everything worked okay from that point onwards. Queen Victoria was laid to rest in the crypt alongside Prince Albert while King Edward and the Kaiser knelt there together.

Memorials

There were many memorials to Queen Victoria installed around the British world after her death. Some statues had been commissioned while she was alive but were renamed memorials in consequence. A list of them all is inappropriate here but more information can be found on Wikipedia by searching "statues victoria". There is even one in Yemen which was installed in 1906 when Aden was a British colony, a port originally acquired to control piracy on the sea routes to India. When Aden became part of Yemen in 1967, the statue was relocated to the British Embassy grounds to prevent its destruction in riots. It was restored to position in 2002 in the

memorial grounds in the At-Tawahi port area of the city.

The most famous memorial, in Britain at least, is that in The Mall in front of Buckingham Palace. The construction of the Victoria Memorial (left) was suggested by Edward VII in February 1901 and overseen by a committee that decided the location. The government (Lord Salisbury, Conservative) agreed, subject to no state funding being made. Donations were received from all over Britain and the Empire including large sums from Australia and New Zealand with goods donated for sale from West African peoples, goods which were transported at no charge by the African Steamship Company owned by Alfred Lewis Jones. Jones was knighted in the King's first Birthday Honours List in November 1901.

Designed by Thomas Brock, there is a gilded statue of Winged Victory on top with Queen Victoria herself seated below on a throne and facing up The Mall. Other statues on the memorial represent Constancy and Courage, Justice and Truth, Peace, Progress, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Motherhood, with eagles representing Empire. The statue of Truth on its own weighs 40 tonnes and was carved, like the others, from a single block of marble. At the four corners are sculptures of lions. The memorial is 25 metres high and is the tallest royal monument in England.

Remarkably, there was a lot of money left over in the Fund after that required for the Memorial. This was put to building Admiralty Arch at the other end of The Mall and routing The Mall to open into Trafalgar Square, with enough cash left over to renovate the front of Buckingham Palace too!

The Monument was dedicated in a ceremony on 16 May 1911 by the king - now George V, as Edward had died in 1910. Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany was also present as he and George, his cousin, were the eldest grandsons of Victoria. King George was so pleased with the Monument that Thomas Brock was knighted. The First World War intervened, pitting those grandsons and their countries against each other, so the overall works were not completed until 1924.

The closest we have locally to a Victoria memorial is one actually for her Silver Jubilee of 1898 in Cricklade (above right). The pillar and base are green, with red ornamentation at the bottom of the pillar and red housing of the four clock faces visible from the road junctions of the High Street. One clock face looks towards the building behind and can hardly be seen. This suggests that it was bought from a catalogue rather than being commissioned for purpose. It is overly ornate for more modern tastes but it is typical of its period. That said, the clock is well maintained and always tells the right time!



Rick Dixon

Purton Tennis Club

Our AGM in November was like no other – due to the impending lockdown, it was held via Zoom.

The meeting went well but sadly several members were unable to attend at the last minute, due to lockdown coming into place the following day.

Sass has decided to step down as Chair due to her new working arrangements and Lindsey, our trusted treasurer, has had a difficult year, trying to make sense of the accounts. The usual threads of income and expenditure were out of kilter with previous years, but fingers crossed that next year will be more stable and as normal as possible.

Despite all league tennis being disrupted this year due to the Coronavirus, social tennis has come to the fore, with families and friends getting together for a 'hit of the ball'. This is both pleasing and encouraging to see.

At the end of the second lockdown, we hope to resume our winter tennis matches and Jon Bastin, our resident coach, will hopefully continue with his adult and junior coaching. Definitely something to look forward to!

The annual Christmas parties will probably not go ahead this year, but to tennis fans everywhere – Happy Christmas from all at Purton Tennis Club.

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

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

Dayglo jacket runner for Runvember

If you happen to have seen me... or several other Purtonians... jogging around the village, in a dayglo jacket with a racing number pinned to our front, it is probably because it is that time of year again!...

