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February 2021



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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@googlegmail.com
Tel: 770627

Wardens Sandra Horsnall: Jane Smith:
770157 772422

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

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

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

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

Priest: Revd Father Lucas Tel: 852366
Rodrigues

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

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

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

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Welcome to the eleventh 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.

We welcome submissions for publication in the next edition of *Purton Magazine* from the local community and from readers further afield. Copy deadline is the 10th of each month. Please email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton. Magazine

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INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

It is often said that age is just a number, but that number has become more important in this pandemic. It is not often that people are happy to boast about their age unless they are hale and hearty and well into their 90s but now, the clamour for the Covid-19 vaccination has brought a fresh impetus to those in their 70s and 80s. It has now almost become a badge of honour to have received a vaccination – maybe someone should produce an older person's version of the "I've been brave at the dentist" stickers that children used to wear?

While the numbers of those receiving their first vaccination in Purton rises, so does the national number that is now compared with the national number of those hospitalised and those who sadly die from the disease each day. Rarely have national numbers been scrutinised so closely for some reassurance and comfort that the long tunnel does appear to have a light at the end.

With such a focus on Covid vaccinations it is perhaps predictable that some unscrupulous people are seeking to make quick profits from misleading scam messages. Some details are on page 12 where readers will see how fraudsters have been known to approach members of the public. At this sensitive time for more elderly people, the opportunity for fraudsters will be short lived but we all must be on our guard.

The arrangement is that the NHS will contact individuals directly when it is their turn. At the time of writing, many are being telephoned by the GPs' surgery. Initially patients will be invited to receive their injection at Malmesbury. In addition, when another vaccine becomes available in the next few weeks, some injections will also be administered at our GPs' surgery in Purton. Naturally every vaccination will be supplied completely free of charge by our wonderful NHS and we can totally ignore any requests for money.

Together with this huge national vaccination effort, inside this issue readers will find plenty of heart-warming reports of so much care and compassion being shown and shared in our community. We have details of hampers from White Lodge and chocolates from Lydiard Millicent along with many thanks for kindnesses received. We also have a couple of articles about the origins and traditions of Valentine's day which might be achievable at a distance – best keep a lookout in case!

43	1-100	10
Hampers donated to the village by White Lodge Care Home, Braydon – see page 16 & 33	Different numbers of red roses can mean different things on Valentine's Day – see page 25	<i>Cities that made an Empire</i> by Tristram Hunt, a book 'remembered' – see page 45



Purton Cemetery

The Parish Council wishes to again apologise for the error made in the removal of wreaths from graves before the advertised date. We will work with any family who has a need for the items to be returned and reimburse the costs of any items they wish to have replaced.

If anyone wishes to speak to the Council direct, please call the office 01793 771066 and speak to the Clerk, Deborah Lawrence or email on deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Community Award 2021

Do you know someone in the community who excels in their quest to give to others without need of recognition and praise? I am sure we all do. But maybe it's now time to recognise those unsung heroes with an award that says thank you. Last year our community award was presented to Allen Bevington for his work on the Institute Clock before we changed to a mechanised system. Allen and countless predecessors would crawl through a small space in the Institute Loft to wind the mechanism on a weekly basis so the chimes of the Institute Clock would ring loud and clear.

2020 has been a difficult time for most and we have so many that require our heartfelt thanks for their generosity and support, so please, nominate the person who you feel is deserving. Forms are located on our website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/News.aspx or collected from the office, with an appointment. We can of course post them to you also. Deadline for consideration is February 28th 2021. So please, get nominating and say thank you to our heroes of Purton. If we are able to hold face to face meetings in April this award will be presented at our Annual Parish Meeting.

Donations Available

Does your community group have a new project they wish to undertake? If your group is of benefit to the people of Purton and financial support is required to start a project, please contact our offices or complete an application form available on our website. Our next round of donation requests is February 2021. Please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk direct for more information. www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Financial-Details.aspx

The Rise Trust

The Rise Trust continues to be present in our community every Thursdays from 6-8pm. They will engage with youths, talk openly and report any areas of concerns to the relevant bodies. They will be highly visible in their Rise Trust outfits and extremely approachable. 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 seem them out and about.

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01/22



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.

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Duty team: 07498 526872

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 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 replacement once we are sure the spores and diseased areas are clear. We have started a bulb planting scheme in this area to aid the regeneration.

Hall Hire

Sadly all halls are currently closed due to current restrictions.

Council Meeting

All meetings will continue to be held virtually until we are advised that we can return to face to face safely. If anyone wishes to attend, please contact the Clerk via email or phone and a link will be sent to join the meeting.

Monday 1st February 2021 Finance and General Purposes Meeting

Monday 8th February 2021 Council meeting

Monday 22nd February 2021 Finance Charity meetings

Retirement Of Council Staff Member

After 25 years of loyal service, Teresa Hartshorn has retired from the Council. Teresa's knowledge, accuracy and ability to fulfil the needs of the charities will be greatly missed. She has seen many changes in her time, dealt with many difficult issues but has always kept her unique sense of humour throughout, which the office staff will miss greatly. We wish Teresa and her family the very best on the next stage of her journey.

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

20/08454/FUL 6 Reids Piece, Purton. SN5 4AX. Two storey side & rear extension and single storey rear ext.

20/08271/FUL Dairy Farm, 17 Stoke Common Lane. Purton Stoke. SN5 4JG. Change of use of land for the keeping of horses and construction of an Outdoor All Weather 20m x 40m Riding Arena.

20/07890/TPO Land at Red Gables Close. Purton. SN5 4BL. New agricultural building for livestock to replace 2 previous smaller livestock buildings.

-
- 20/07042/FUL Pound Farm, Cricklade Road. Purton. SN5 4HS. New agricultural building for livestock to replace 2 previous smaller livestock buildings.
- 20/06642/FUL Birchwood House, The Hyde. Purton. SN5 4EA. Erection of detached single storey garden office/studio and storage shed.
- 20/04443/CLE Haxmoor Cottage. Cricklade Road. Purton. SN5 4HY. Certificate of Lawfulness for the Existing Use of Property as a Separate Dwelling house.
- 20/04338/FUL Hooks Hill, Purton. SN5 4AS. The extension, alteration and refurbishment of 25 flats to include the addition of 4 new dwellings. The proposals also include minor alterations to the facades and external landscaping works to include new vehicle parking, bicycle and bin storage and footpaths.
- 20/09278/FUL 51 Ringsbury Close. Purton. SN5 4DF. Single storey rear extension and first floor dormer ext.
- 20/07921/FUL Riding School at Buryhill Farm, Braydon. SN5 0AD. Installation of covered (5 horse) horse walker in place of existing lunging pen.
- 20/07921/FUL 2 Witfield Close, Purton. SN5 4HB. Proposed rear extension.
- 20/08507/FUL 5 New Road, Purton. SN5 4HF. Proposed ancillary annexe
- 20/09047/FUL Highlands, 3 Hyde Lane. Purton. SN5 4DU. Demolition of existing garage, erection of two storey rear extension, erection of single storey side and rear extensions and associated alterations including alterations to the roof.
- 20/08343/FUL Ravenroost Farm, Ravenroost Road. Minety. SN16 9RJ. Creation of a Wildlife Pond Under the District Level Licensing Scheme.

REFUSED APPLICATION

- 20/07053/FUL Barn south west of The Fox. SN5 4EB. Conversion of agricultural building to a dwelling (Revised proposal)

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.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



Donations for the PPG

As you know we are currently unable to do any fundraising and we are looking at other, safe, ways of raising funds. We would like to thank those who have donated to our PPG funds - if you would like to make a donation to the PPG please make cheques payable to 'Purton Patient Participation Group', with the cheque being taken into the surgery. Please label your envelope: 'For the attention of Kai Howard'.

Thank you

All surgery staff have been working under very different and stressful circumstances over what has been an extremely busy period. We're sure you will all join us in thanking everyone for all they have done and continue to do. We do appreciate it.

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

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As Covid-19 vaccines are rolled out, a few cautionary words

Be prepared

We hear from NHS staff that when arranging Covid 19 vaccinations, the biggest time delay by far is when patients then have to hunt around for their NHS number. If readers can have their NHS number ready to hand when called to arrange the Covid 19 vaccination, everyone can be treated so much quicker. You can find your NHS number on any NHS correspondence or through the app.

Beware of Covid Scams - The public are urged to be vigilant to scam vaccine messages

Following reports in other parts of the country we are warning the public to be wary of messages claiming to be from the NHS asking the recipient to apply for their vaccine.

At a time when people are already feeling anxious and eagerly awaiting details of the impending vaccine, scammers are using this to their advantage to commit fraud. If you receive such a text, don't follow the link or share any personal or financial details. The link will take you through to a fake NHS website which is purposefully designed to exploit vulnerable people.

Fraudsters have tried to use the vaccine as a convincing subject to hook potential victims since the pandemic began. Thankfully reports have been relatively low, however there has been an increase in the last two months. The vaccine roll-out brings further hope of fighting coronavirus and keeping people safe. Now that this is imminent and has been so widely covered, some people may be more easily misled. You will be contacted by the NHS when you're invited to receive the vaccine which will be offered in some hospitals, some pharmacies and hundreds of local vaccination centres run by GPs. Remember that the vaccine is free of charge, at no point will you be asked for payment details.

As of 7 January 2021, Action Fraud had received 57 reports from members of the public who have been sent text messages claiming to be from the NHS, offering them the opportunity to sign up for coronavirus vaccinations. The texts ask the recipient to click on a link which takes them to an online form where they are prompted to input personal and financial details. In some cases the online form has looked very similar to the real NHS website.

Pauline Smith, Head of Action Fraud, said:

“Remember, the vaccine is only available on the NHS and is free of charge. The NHS will never ask you for details about your bank account or to pay for the vaccine. If you receive an email, text message or phone call purporting to be from the NHS and you are asked to provide financial details, this is a scam.”

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How to protect yourself:

In the UK, coronavirus vaccinations will only be available via the National Health Services of England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a local GP surgery or pharmacy, to receive your vaccination. Remember, the vaccinations are free of charge and you will not be asked for a payment.

The NHS will never:

- ask for your bank account or card details
- ask for your PIN or banking passwords
- arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ask for documentation to prove your identity, such as a passport or utility bills

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726, which is free of charge.

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

One Stop Christmas Raffle

The people of Purton once again showed terrific support and generosity when we held our fundraising raffle on December 19th. Zita and myself were kept extremely busy selling raffle tickets in the morning and exchanged a bit of Christmas cheer with our customers, all at a safe distance. Along with the help from other team members prior to the day we raised £270. The winners of twenty five prizes including a bumper hamper, 4 Christmas cakes, several tea for two hampers, jigsaw puzzles and a cheese hamper complete with homemade pickles, have all been contacted. With only two prizes yet to be claimed..

The contents of our community collecting bucket was added to the £270 and a total of over £300 was given to The Purton Surgery to purchase some extra large cuffs for the blood pressure monitors, anything left over will go towards another chair for the consultation rooms.

In October, an additional £330 was given to The Swindon and Cricklade Railway towards their ongoing projects undertaken by their volunteer team. This was the money collected in our community bucket from January to October.

We would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets and all of you who dropped your spare change into the community bucket at the till. Also thank you to the few people who bought my jam and chutney, all proceeds of which went into our charity fund.

Let's hope that this horrible virus will soon allow us to resume our cake sales and continue our charity work to its usual capacity. Best wishes to you all, keep safe.

Pearl Lait, On behalf of Zac and your One Stop Team

New year's MBE honour for local care provider

Stephen Trowbridge was nominated for work throughout the year to protect his customers, staff and partners in the care sector, together with the wider community, from the impact of covid-19.

High quality care in the nursing and care sector clearly run in the Trowbridge family. His parents, Keith and Mary manage Ashgrove House in Purton which the Care Quality Commission (CQC) continue to rate as 'outstanding'. Stephen contributes locally as part of the senior management team at Ashgrove House and provides additional support to the running of the highly regarded facility on Station Road.

Stephen is Managing Director of First City Nursing and Care that is also rated 'outstanding' by the CQC and has led his team to manage every discharge from Great Western Hospital successfully without causing any delays or bed-blocking. That is a particularly rare achievement for any organisation across the country, especially in the current circumstances and deserves the high praise that goes with this award.

Stephen has also made a long-lasting impact to the wider care sector, both through his role of Chair of the BaNES, Swindon and



Wiltshire Care Skills Partnership. He has been at the forefront of understanding the complexities of changing guidance, information and translating that into practice, which has been of benefit to staff, partners and commissioners. That has been achieved by ensuring the continuation of the Workforce Development Fund, which provides funding for continued professional development in the industry.

In his typically modest way, he says that he is just a cog in the whole machine and passes on all the credit to his team who continue to work tirelessly, especially through the extra requirements of the coronavirus. He said: "I couldn't believe [it] and really it still hasn't sunk in yet. But really this should be an honour for all of my team, who have worked tirelessly through the pandemic and continue to do so."

Stephen Trowbridge (pictured top) has received an award in the Queen's New Years Honours for his work in the care sector. (Photographs taken in pre-covid times)

If we named our years like the Chinese New Year then this would be the year of the Vaccine, how much depends on how effective it will be. I don't think that this much pressure has ever been put on the success of one procedure. Please make sure you have yours as soon as you are called by the surgery.

Patience and common sense will prevail so that we can get back to normality sometime this year. There used to be a phrase mentioned in films about 20/20 vision being the perfect eyesight, well nobody saw this coming!

Before Christmas I had a telephone call from White Lodge Care Home in Braydon asking if we would like some hampers for some of our residents, as they were hopeful of getting some donations from local businesses. I was asked to find out how many we might need, so I contacted Heather Ponting-Bather at Purton Outreach and we made a list of about 30 or so people that we felt might benefit from this kind offer. On Monday 21st December I received a phone call from White Lodge and both Heather and myself went up there and they had made up 43 hampers!

We were both amazed and delighted and would like to thank the staff most sincerely for their efforts, as they had made them look so attractive and they contained such nice goodies. Apparently it took them a week to prepare, well done.

On the 18th December I received a phone call from a lady in Lydiard Millicent who had in her words "some boxes of chocolates if we could use them" who called round to my house on the Saturday with 30 boxes of Cadburys Heroes and 30 chocolate Father Christmases!

What a lovely part of the world we live in, where people are so generous and thoughtful, suddenly we had a bit of the Christmas spirit that we could share around the village. So many thanks to White Lodge and the lady who didn't leave any contact details as she was just helping out! Thank you.

Didn't see that coming either! What a lift in spirits for all concerned.

We haven't finished with thanks yet, as we have had so many donations both large and small from around the village including Barry and Sue Pitts from Vasterne Close whose amazing Christmas lights raised £111.71 from his collection box, well done to them. Thanks also to Val Walker, Graham and Diana Price and Theresa Miles who made personal donations to our funds.

There was also a very special donation, made from an ex-Purtonian who supported Age Concern years ago and is remembered here by our own Tony Price who has written this piece for the magazine: "I am always writing about the pleasant surprises that we get in Age Concern. Well it has happened again. We get plenty of those around Christmas but none quite as unexpected as the recent one from Eric Ovens. When we ran our horse show and gymkhana all those years ago Eric was on the

06/21

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committee and, along with a mate of his Derek Evans, made us horse jumps for the show. When they did anything it was always an excellent job and they looked really professional insomuch that, when we finished running the shows, they sold them for us and raised a great deal of money for our funds.

We used to have separate committee meetings for the show in the communal room at Hooks Hill where we held our normal meetings and Eric and Derek brought a group of people with them who were willing to help with the show. It was a good job we knew everybody at the meetings as you would not be able to see across the room for the thick haze of blue cigarette smoke – most of them seemed to be smokers and packets were passed around all through the meetings. All those people worked so hard for us and none more so than Eric and Derek.

Eventually Eric moved to a farm in Carmarthen in the late 1990s and we kept in touch with Christmas cards and the occasional phone call. Imagine my surprise when I opened Eric's Christmas card this year and found a cheque for £500 in it for Purton Age Concern. He had sold his farm and was retiring to a bungalow and said he knew this would have been a difficult year for fundraising for us and wanted to help. So many thanks Eric – you have been so kind to Age Concern over the years and let's not forget your family as well. We really appreciate your generosity and support”.