Time for Runvember

We... and about 500 others around the Swindon area... agreed to run, walk or cycle or swim a certain distance every day throughout November; and to draw attention to the needs of homeless people in Swindon. Often when we go out it is cold, wet and fairly miserably dark. But we know that we are lucky enough to come home to warm houses and warm food.

Whilst we jogged we were happy to talk to anyone who wanted to know more and, at the same time, we were committed to filling bags for life with essential requirements for rough sleepers and other homeless people... toiletries, warm hats and gloves, socks and underwear etc. (Full list is still available if you want to know more!) Thank you for all the cheery waves as we jogged by each day! And if you still want to support us by donating some essentials we are always grateful.

Libbie: 771018: in support of Runvember, working with Threshold, the Swindon Food Collective and The Night Shelter.

Purton Football Club



Just a couple of days before submitting this update on the football club, it was announced we had another lockdown for four weeks, so no football in November. When we get going again, let's hope for a mild winter so that we can complete the fixtures unlike last season.

Anyway, the update so far is that we sit mid-table, but the league makes strange reading as we have played seven games, and some teams have played ten games. One team has in fact played 12 games due to them having floodlights allowing them to play midweek games. My fundraising efforts continue to keep our fine village football club financially afloat with our £1 a point scheme and pontoon and I have come up with another cracking idea.

Heather [of In Touch Design & Print] does a marvellous job producing our home match programme and we are indebted to our advertisers for their support in helping with costs. For £3 we think it's good value for money with all Wilts League game reports and low down on YOUR village team, from player profiles and previous week match reports to managers' reports. How would you like a copy? I can deliver or post to you free of charge and you will be able to keep up to date with Purton FC's progress this season.

Please contact me at terry.crumbie@gmail.com or 770597 if you would like a copy when hopefully we start again in December.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas in what has been a difficult year for us all, so please stay safe and hopefully 2021 will see a better time for everyone.

Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC

Red House Club and Village Centre

At the time of writing we are about to enter the second lock down, so another challenging time ahead not just for The Red House Club, but for all pubs/clubs etc in the village. It would be very easy to let the doom and gloom overtake you, but we on the Red House committee are made of sterner stuff.

Fingers crossed we do come out of lock down on the 2nd December, so we are already planning events for the festive month. So look out for the following, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day live music, help out/eat out in conjunction with the village takeaways, bingo, music quiz plus a few more.

We have held a couple of live music events in October which were very successful and social distance safe. So a big thank you to all of you that booked your table and came along to support not just us but the performers who are also going through a very tough time. So stay safe and hope to see you all soon.

Richard Griffin, Chairman of Red House

A Christmas Tradition with the Cricklade Band

For 132 years now, Cricklade's community band has upheld the most firm of its 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 went 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 earns this year!

The income we usually derive from what we do best – entertaining people at events throughout the year – has all disappeared in the Covid-19 crisis. Casualties also were fund-raising events that we put on to top up our funds. To give you an idea, without any major purchases it costs about £4,500 to run the band for a year.

We've had to rethink how we do it of course, our lovely Crew people won't be door knocking and chatting in Purton! Instead, we'll have some bright red buckets near the band for you to drop in some coins (or notes!). Perhaps more importantly we'll also have a crowdfunding facility for all those who've now become so tech-savvy!

So that you know when to keep an ear out, here's the when and where:

Monday 14 December, from 7pm – starting at Orchard Gardens and following a sort of circular route around Pavenhill, finishing in Highridge Close

Tuesday 15 December, from 7pm – starting at Pear Tree Close, Willowbrook, and then the Witts Lane estates

Saturday 19 December - Cricklade High Street – from 9.30-11.15am

And the small print: We have to abide by very stringent Covid-19 precautions so please don't congregate, you'll all be able to hear! We will all be distancing by two metres – could you please do the same. If poor weather prevents us from playing we have an allocated night of Wednesday 23 December to catch up. All our plans are subject to Covid-19 provisions and may change at short notice.

Here's the big print: Please do contribute whatever donation you can to our buckets, or go to The Cricklade Band on Facebook for a link to our crowdfunding page.

Can we wish you a happy time as we do what we can to lift all our Christmas spirits a bit this year – your contributions will lift our spirits too – thank you!