Tony Price

Thanks Tony, for your input, and knowledge of so many people in the village. Tony continues to do well at home and keeps his keen eye on what we do. If we can come anywhere near his standard we will be doing alright.

It only leaves me to wish everybody, once again, a Happy New Year which includes especially my committee and helpers, and also the minibus committee, drivers and shotguns, and everybody that has supported us through 2020.

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 on your bus pass. You need to ring 01249 890794 to book with them. Remember if we don't use it, we lose it!

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

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

Peter Berry

March Challenge

I am suggesting a challenge for Purton for March. Back in October, we held a Harvest Trail around the village. Many families offered to sell unwanted items and had a table or two outside their homes with books, cakes, toys, games, furniture...all sorts.

They each gave a contribution towards the Church Renewal Fund, in exchange for participating. The weather was atrocious but several brave families took up the challenge and loads of money was made that day, to help towards the work on the Church, which is progressing each week.

I would like to suggest another similar event in March and would be grateful if any of you who are interested please contact me as soon as possible to discuss the challenge, on behalf of RENEW! Thanks for reading this.

Libbie: 771018

Purton Club

A happy new year to everybody. 2020 has been a trying time for all of us to say the least and our sympathy goes out to anyone who has been affected by this dreadful disease.

At last there seems to be a ray of light on the horizon with the roll out of the vaccine. I don't know if it's going to be as simple as the RyanAir advertisement says (JAB AND GO) but I think we are on the last leg of a long race.

At the time of writing this it looks like we could be moving into tier 4 soon but while we were in tier 2 the club managed to open with a lot of hard work from Matt and Louisa offering a meal with a drink and was much appreciated by customers.

We will be still here when this is all over and look forward to seeing you and as always new members are welcome. Stay safe.

Gerry White

Ten Years Ago...

This column does not often feature Age Concern but in February 2011's magazine its contributor noted that "we are now back in the run-of-the-mill routine". Would he, could he say that today! He reported how the outdoor carol-singing took place only after the snow was cleared though his wife remained indoors throughout making the punch.

However, the editor gave pride of place to the Bradon Forest netball team, showing them on the front cover. They won the Wiltshire Schools U16 tournament, beating Marlborough College by a single point in the final, picking up gold medals and proceeding to Bournemouth for the next round of the Nationals. The school also produced the Swindon Pom Dance champions. This qualified them for another competition in Manchester.

Purton Postbag was particularly full, mostly with contentious letters. One I enjoyed was from a self-confessed computer techie commenting on an article a couple of months earlier from new residents deploring a slow internet speed, compared to that previously enjoyed in Swindon. The responder commented that the complainant should not be buying "SADASCO" value beans. The relationship between beans and computers is hard to comprehend, especially as it was suggested they were bought with peanuts. So I scanned the internet to discover what a "SADASCO" is and the answer came back – a Saudi Arabian Petroleum company.

Purton and Lydiard Scouts spent interesting times over the holidays. Their camp in the Brecon Beacons was inaccessible by road, thanks to snow and ice, so they had to carry all their kit the rest of the way. Once installed, they played table football, drank hot chocolate, built both an igloo and two space rockets.

The A-Z of Purton was overflowing with items starting with F. First was a lament for the passing of the Village Fair. Small boys found it so much better than Swindon's offering. February (a one-off chance that the month coincided with the theme) tokened a new beginning with trees returning to life. There were pieces about church Flowers and Floodlighting and, finally, two about Families and Friendship. Purton felt a comfortable place.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Blacklands, Red Gables Close, Highridge Close, The Masons, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Upper Mill, Ray Close and The Buffer*



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From our gardening club perspective there is little to report, and so as Christmas fades into the distance and before Easter eggs and hot cross buns hit supermarket shelves, let's give a thought to St. Valentine's Day and the red rose synonymous with the occasion.

We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, with red roses the order of the day, helping to brighten up the late winter gloom as the 14th February approaches.

There is still some mystery surrounding Saint Valentine and the holiday devoted to him, the tradition rooted in both Roman and Christian timelines.

So who was St. Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

It appears that there were at least three saints bearing the name Valentinus, translated as Valentine, with all three meeting an untimely fate but not before first accomplishing compassionate deeds that helped many other people.

One of the most popular legends tells of a priest named Valentine who lived and served during the 3rd century while Emperor Claudius II ruled over Rome. Claudius declared marriage illegal for those who served in the Roman army as he considered that single men made better soldiers and would better serve their country, without the distraction of marriage. Realising the unfairness of the decree, Valentine defied Claudius and agreed to wed soldiers in secret. When his actions were discovered he was condemned to death by Emperor Claudius.

Another theory involves Valentine helping Christians escape the perils of a Roman prison, where they would have met a tragic fate.

The Valentine's Day part of the legend involves him falling in love with a young girl, possibly his jailor's daughter, who visited him during his imprisonment. Prior to being put to death, it's said that Valentine wrote a letter to her, a love letter, signing it 'from your Valentine', so setting off the idea and tradition of being a 'Valentine' for the day.

Others believe that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a Bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

Whichever Valentine was responsible for such kind-hearted deeds would soon become one of the most popular saints in both France and England.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death, others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast in the middle of February in an effort to Christianise the pagan celebration of Lupercalia, celebrated at the ides of February, on February 15th. Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Lupercalia, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, were believed to

have been cared for by a she-wolf or Lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hides. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because they believed it would make them fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn.

The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman, with these matches often resulting in marriage.

So legends aside, written valentines didn't begin until after 1400. The oldest known Valentine still in existence today is a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. Today this greeting forms part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, writers like Shakespeare popularised the connection and by the 18th Century it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By 1900, with improvements in printing technology, printed cards began to replace written letters. Ready made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged.

Today according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 145 million Valentine's day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day second only to Christmas, as the largest card-sending holiday of the year with the female sex accounting for approximately 85% of all valentines purchased!!

Every year thousands of romantics send letters addressed to Verona in Italy, to Juliet, the subject of Shakespeare's romantic tragedy, "Romeo and Juliet", The city marks the location of the Shakespearean tale, and the letters that reach the city are dutifully answered by a team of volunteers from the Juliet Club. Each year, on Valentine's Day, the club awards the "Cara Giulietta" ("Dear Juliet") prize to the author of the most touching love letter.

And so to the significance of the red rose on Valentine's Day.

In the language of flowers, giving someone a yellow carnation meant they'd disappointed you, and giving someone a purple hyacinth meant you were sorry and begging to be forgiven, whilst the red rose, yes you've guessed it, translated to deep love. The rose took this meaning because of its affiliation with Aphrodite, the goddess of love. In Greek mythology, it's said that rose bushes grew from the ground through Aphrodite's tears and the blood of her lover, Adonis. The Romans, who turned Aphrodite into their goddess Venus, kept the rose as her symbol of love and beauty. So when Valentine's Day became the occasion we know today, the rose was the obvious choice for the most fitting gift. So there you have it.

But there is just one more thing for you 'would be' Valentines to consider.

How many Roses should you send? Well there's your quandary.

One Red Rose A single red rose means a direct 'I love you'.

Two Red Roses Two red roses are used to signify both love and affection. If they are put together, so they form a single stem, this can often show the sign of an impending engagement or marriage.

Three Red Roses Three red roses is a tradition with florists, meaning the 3 little words that mean the most on Valentine's Day - "I love you"

Six Red Roses/Half a Dozen Roses Six red roses is used as a sign of infatuation or the desire to be with someone - often used by secret admirers.

Nine Red Roses Nine red roses combines both the meanings of three red roses and six red roses to signify that you will love and be with them forever.

Ten Red Roses Just like the phrase 'a perfect 10' sending ten red roses shows that you think your partner is sheer perfection.

Twelve Red Roses Twelve Roses are the traditional way to show your love for someone, and one of their many meanings is to show that you are thinking of them 12 months a year, or 12 different ways to say 'I love you'.

Fifteen Red Roses Unlike the previous roses, sending 15 red roses is usually a sign of an apology and to ask for forgiveness.

Twenty Four/Two Dozen Red Roses Sending two dozen red roses to a loved one is a grand statement that you are thinking of them 24 hours a day, and shows how much you truly love them.

Forty Eight/Four Dozen Red Roses Sending 4 dozen roses symbolises unconditional love and devotion that is unchanging.

Fifty Red Roses 50 roses signify a love that has lasted into a ripe age with no regrets.