Beneath the Wool

Well this last month has been a very busy one. First job this month was worming the lambs as well as Grenville. However, Grenville decided to play up and broke the worming gun... Luckily I had finished the rest of the animals otherwise he'd have been in even more trouble.

The next job was to move the ewes into the other field at College Farm, which they were very happy about. This involved putting up the electric fence, which luckily didn't take too long.

On 18th October Neil Webb came to cut the farm's hedges which is an annual job. Neil always manages to do a very good job which tidies the farm up no end. The hedges this year looked like they had a lot of growth on them, luckily our hedges got cut last year as some people didn't cut theirs, so there wasn't as much growth as some.



On the 19th October there were some new additions to the farm, as I expect some of you will have already seen; we now have six chickens, called Agatha, Betty, Dorothy, Gertrude, Muriel and Nancy. They have settled in very happily and are laying their eggs very well. The chickens will be moving round the field and are being put in a new place every week, which hopefully will help the grass grow better next year.

The next job was to bolus all the ewes. The bolus tops them up with trace elements that sheep are commonly deficient in, these are iodine, cobalt and selenium. This job didn't go without excitement as one of the sheep decided to bite my finger which led to a rather big bleed, but thanks to Covid there was a face mask handy which worked as a good bandage to stop the bleeding. The next day on the 1st November the resident stud made his way to the ewes and he's been a busy boy having done 14 out of 24 in only 1 week. So if you're walking through College Farm look out for him and count the red marks on the bums and on the 19th, it will change to blue.



Last month I wrote about long tail and this month I've decided to write about Little Friend. Little friend is a ewe that was born at Rogers Farm but her mother didn't have enough milk so she got bottle fed and subsequently has been extremely friendly ever since. She's always the one that will happily take a stroke and a scratch any time and is always very chilled out over anything. She can also be a bit of a pain but gives you the cheeky face which you can't stay mad at.

She's also a good sheep to talk about this month as I have a very good picture of her posing in the snow. From all of us at Rogers Farm we wish you a very Merry Christmas and hope you all have as good a one as you can and say hello if you're passing through the farm over the Christmas period and you'll be hearing all about the next adventures in the New Year.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton

The other side of the gate



The shortage of straw this year has brought with it a lot of uncertainty about when to bring the cows in. The quandary is that we don't know when turn out will be with the weather again being our biggest unknown, so we can't work backwards. In the past I would keep the cows out as long as possible because the winter housing was inadequate and uncomfortable for them. Now it's not,

but I don't have enough straw!

I ordered 200 bales and got 120. I could just about get away with two bales a day. So if I brought them in now I'd only get to mid-February. That's risky! I need to plan until the end of March, but I would need 150 to get there. If I can keep them out until December, I'm in with a hope. The other problem I have is the work involved in spreading that straw. The older I get, the less inclined I am to grab a fork and shake it up! Each bale weighs about 500kg and that is a lot of straw to separate and shake up. It's definitely a young man's activity.

I have however found and ordered a solution, but it won't be here until mid-December at the earliest. We, all those on the farm that can drive a fork, are counting down the days! I don't buy Christmas presents, but that will be the biggest and best I could ever imagine buying. It's a straw spreader that teases the straw from the bale and spreads it the whole width (9 metres) of the beds. The way the machine works will also save straw – they claim 30% and that will give us a bigger buffer for the turning out date. What currently takes an hour's hard graft will be achieved more effectively in less than five minutes. The joy will be immense. I think we may even break a bottle on her when she arrives!

It's not been a great month on the husbandry side. Three vet visits, two dead calves and a dead cow.

Jiggy calved on the due date with twins. Two heifer calves. The first one was out when I went to check on them. Jiggy had got cast (stuck on her side) trying to get the second one out and





it was not presented correctly. They should come out feet and head first – like you would to jump through a hoop – not head sideways! It didn't take too much work to push the calf back and pull all the right bits into place. I have a vet student here on Thursday to Saturday and it was a good opportunity for her to experience an incorrect presentation. After both calves were out, I got Jiggy her 'after calving drink' (it includes lots of things, but glucose and calcium are the main ingredients) and got her stood up. The first calf had managed to get her head completely covered in cow poo. Calves are born with no immunity and I think this was what preceded a quick onset of an infection that I couldn't clear. I shot her a few days later. It's always sad to have to do that.