One Hundred Roses 100 roses marks that you will be with your partner to old age and will remain devoted to one another.

So when the day arrives, remember we now have access to the list!! So be sure to choose wisely! Here's hoping nobody has to resort to sending '15 Red Roses'!!

Happy Valentine's Day. Stay safe.

Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)

Saint Valentine's Day

As Saint Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday this year, it seems appropriate to look at its origins. Another contributor says that there are as many as fourteen Saints Valentine, the last being martyred in 1936, but only three of them are commemorated on the day. They were all martyred on the same day, 14th February 269. However, one was in Africa and nothing else is known about him. The records we have all date from

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over 200 years later and it seems likely that the remaining two are the one and the same person.

Bishop Valentine of Terni in Umbria was placed under house arrest by the local (pagan) judge. After Valentine had discussed the validity of Jesus with him, the judge brought his blind daughter on whom Valentine then laid his hands and healed. The judge and his forty-four-member household were then all baptised and Valentine was released.

Later, another judge arrested him for evangelising and sent him to Rome. (Thus St.V. of Terni became St.V. of Rome in the accounts.) Here he was examined by Emperor Claudius himself. Although the two started off well, Valentine tried to convert the Emperor to Christianity. This was not welcomed and he commanded Valentine to renounce his faith. When he refused, Claudius sentenced him to death although, before the execution, he restored the sight of the jailer's daughter.

So how has Valentine become the patron saint of lovers? It seems likely that, for the next thousand years, he wasn't. The earliest reference, and possibly the beginning of the whole business, is in a fourteenth-century poem by Chaucer, the Parliament of Fowls:

“For this was on Saint Valentine’s Day
When every bird comes there to choose his match
(Of every kind that men may think of!)”

Shortly after, by 1400, King Charles VI of France was celebrating a festivity of courtly love on Saint Valentine's Day, though I should add a warning that, as no documentation exists, maybe it was all in the imagination of his Queen!

Even in this era of global warming, it seems unlikely that birds would mate and start to build nests as early as mid-February. In the Middle Ages the Julian calendar was in use; England did not adopt the Gregorian one until 1752. The effect is that modern late-February is now the point at which the Julian festival would have occurred. In fact, the shift between the two was eleven days; we still feel this effect with the curious end to our tax year, but that is another story.

VE Day & VJ Day Memories booklet 2021

Good News for those who have ordered or still wish to order a copy of this booklet in 2021. I have managed to obtain 50 extra, which will more than cover the 25 or so orders held over from before Christmas when the original copies sold out, as well as any new orders from last month and this. So, for those who have ordered already, are interested, or would like further details of this locally based souvenir booklet, please contact me on either 01793 750542 or email mfp Parsons071@btinternet.com. The booklets which are A4 size are £3.00 each and can either be collected from me or delivered to you if requested.

Many thanks for your continued support - Marion Parsons

Purton Village Diary - February 2021

7 Su	10.30am	St Mary's Church Online Family Service for Candlemas
14 Su	9.45am	United Online Messy Church for families
	10.30am	Communion
17 W	7.30pm	St Mary's Church Ash Wednesday Communion
21 Su	10.30am	St Mary's Church Third Sunday Service
28 Su	9.45am	United junior church
	10.30am	Communion

The St Mary's online 10.30am church services will continue weekly using Zoom until further notice.

How to join in the 10.30am Services

To Join the Zoom Meeting - please use this link

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

Meeting ID: 549 593 510 Passcode: 928294

You can use your mobile or landline

EITHER 0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

OR 0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

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

followed by # Passcode: 928294 followed by #.

Please note that call charges may apply.

Alternatively, click on the link on the church website: www.stmaryspurton.org.uk

Purton Methodist Church services: Revd David Perkins records a weekly Sunday Service of Worship which can be accessed on You Tube at any time: www.youtube.com/channel/UCYZpw6oX_Ief-68tycPGT3Q?

DISCLAIMER

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

Purton Village Diary - when life returns to normal

Every week

- M 7.00pm to 8.00pm Purton Village Voices choir practice at the Red House Skittle Alley (term time)
- Tu 9.00am to 11am Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
12 noon Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
7.30pm Bridge Club at the Red House
- W 10.00am to 12 noon Coffee and chat at Silver Threads Hall
2.00pm to 5.00pm Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)
6.15pm Purton Youth Club for school years 4-7 at Purton Village Hall
- Th 12 noon Luncheon Club at Silver Threads Hall for over 60s
2.00pm to 3pm Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall (term time)
2.20pm Pram Service for pre-school children at Purton Methodist Church (term time)
- F 10.00am to 11.30am Tea, coffee and cake at The Cedars
- Sa 10.00am to 12.30pm Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)

Every month

- 1st Wednesday 10.00am Story Time at Purton Library for pre-school children
- 2nd Wednesday (except Aug) 2.30pm Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church
- 2nd & 4th Tuesday 10.00am Purton Probus meet in the Red House lounge
- 2nd & 4th Tuesday Purton Silver Threads meet at the Silver Threads Hall, 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



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**An excerpt from the Historical Society Bulletin No. 30
October 2001: Purton Twinning Association: A brief History
by Phil Gosden**

The official twinning ceremony in Purton coincided with the Festival of Village Life and the Bastille Day weekend. On 15th July 2000 the Village Hall was filled to hear speeches from the Chairmen of both Heric and Purton Associations and our constituency MEP Graham Watson and MP James Gray respectively. Following the signing of the Official Charter, the Chairman of Purton Parish Council Bertie Hicks and the Mayor of Heric spoke of their support for twinning and their hopes for the link between the two communities.

That year saw also success in the Heric tandem race (a 24 hour race - some teams wearing fancy dress) with one of the four Purton teams winning the first prize for covering the greatest distance. The team was Neil Saunders, Dave Johnson, Steve Hazell, Bob Tenant, Jerry Moss and Harvey Wheeler. They also had great support from various people – food, transport, mechanics etc. There is a photo on the webpage of the actual tandem cycle.

Friendships between families from those early days continue two decades later.

A copy of the complete article is available on request.

There are photographs on the web page of our visit to Heric on 5th May 2011, which include Heric's Annual Remembrance Ceremony. We would appreciate photographs of Twinning events for the Society webpage.

Christmas Quiz 2020

The joint Christmas Quiz with the PTwA and PHS was an evening to remember. We were wearing exotic Christmas hats, some had flashing lights, and we enjoyed virtual refreshments together.

Sara Brown, our host with a snow scene as background and reindeer effects, kept us all in order, while the quiz masters Len and Barbara Page had prepared a varied programme of questions from "Wiltshire Places" to "Battle dates". After the Battle round Eve Booy proposed a toast to The Royal Navy. Congratulations to the winners Clive and Liz Rushen and in close second place Glen and Gillian Shore.

Thank you to everybody who took part, the Host and Quiz Masters.

Future Programme – All Meetings On Zoom

Thursday 28 January 2021, 7.30pm: Royal Wootton Bassett Canal with Steve Bacon

Thursday 25 February 2021, 7.30pm - Coleshill House with Liza Dibble

Liza writes 'My new role in the National Trust will be "Partnerships and Programming" and I will continue to provide support for schools and groups who want to learn

more about the Buscot and Coleshill Estates. I am able to present not only historical walks and talks but also environmental and estate matters.'

Coleshill House and Village

A story in pictures. Discover the story behind Coleshill House, its building and design, its alterations and its ultimate downfall.

How did the village and parkland evolve to complement the House?

What happens next as the National Trust plans for the future.

Thursday 25th March 2021 at 7.30 pm - Society AGM

Saturday, 10th April 2021 at 10.00 am - Proposed Museum Re-opening

Thursday 22nd April 2021 at 7.30 pm - St Helena and its Airport with Howard Smith

If you are interested in joining the Zoom Meetings, please email Jim Mosley on j.mosley1@btinternet.com Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Looking Forward

We are pleased to say that when we can resume our normal meetings in the village hall, Mr Paul Booy will be giving a talk on the 'SS Empire Windrush through History'.