We also lost one of our beef sucker herd after a failed cesarean. It's not a nice story so I'll save the details. It was another job for my rifle after a long effort by the vets. I'm hoping I don't need them again for a while!

Jonathan Cook

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Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group

Launch of community solar panel discount scheme for local residents – including Purton

Local environmental groups have worked together to create a game changing group-buying scheme to help residents buy solar panels and reduce their carbon emissions

Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group have joined Zero Chippenham and Sustainable Calne to offer residents of their towns up to 20% off solar photovoltaic panels. Zero Chippenham set up the scheme last year by carefully vetting several high-quality MSG certified solar panel suppliers and negotiating discounts ranging from 10 – 20% depending on the size and type of panels.

Zero Chippenham expanded its scheme first to Calne and now to Royal Wootton Bassett and surrounding areas including Purton. Anyone living in SN4, SN5 and SN15 post codes can apply. As solar photovoltaic panels are not included in the government's Green Homes Grant, the scheme offers the opportunity to get them for a discount. Residents can read about how the scheme works by visiting <https://www.ecorwb.org/community-solar-pv-discount> or emailing ecorwb@mail.com to apply with their name and contact details.

With global warming reaching an ever-increasing level, consumers are seeking ways to reduce their carbon footprint. Part of the hopes of a green recovery following the global pandemic rest on a move towards renewable energy. Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group, Sustainable Calne and Zero Chippenham hope the scheme will enable their local communities to afford solar panels and help the environment.

Nick Murry, Chair of Zero Chippenham said, "We're delighted to be working in partnership with Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental group in expanding our Community Solar Panel Discount Scheme, which is already taking off in Chippenham and Calne. Generating more renewable energy is essential in cutting carbon and achieving net zero by 2030. This scheme has been designed to make it easy for people to make a positive choice to install PV by offering excellent value and reliable installers."

Residents wanting to find out more about Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental group can join the discussion on their Facebook page or read about their other community projects on www.ecorwb.org

The above article was written by Lauren Sandercock and Cate Watson of RWB Environmental Group. If you're not into computers and want to know more about this scheme or to find out more about the group, please ring me.

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

Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental group

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Visit the Royal Wootton Bassett
Environmental group website to
find out how the scheme works

<https://www.ecorwb.org>

Email ecorwb@mail.com with your contact
details to apply



News from Royal Wootton Bassett & District Rotary Club

Royal Wootton Bassett and District Rotary Club plant 4000 crocuses for End Polio Campaign

Our club planted 4000 mauve crocus corms on Friday 23rd October at the Jubilee Lake in Royal Wootton Bassett for the End Polio Campaign. James Thomas from BBC Radio Wiltshire came along to interview us on this event and the recording was broadcast on the Radio.

Our Club has been planting crocuses in Royal Wootton Bassett for a number of years in varying places so if you spot any on your walks when they are in flower, you know the history behind them.

Rotary and its partners joined with the late Nelson Mandela to jump start Africa's commitment to polio eradication. Since then nine billion doses of oral polio vaccine have been provided averting an estimated 1.8 million cases of wild poliovirus on the continent.

Rotary has contributed nearly a billion US dollars towards polio eradication efforts in the African region alone and 1.8 billion dollars globally. To make the entire world safe from polio it is critical to vaccinate every child and strengthen routine immunization.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Africa is now POLIO FREE having passed three consecutive years without a trace of wild polio and is a feat well worth celebrating. The continued commitment and strengthening immunization is essential to protect the progress that has been achieved so far.



Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million people who unite and take action to create lasting changes in communities around the globe. When a person is immunized with the polio vaccine they get purple ink applied to their pinky finger and that is called the PURPLE PINKY.

The PURPLE CROCUS is a symbol of Rotary's worldwide campaign to eradicate polio. It has been adopted by the End Polio Now, to energise and remind everyone of the importance of immunization in defeating this dreadful disease. October 24th is designated as World Polio Day annually and presents a global opportunity to fight to eradicate the disease forever.