Marion Hobbs, Chairman

roy.marion@btinternet.com 01793 770185

www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com

Society Subscriptions For 2021

Membership subscriptions for 2021 are now due, at the same rate, £15, as last year. They can be paid in cash, or by cheque made payable to "Purton Historical Society", and sent to Jim Mosley at 1 Jewels Ash, Purton, SN5 4DW. Alternatively, payment by bank transfer is possible; the account details are:

Account name: Purton Historical Society

Account number: 00662136

Sort code: 30-98-41

If paying by bank transfer, please record your name in the reference field on the payment authorisation. Similarly, if paying by cash, please include a note of your name. The Committee would be very grateful if existing members could renew their membership as soon as possible.

New members are very welcome; please include a note of your postal and email addresses with your payment, or, if paying by bank transfer, please email Jim Mosley at J.Mosley1@btinternet.com with that information.

Jim Mosley, PHS Treasurer

The Purton Historical Society Bulletin, Issue 44, £3

Now that the Covid-19 vaccination programme is under way and many PHS members and friends will have had one (or even two) jabs we can begin to be more

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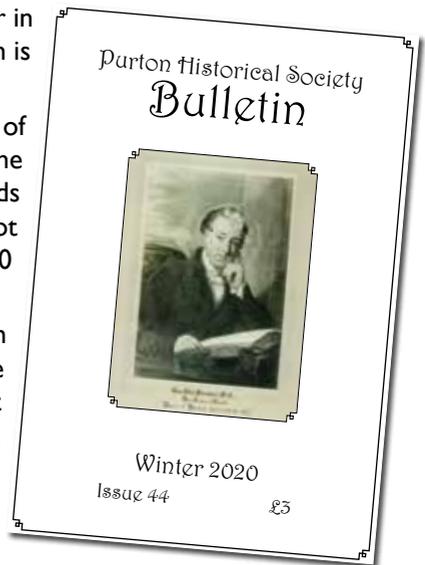
02/21

optimistic about resuming our usual activities later in 2021. However, what life will be like by the autumn is a matter of speculation.

Thank you to all those who have bought copies of the latest Bulletin. We hope it will appeal to anyone interested in the history of our village as it records important events and characters we must not forget. The articles in this edition date from 1820 until quite recent times.

Two copies were sent to friends in Devon with local connections. Their comments regarding the local stories and presentation have been most encouraging. The reference to Lydiard Millicent School's heating system was noted as the cast iron stove was still there in the early 1980s!

Buy the Bulletin from Cyclecare, Flawless Floors or phone 01793 770178 or 770331 for delivery.



Jean Belt, 770331

Outreach Purton

As Peter Berry has mentioned earlier in this issue of Purton Magazine, we were delighted to be able to deliver hampers to elderly and vulnerable members of the community and chocolates to thank local businesses and individuals that have kept our village running during the pandemic.

I have received a number of thank you calls and letters from residents who were both thrilled with their surprise delivery and very happy to see Outreach volunteers just before Christmas. I've copied some of the letters below. I'd like to thank Amy and Wyatt Coulton, Mary and Dave Nettleton, Emma, Heidi and Jamie Ponting, Alice, Josh, Molly and Evie Hart, Eleanor Amos and of course Peter Berry and White Lodge Care Home who provided all the hampers for us to distribute.

"To Outreach Purton & Purton Age Concern, thank you so much for the lovely hamper you gave me for Christmas, I'm really enjoying it! A big thank you to White Lodge for putting it all together. It was a lovely big surprise and all the things I shall use. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2021."

"We want to thank you for all the work and organisation you put into arranging the distribution of the hampers kindly donated by White Lodge. We have really enjoyed our hamper and appreciated receiving it very much. Please thank everyone involved and thank you for thinking of us".

"To White Lodge Care Home, Purton Outreach & Age Concern, thank you for the complete surprise of a hamper full of lovely treats - most kind and much appreciated. I've put it on a high shelf in order to resist the temptation! Happy new year to all".

As we all get used to another lockdown, we want to reassure everyone that Outreach volunteers are available to assist anyone who needs it. We are currently working with Lloyd's Chemist to help deliver prescriptions as they are no longer able to offer their free delivery service. If you require medication on prescription from Lloyd's and are isolating or shielding, staff will ask for your permission so a local volunteer can bring this to your door for you.

Thank you to everyone who continues to respond to the messages I share in our Facebook group, our work is appreciated and it is set to continue for the foreseeable future.

I have recently become a Wiltshire Together Community Champion and will receive the latest Covid-19 information directly from Wiltshire Council on a regular basis, which I will then share amongst the various relevant village organisations for distribution. The Council is trying to ensure everyone has access to the correct information and to combat the spread of mis-information or the term we've heard a lot in 2020 'Fake News'. I have included the latest news below, correct at time of print.

Wiltshire COVID-19 cases

We are really pleased that, for the first time in weeks, positive Covid-19 cases have started to slightly fall in Wiltshire. However, it's vital that we all stick together and keep following the restrictions in order to keep ourselves and each other safe, and help reduce the pressures the NHS is currently facing.

We're working really hard to redeploy staff across council services to help our communities with the COVID response in Wiltshire. Many staff are currently working outside of their normal roles, playing a vital part in supporting mass testing in the community, working with our local test and trace service and helping out as COVID #WiltshireTogether volunteers, sharing vital feed-back on how our communities and businesses are doing whilst they are out and about.

In response to reports received, our council teams have undertaken visits to local shops, pharmacies, service stations, supermarkets and takeaways. Our Public Protection team visited 116 supermarkets and identified poor compliance from some of the public when out shopping, so we have been working on messaging to help people shop safely. The Public Protection team have extended the inspections to 99 small retailers this week.

We've also received some reports of large numbers of people visiting popular beauty spots to exercise, making social distancing difficult.

Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub

Our Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is available to anyone who is struggling during this difficult time. The hub can provide support to those who don't have support around them and also signpost to where additional help is available. You can call the hub on 0300 003 4576 or email wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk. It's open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

Vaccines

You will be contacted directly by the NHS when it is your turn to book your Covid-19 vaccination. Once you've booked, please make sure you attend your appointment. Find out more about the Covid-19 vaccination at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine

If you have an appointment for your vaccination but don't have transport to get there, please call Outreach Purton, we have volunteers available to help.

Asymptomatic testing

The government has announced the rollout of asymptomatic testing for communities and for businesses. We know how important this is, but we are currently awaiting guidance on these tests. Once we have it, we will promote it widely, so please do not contact us about this at present.

Local COVID-19 contact tracing

Local COVID-19 contact tracing is taking place, alongside national contact tracing. If you see a call from 0300 456 0100, please pick up, as this will be a contact tracer looking to pass on information, as well as establish any close contacts of positive cases.

Face Masks

A face covering should:

- Cover your nose AND mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- Fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- Be secured to the head with ties or ear loops

Free advice and support services available from Wiltshire Citizens Advice

Wiltshire Citizens Advice offers free, confidential, impartial advice online, over the phone and via email. People come to us with all sorts of issues. We give up-to-date advice on benefits, work, money and debt, consumer rights, family issues and more.

Coronavirus has made life hard for many people we're here to help. Whether you're facing a crisis, or just considering your options; checking a quick piece of information, or not sure where to start. It doesn't matter who you are, or what your situation is. Wiltshire Citizens Advice will always give you free, confidential and impartial advice.

We'll give you all the facts and possible outcomes of different options. That way you can make the decision that's right for you. We can also offer practical support such as help with filling forms, writing letters or negotiating with third parties.

Call for free (new freephone number): **0800 144 8848**. Advisers are available 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Textphone (if you can't hear or speak on the phone): 18001 then 0800 144 8884

Email: visit our website and complete the short 'Contact us' enquiry form: citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk/contact-us For more ways to get in touch, visit our website: citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk

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

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.

A bright Christmas in Vasterne Close

We would like to thank everyone who made a donation to our Christmas lights collection in aid of Purton and District Age Concern which raised the sum of £111.77.

We hope you enjoyed our display and we wish everyone a safe and healthy 2021.

Sue and Barry, Vasterne Close

The Royal British Legion 2020 Poppy Appeal

A total of £2855.26 has been sent from Purton and district to the 2020 Poppy Appeal, and we would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way. Special thanks to the local businesses who supported the Appeal so well again this year so that poppies were available despite not being able to carry out the usual House-to-House collections in Purton, Purton Stoke and Braydon.

*Shirley and Michael Lawrence,
Poppy Appeal Organisers
Tel. 01793 771084*

Email: the_lawrences@btinternet.com

Community Christmas Lunch at Pips

Thank you to all at Pips that organised the Christmas meal. I'm sure I am speaking for everyone who attended, we all had a great time and hope Pips are able to do it again this year.

Bernice Seviour

NHS at its best at Purton Surgery Flu Clinics

I wanted to thank all involved in the marvellous clinic Purton Surgery ran on December 12th for administering the flu jab - it was very slick, very safe - a wonder to behold! Everyone I have spoken to since then was very impressed and grateful. Thank you to all at Purton Surgery.

Diana Meares

Surprise gift from a Secret Santa

Thank you so much for our lovely Christmas present – you obviously know us very well! We feel very lucky to be part of such a kind, caring and thoughtful community. With very best wishes.

Paul & Sarah Grigg

The Cricklade Band – we kept the music going!

If you noticed the TV ads over Christmas, you'll remember the Co-op saying 'It's what we do'. The ad could have been written for the band because we managed all our usual carol-playing tours on the lead-up to Christmas Morning – it's what we do!

First of all, huge thanks are due to the band for their efforts in attending as many of the events as they could from early December. We did it all under the difficult circumstances of Covid-19 precautions – distancing, not socialising (no huddling!), separate cars, face covers, instrument covers, risk assessments and so on.

As a community band we also thank the people of Purton too for the part you played. You all supported us by coming to your doors, humming into your face covers, tagging along with us, applauding, filming and photographing us. Most importantly, you dropped donations into our buckets, sent us cheques and contributed by Crowdfunder, often anonymously. All this means that we have achieved our target of being able to afford the major expenses of 2021 with just a bit spare too. For a non-profit making organisation where no-one gets paid and everyone volunteers their time and skills it's a weight off our minds to cover our costs.

This year we also did most of it in a bit more rain than we would have liked, including being recorded, live, doing our bit towards Purton Churches online Village Carol Service. We had one sort-of dry evening, just one dry evening and the reward of a lovely crisp Christmas Morning.

You might like to know that a Facebook video of us playing 'Coventry Carol' has been viewed over 800 times. That video, in the High Street at Cricklade, was filmed outside the 'Three Horseshoes', the pub where the band first got going 132 years ago. We did wonder what the 1887 band family would have made of seeing us stretching down the High Street for 36 metres (117 feet)!

There have been many touching words of support and thanks posted on Facebook too, in response to the almost daily social media updates put up before and after each event. There was a strong sense that the efforts we were making to continue with a time-honoured festive tradition was giving some much needed 'normality' in strange times.

This is usually the time when the 'What's On' diary dates start to appear. While we have some prospective 2021 bookings, everything has the condition of 'depending what happens with Covid'. So we'd just ask you to keep an eye on this space and on social media to find out what we're doing!

For now, we're all so grateful to everyone that we were indeed able to 'keep the music going' – thank you!

Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group

Hedgehog Friendly Food

A new initiative has sprung up in this area to promote food that comes from farms that support wildlife. Everyone loves hedgehogs so they are a great ambassador for wildlife in general. Speaking with customers in the Farm Shop, it seems to resonate well. Rather like a good joke, you don't have to explain it – people get it immediately! Two of the basic requirements of hedgehogs are indicators as to whether land is managed sustainably:



First, as their name implies, hedgehogs love hedges. Their natural habitat is the edge of woodlands where they thrive in a mosaic of hedges, fields and trees. This can, of course, be replicated in urban areas which is why you can attract them to your garden. But in the British countryside, many hedgerows have been removed since the second world war to make fields bigger.

Second, the main part of a hedgehog's diet is worms and worms are a good indicator of the health of the soil. In fact, some farmers (including Rob at Purton House Organics) carry out regular worm counts to monitor their soil.

Earthworms are vital for building up soil. There are different types – some eat vegetation and others ingest the soil itself. But they all produce 'worm poo' which creates most of the organic matter in soils, binding nutrients and minerals to stop them washing away in the rain. They also aerate the soil and improve drainage and they are important food sources for many birds and mammals.

However, much of the soil in the UK and other countries is greatly depleted because of over exploitation and heavy use of artificial fertilizers and this has caused a dramatic reduction in the number of worms.

A survey by the National Environmental Research Council (NERC) in 2019 revealed that over 40% of agricultural land could have very few or zero surface dwelling worms. This worrying figure is likely to be a factor in the dramatic decline of song thrushes and other birds and also mammals like hedgehogs. There is some evidence that hedgehogs have declined faster in the countryside than in urban areas, although it might be that more hedgehogs are seen where more people live. But it is a fact that hedgehogs are in decline and are now listed as 'vulnerable' on Britain's Red List of mammals.

The good news is that many farmers have changed the way they manage their land. One of our members, Nick Adams, says

'The hedges I see when out surveying wildlife are in general, infinitely better than they were 40 years ago. A lot have been replanted and gapped up, hedgelaying is becoming increasingly popular again which gives a much denser base to hedges to help wildlife. They are, in general much taller than the hedges 40 yrs ago, usually close to 6ft, I can't remember the last time I saw a 2ft high hedge'

And many farmers in this area are improving their soil by using less artificial fertilisers and chemicals and carefully managing crops and grazing animals. So 'Hedgehog Friendly Food' is a way of celebrating this. We are working with the Oak and Furrows Wildlife Rescue Centre to develop the scheme and they are helping with farm surveys. We're hoping to have 'Hedgehog Friendly' labels in local food shops soon.

If you'd like to do more for hedgehogs you can add hedgehog friendly features to your garden. Cutting a gap at the bottom of fencing is a great help to them as they roam up to three miles a night looking for food. If they can't get through boundaries they end up using roads and cars are a major factor in their decline in numbers. Sadly, most of the hedgehogs I've ever seen were squashed ones until last year when I saw some alive and well in Purton. Mind you, I had to go out after midnight and I was lucky that my son had already seen them and knew where to look. But it was magical and I would thoroughly recommend trying to see them. Apparently, compared to other areas, we have a good number in Purton!

You can also become a 'Hedgehog Hero' with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – the scheme is in hibernation with the hedgehogs at the moment but should wake up in Spring! You can find out more about RWB Environment Group through our Facebook page, or if you don't use computers, you can join their monthly zoom meetings using your phone. Please get in touch with me if you'd like to join the next meeting or if you need any more information about the groups or businesses I write about.

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

The other side of the gate

Just before Christmas we bought two cows from Brian Scott at Bentham. This movement signified the end of Brian's milking days. It can't have been an easy decision. His family have been farming at Hurstead for a few generations and Brian will have had daily responsibility to the cows. Shorty, a British Shorthorn, and Swede, a Swedish Red, settled in very quickly. Cows that come from quiet farms usually do fit in well. Shorty was not happy about going from two milkings a day to one though! From the first afternoon she was standing at the parlour gate waiting for me to start a milking I was never going to start. She stood there waiting every afternoon for nearly a week. She's over that now!

I've also been accruing more brownie points this Christmas. I'm not a great present giver, but I've excelled myself this year. Another toy for Sarah arrived two days before Christmas - a super-duper upgraded cream separator. It really is as sad as you just read. This is what constitutes celebration these days! This simple machine will cut by a third the time needed to separate cream. It's technical capacity is 315 litres an hour which means she will be able to keep up with the milking.

Sarah has been extremely busy designing new retail labels for the products we sell off farm. The yoghurt labels came a few weeks back and soon labels for the pasteurised whole and semi-skimmed milk will arrive. I'm really keen to get those bottles filled. We don't have much of a home for skimmed milk and because skimmed has a higher sugar content the pigs are getting too fat! Yes, you did read that correctly... skimmed milk is more fattening than whole milk!

We were also very happy that Christmas finally arrived. Pre-Christmas was so manic here our feet barely touched the ground! We had prepared four beef carcasses, six pigs and 40 chickens, and so much cream, butter and milk that we were at capacity with chillers and freezers.

Laura milked the cows and Harry fed them, as well as cleaning the yards and bedding. I sorted the chickens and separated more cream. Sarah, with great help from M&S, prepared a stunning meal with a Lydiard Turkey pride of place. Everyone was more than satiated and the Christmas pudding just about finished me off! I fell asleep on the not very comfortable sofa at about 3pm only to wake at 2am the next morning! My neck was at funny angles and I took some straightening! Alas, I still had some work to do which I finished about 3am, cows checked and in bed and I crept into mine!