Linda Locke, Junior Vice President with the Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett and District, appealed to the residents of the Wootton Bassett and surrounding area for donations of toys and backpacks to be given as Christmas presents to the children living in safe houses of the Wiltshire Women's Refuge, now rebranded to the Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service, as men too suffer from abuse.

In just two weeks, Linda's garage was full and piled feet high with donations she collected. Caroline Black and Nikki Alberry came from the Unit to collect the toys on 11th November and, like Linda, were overwhelmed with the generosity and



kindness the residents showed in supporting this worthwhile cause.

Now the children in the safe houses will be sure to receive presents from Santa on Christmas morning, ensuring a little happiness in their lives.

The Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett and District also donated £250 from club funds raised in charity fundraising events, for the purchase of toiletries for the adults who also need something to unwrap on Christmas day.

Through the outstanding generosity of people, an immense amount of toys was received, so the Royal Wootton Bassett and District Rotary Club also donated some of the toys to The Old Town Swindon Rotary Club appeal for Children in



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Care. See in pictures attached, Dr Brenda Moore a Swindon Old Town Rotarian accepting them on behalf of her club, for her appeal, and Linda arriving to deliver toys in the van for the refuge.

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

Household waste and recycling during Christmas and new year holidays

Throughout lockdown Wiltshire Council has managed to maintain all waste and recycling collection services, including general waste, mixed dry recycling, chargeable garden waste, and bulky household waste collections.

If you suspect you have COVID-19, put waste tissues into a plastic bag and tie it when full. You can also put disposable cloths or wipes, used to clean hard surfaces such as kitchen worktops and bathrooms, in this bag. Once the bag is full, double bag it in a second bin bag and tie it up. Store the bags for 72 hours (three days) and then please place them in your normal wheeled bin. If you don't receive a wheeled bin collection, please make sure a council-issued bag label is placed on the outside of the double-bagged waste.

All household recycling centres will be closed from 1pm on 24 December and all day on 25 and 26 December and 1 January. Other than on these dates, the centres will open as normal on their specified opening days, please ensure you pre-book.

The Christmas and New Year period is a very busy time for our collections team, with lots more waste and recycling to collect than normal. The team will work tirelessly to collect all the recycling and waste generated and to get collections back to their normal schedule.

We want everyone to recycle as much as they can this Christmas; wrapping paper which scrunches into a ball and doesn't bounce back*, cardboard packaging, plastic sweet tubs, mince pie foil cases, drink cans, glass bottles and Christmas cards without glitter or plastic decorations can all be recycled. Local charity shops will be happy to receive donations of any unwanted Christmas presents."

Additional recyclable material such as glass, cans, and paper can be placed in carrier bags alongside your black box (one material per bag helps the collection crews when out on their rounds at this busy time).

Flatten cardboard and wash and squash plastic bottles and cartons and put their lids back on as this will help make more room in your blue-lidded bin.

People who pay to have their garden waste collected can put their real Christmas tree out alongside their garden waste bin on their first collection day in January so that we can collect it for composting, or they can support local charities by paying a small donation for a charity to collect. This is done via the Just helping scheme.

For information about local recycling centres, recycling Christmas trees, collection

days and advice on how to reduce waste and recycle as much as possible during the festive period visit Rubbish and recycling.

*The scrunch test is when you try to squeeze paper into a ball and it doesn't stay scrunched this indicates that it contains other materials which means we cannot collect it for recycling

For further information visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling

Time to get moving – what the current drop in Stamp Duty Land Tax means for you

If you purchase a residential property between now and 31 March 2021, you only start to pay Stamp Duty Land Tax “SDLT” on the amount that you pay for the property above £500,000. These rates apply whether you are buying your first home or have owned property before, but it does have to be your only property at that time.

Companies and individuals can benefit from the reduction, so long as they are buying residential property. SDLT applies to both freehold and leasehold properties – whether you're buying outright or with a mortgage.