We opened Christmas Day as normal and surprisingly we sold as much as any other day and were boosted by a long distance customer who could not wait to get it delivered by courier! I think Nottingham is the furthest we've had anyone come on a dedicated journey! He was so happy we were open. He arrived about 3pm - remember I was sleeping - had a discussion with Sarah and went home. It's so rewarding to know what you do and make is so revered that a journey of over 200 miles and 5

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hours driving on Christmas Day is seen as good value!

The straw chopper finally made it through the ports on the 29th December and arrived at the farm the next day. We had to assemble it before use and it took us a bit longer than planned. Any new machine takes a bit of getting used to. I've used it a



few times now and it's working brilliantly. The straw is fluffy and one bale does one bed. That represents a 50% saving in straw - at £30/bale it won't take long to pay for itself!

We welcomed another two animals this last week: Curly and Callie, mother and daughter who are Brown Swiss from Bassett Down, near Wroughton. Callie is the colour of cappuccino, has long legs, big dark eyes and trots like a pony. I think we're going to have a lot of fun with her as she grows into a milking cow.

Jonathan Cook





Beneath the Wool

The last month is one of the quieter ones on the farm which is good as it means there's not as much work to do over the Christmas period. The ewes are doing very well on their winter grazing. They are looking very healthy and are getting bigger. In the next month Bob will come and scan them and we hope as always for good results. This last week I watched *This Farming Life* on BBC 2; this programme shows farming families from the north and follows them for a whole year. One particular moment from this episode that is relevant to Bob coming was the one family having their sheep scanned and unfortunately this showed some bad news for them. They had a bunch of ewes where a ram or some of the rams weren't working correctly and this showed in the scanning where they had a lot of empty ewes. This is the result that no sheep farmer wants and while watching it I must say I did feel very sorry for them.

On Christmas Day I'm sure all of you were either having a Christmas drink or opening your Christmas presents. For us at Rogers Farm were out checking sheep and distributing the sheep's Christmas present. On Christmas Day all the sheep are treated to some feed and I must say they were all very happy about it.

As we all encounter restrictions on what we can and can't do due to the Covid-19 outbreak we mustn't forget that all of the poultry in the UK are living under the toughest restrictions as well as ourselves. They are having to be shut in due to the outbreak of Avian Flu which is caused by wild birds transmitting it to poultry mainly due to the migration of wild birds.

On the 2nd January the lambs needed worming and they got done on this day. The lambs went in the pen very well and the worming went down very well. They got wormed for the common types of worms and as a bonus they got done for liver fluke as well. Liver fluke is very common at this time of year due to the amount of water around. Liver fluke is very hard to detect and the first you know about it is the animal unfortunately dies so it's quite important to keep them treated for it.



The lambs are now eating a bale of hay a day and they are being fed course mix feed to top them up and keep them growing while there isn't as much food for them. They are very happy about this and every night there's a massive scrum and we even have a scrum machine also known as a hay feeder.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton

We Record ...

Funeral at North Wilts Crematorium

21 December 2020 Sheila Kirk (89)

11 January 2021 Raymond Peter Douglas Brown (Ray) (63)

In memoriam

Susan Morley: Always loved and fondly remembered by her family and friends on her birthday, January 28



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.



Have you read a book that you will always remember, either recently or many years ago, serious or funny, fact or fiction? Each month we are publishing a review of a book that has meant a lot to a particular reader, especially the reason why it was so memorable. Purton Magazine readers are encouraged to send in a personal review of their favourite book; it need not be very long. As usual, the copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month and our contact details are on Page 4.

A Book I will Always Remember

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

Ten Cities that made an Empire by Tristram Hunt

Probably not the most politically correct read in our current society but for those fascinated by our history, Tristram Hunt finds a compelling way to describe the development of the British Empire.

Hunt is a former Labour MP and noted historian who specialises in urban history. He is currently Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum. In his selection for this work one may dispute the cities he has left out but as you follow his thread from Boston to Bridgetown and onwards to Hong Kong, Melbourne and New Delhi before closing in Liverpool he captures the essence of two centuries of history during which the British Empire was the dominant force in the world. Hunt skillfully avoids any judgmental analysis of the “Good and Bad” as he weaves his way around the globe but instead, focuses on the ever-evolving situation as local politicians and entrepreneurs grapple with issues quite different from their remote leaders in London.

By beginning with Boston, Hunt sets a scene of a colony dependent on Britain for trade sending cod, wood and whale oil while buying ceramics, sugar and tea. Bostonians were proud of their English heritage until suddenly they weren’t and as they struggled with remote legislation and taxation they also struggled with economic decline as the West Indies became the key source of sugar and Bridgetown grew in status. Cape Town has an entirely different story of strategic importance; at one stage it was considered “too expensive” to maintain before the Napoleonic Wars forced a re-evaluation and it was re-taken in 1806.

Indian cities, of course, feature prominently and there are three separate chapters as the “jewel in the crown” of the Empire; Calcutta, Bombay and New Delhi all have a place as does Hong Kong which was the key port for shipments of opium from India to the Chinese mainland, a trade the British dominated.

Hunt’s primary interest is urban architecture. He manages to convey the dynamism of these cities through the development of their infrastructure, their mirroring of British constructions as English architects built magnificent buildings, they considered worthy of their Imperial heritage. The development of New Delhi captures this phase of Imperialism in a most effective way.



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02/21

The pleasure of reading the book is the way in which it is an historical lesson in national evolution. The Empire did not suddenly come into existence, it grew, evolved and eventually declined and thus it is fitting Hunt saves Liverpool for his last chapter. At the beginning of the 20th century Liverpool was the preeminent port, managing over a third of British exports. It eventually lost out to London and was soon in terminal decline, re-building slowly as the flow of goods changed direction. Nations that once formed the dominions and colonies have become key trading partners with Chinese and Indian technology replacing the ceramics and tea of almost 250 years ago.

Paul Ballard

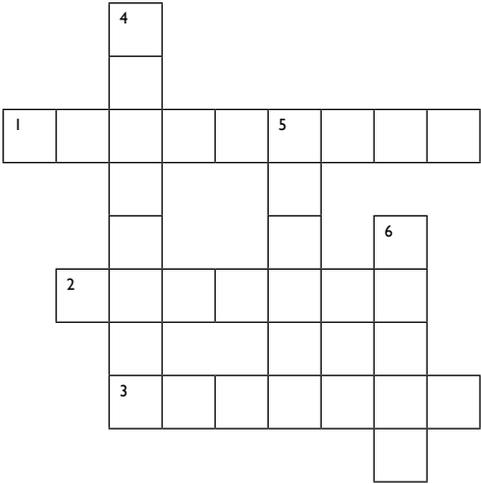
Mini crossword

Here is the fourth in our little series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun during these days of lockdown. Again there are no prizes but the answers to January's puzzle are 1) amateur 2) artistic 3) empty 4) magazine 5) website 6) printer. This month's clues are

1. (across) shared sense (9)
2. (across) hung out to dry (7)
3. (across) confident gait (7)
4. (down) from one to another (8)
5. (down) recording (6)
6. (down) consent (5)

Answers in the March issue and if any reader would like to create their own mini crossword we would be delighted to include it in a future publication. Just to keep things consistent for the moment there should only be three words across and three down, each with a maximum of 9 letters. As before we have taken many of the words from previous Purton Magazines but, of course, dictionaries provide many more options. We aim for the clues to have a spread of difficulty initially to attract readers with the easier clues.

Shapes of empty boxes within an 11 x 11 box square, perhaps as a table in Word or in Excel software – or simply hand drawn and we will do the rest – contact details are on page 4 and on our website www.purtonmagazine.co.uk



Funding Secured for Lydiard Tregoze Grave Survey

Thanks to grants totalling £1,500 from Lydiard Tregoze Parish Council and Wiltshire County Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board, The Friends of Lydiard Park have commissioned Atlantic Geomatics to create a digital survey of St. Mary's Church graveyard and the little cemetery on Hook Street which succeeded the graveyard in the 19th Century. The survey is part of a wider national initiative being developed between the Church of England (C of E) and Atlantic Geomatics to provide a national digital database of C of E burial grounds in England. Starting in January, the Lydiard Tregoze survey will be one of the earliest to take place and will allow people to discover more about the lives of local people in Lydiard Tregoze down the centuries and to trace their ancestors. The survey will be linked to a Lydiard Tregoze Family History Project exploring the lives of local people who lived and worked in this close knit rural community.

Councillor Allison Bucknell, Chair of and Wiltshire County Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board writes: *"The Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board members were delighted to support the project to digitally survey St Mary's churchyard and Hook Street Cemetery. It's fantastic that we also have volunteers who are dedicated to capturing this special piece of local history, and delighted to hear that they will be working with North Wiltshire Young Archaeologists. Encouraging interest and engagement in local history at all levels in a manner which is accessible to all is so important – this is money well spent!"*

Cllr Denise Henderson of Lydiard Tregoze Parish Council which warmly supported the initial bid said: *"Lydiard Tregoze Parish Council were very pleased to be able to make a grant to this worthy project. It is good to see technology being used to enrich our understanding of the past. Family history is often passed orally; documenting preserves it for future generations and a wider audience. We are looking forward to watching the team's progress."*

Rotary Club of Cirencester

Up, Up And Away! Cirencester's Mega Charity Auction

Cirencester Rotarians are planning to make a big difference locally by organising a mega- online charity auction in aid of the following local charities: The Big Yellow Bus Project supporting the homeless www.bigyellowbusproject.co.uk/the-project/
Cotswold Counselling helping people cope with the challenges in life www.cotswold-counselling.org.uk

Scheduled to take place on Friday 12th March 2021, thanks to the generous support and sponsorship of local auctioneers Moore, Allen & Innocent, this exciting online event will be hosted by their celebrity auctioneer Philip Allwood on the-saleroom.com.

President of Cirencester Rotary Club Mark Wilton said: *"This is one of the most*

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WEIGHT LOSS

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Run by local Fitness and Nutrition coach Ian Vout. This new, targeted way to lose weight gives you the tools, knowledge and knowhow to finally succeed!

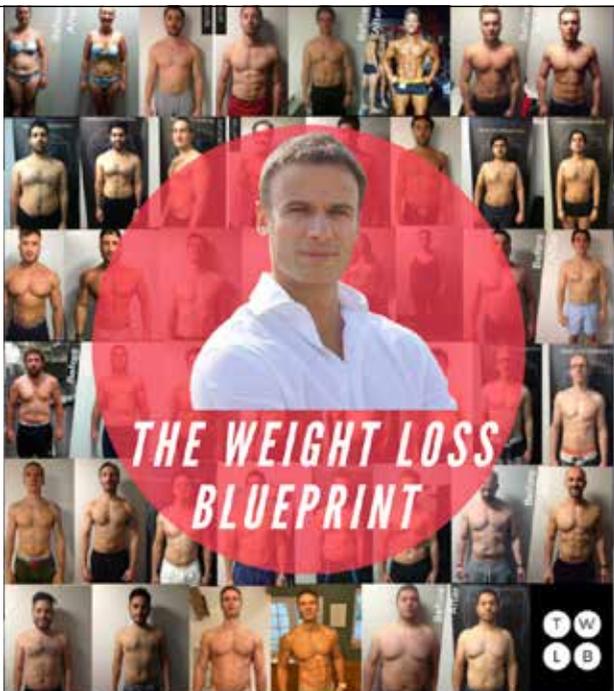
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03/21

challenging times of our lives and I urge us all to get together and make a difference locally by supporting this auction and helping local charities and other good causes.”

Planning is well under way and already some fabulous ‘money can’t buy’ experiences are literally flying in for Cirencester Rotary Club’s charity auction. Reach for the skies by bidding for the super exciting Wing walking Lot, kindly donated by AeroSuperBatics. Wing walking over the Cotswolds must be one of the most exhilarating experiences of a lifetime! This is the chance to fulfil a lifelong dream or buy the ultimate gift for someone special. If that sounds too adventurous, sit inside and have a private birds-eye tour of the Cotswolds instead.

We are still appealing though to local residents and businesses to give their support by donating further unique Lots. They could range from a tour around an air salvage business, a week in a holiday cottage, a design for a property alteration, a masterclass at a local distillery or on a similar theme, a bottle of something to enjoy!

There will be an on-going PR programme promoting this event, highlighting exciting items, supporters and the local beneficiaries.

To find out more, offer an auction Lot, or to discuss the potential sponsorship of an experience please contact local Rotary Club Member: Howard Davies on m: 07836 333044, e-mail: howard.m.davies@btinternet.com

If you are community-minded and would like to make a difference locally why not consider joining The Rotary Club of Cirencester www.cirencester-rotary.org.uk

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12/21

Keep up your New Year's resolution and sign up for the Virtual Mad March Hare for 2021



Mad March Hare has launched their 2021 event which will be a virtual event this year. The annual event started in 2008 and has raised over £123,500 for Breast Cancer Now. The event will take place throughout March and participants can sign up and complete the event virtually.

If you are looking for a challenge for 2021 then sign up now.

Event organiser Margaret Nicholson said 'This year will be very different for us but we have been offering virtual runs for the past few years and have always had great support from around the world with people taking part from as far away as Australia. We are looking forward to another fantastic event this March. This year we can reach far more people with their challenge to complete the 5k or 10k distance by walking, jogging or running to raise money for Breast Cancer Now'.

Breast Cancer Now, as with all charities, have been hit by the impact of Covid 19 and the local support of Swindon and national support is needed now more than ever before.

Mad March Hare volunteer Esther Newman said, 'as a past participant of the event, the virtual event is a great way to include more people, challenging people to maintain their fitness. Getting out of the house in the fresh air has never been more important. Not only is it a great way to keep physically active it is also good for our mental health too. I would encourage people to take advantage of our Bubble offer for £60 and sign up as a group of 6 and get the whole family involved. The last year has been difficult for everyone and we hope this year people come out and support us, get dressed up, take the children out and complete the virtual event. Having a goal is always a good motivation to keep active and all participants will receive a finisher medal. Participants can also join our Strava team to upload their evidence.'

Mad March Hare has always been extremely proud of its promise to make sure 100% of your registration fee goes directly to the charity and this year is the same. You can boost the funds raised by asking your family and friends to sponsor you and donate via our JustGiving page, help us make this the best year of fundraising for the Mad March Hare event.

To take part please visit <http://www.madmarchhare.org.uk/>, links to our JustGiving page and the Strava Team are also on this website. Our email is info@madmarchhare.org.uk or call 0845 6808064 if you have any difficulty or would like to speak with a member of the team.

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

Prospect Hospice

Exercise Out to Help Out

If you're glad to see the back of 2020 and looking for ways to make 2021 your year then look no further...

You may have eaten out to help out, now your local hospice is asking you to exercise out to help out. In return, you'll be ticking that New Year's resolution and improving your fitness at the same time as boosting your wellbeing and mental health.

Swim, Cycle, Run, Walk or climb your way into 2021 with this versatile fundraising initiative from Prospect Hospice. The choice is entirely yours!

Don't let that New Year motivation disappear and sign up today. Just contact the hospice's fundraising team at fundraisingandevents@prospect-hospice.net or call 01793 813355.

Join the Prospect Hospice spring raffle and you could win £2,000!

Support Prospect Hospice and help raise vital funds to support end of life care in the local community by taking part in their spring raffle. You could win some fantastic cash prizes, all thanks to the generous people at Imagine Cruising.

First prize £2,000 Second prize £500 Third prize £250

Plus five lucky winners will receive a prize of £50 each.

To enter all you need to do is visit www.prospect-hospice.net/springaffle. Tickets cost just £1 each and with every ticket purchased you will be contributing to the care and support that Prospect Hospice provide to local people living with a life limiting illness. Every pound really does make a difference so, whether you're looking to buy a single ticket or many, thank you for supporting Prospect Hospice in this way.

Entries close on Monday 22 March 2021. For full terms and conditions, please visit www.prospect-hospice.net/springaffle

London Marathon places available

As a fundraising event, nothing can compete with the marathon, with thousands of people taking to the streets and raising money for causes close to their heart. Since its start in 1981 over £1 billion has been raised for good causes.

If 2021 is going to be your year and you're ready to take on this amazing challenge, apply now for one of Prospect's charity places and run for your local hospice.

www.prospect-hospice.net/london-marathon-2021





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