New rates until 31 March 2021

Property value	SDLT rate
Up to £500,000	Zero
The next £425,000 (the part from £500,001 to £925,000)	5%
The next £575,000 (the part from £925,001 to £1.5 million)	10%
The remaining amount (the part above £1.5 million)	12%

Example

If you buy a house for £575,000, the SDLT you owe is calculated as follows:

0% on the first £500,000 = £0

5% on the final £75,000 = £3,750

Total SDLT = £3,750

This is a saving of £15,000 based on the SDLT rates that were in place before 8 July 2020. You can use the Government's SDLT calculator to work out how much tax you'll need to pay.

Higher rates for additional properties

If you're buying a second home, you'll still pay SDLT on any property costing more than £40,000 – paying an extra 3%. Simply add 3% to each of the rates shown in the above chart to calculate how much you will pay.

How to pay SDLT

Usually your solicitor will deal with the SDLT return and any payment due, although you can do it yourself. As the buyer, you are ultimately responsible for making sure

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it's all submitted on time.

If the price of your new home is under £500,000 you must still submit a return (unless exempt) even though you won't need to pay any SDLT.

When else is SDLT not payable?

There are other circumstances in which SDLT is not payable:

Transfer of property in separation or divorce: If you're divorcing or separating from your spouse or partner, there's no SDLT to pay if you transfer a proportion of your home's value to them.

Transfer of equity: If you transfer your home to someone else – either as a gift or in your Will – they won't usually have to pay SDLT on the market value of the property. However, SDLT may be payable if there is a mortgage in place and the share of equity exceeds £500k.

This information has been provided by Forrester Sylvester Mackett solicitors. For any questions about SDLT, a conveyancing quote or any questions relating to residential property, do get in touch with your solicitor, some advertise in Purton Magazine.

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Wessex Male Choir

Well, it's been an odd year. The bins have been out more often than I have, and I'm beginning to understand why my dog runs out of the house when the door opens, but all of us at Wessex Male Choir hope that everyone can enjoy Christmas in good health, good spirit and good company. Unfortunately, the Lockdown rules meant that we haven't been able to rehearse together since early March, and so sadly, performing concerts just hasn't been an option. But we haven't let the grass grow under our feet! Unusually amongst leading Choirs we don't take ourselves too seriously, and a pervasive sense of humour bonds us together, even in times like this. We also miss our friends and supporters and want to keep engaged after such a long absence, so our challenge was to do something which kept us singing together whilst also reaching out to our friends.

Maintaining a connection was a challenge which we met by employing a mix of lesser known audio and video technologies, allied with more well known social media apps, YouTube and of course, Zoom.

Earlier this year we produced a great recording and video tweaked from a tune from the musical *Oliver* – “Consider Ourselves at Home.” More recently we produced another, this time a piece we had been rehearsing before Lockdown interrupted, David Bowie's “Life on Mars.”

During November we remembered the fallen in both of the world wars and more recent conflicts, and sent out on various social media channels, a recording from our Steam concert in 2018 of Giorgio Susana's “Io Resto Qui” with an accompanying video presentation. Sung in our best Italian this is one of our firm favourites, and one that never fails to move us each time we sing it. Also in November, for the past two years, Wessex has enjoyed the privilege of singing on platform 1 of Paddington station, at Great Western Railway's annual remembrance service for employees of the Railway, who lost their lives in the Great War. This year of course, we have not been able to attend but have contributed, once again, with a recording of the fitting “Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones” by Orrin Hatch. This was played during their service which was streamed via the GWR Facebook page.

The winter season is going to be busy too with three new Christmas themed pieces being released throughout December. So if you're interested in “The Wessex's Christmas Message” “Wessex Pass the Parcel” and “When we were young,” have a look at our YouTube Channel – www.youtube.com/results?search_query=wessex+male+choir

If this sounds appealing, and you fancy joining the Choir, why not get in touch. You don't need to be a super singer. If you can sing in tune, learn your words, and turn up regularly at rehearsal, you will be just like the rest of us. It's within your grasp. Sometimes in life, you just need to jump in and give it a go, so why not drop Nick an email on: membership@wessexmalechoir.co.uk and come along – when possible – to see and hear what we do. What have you got to lose?



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