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August 2021



Tony Price BEM
19 May 1932 - 17 June 2021

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Purton Contacts

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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

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 Rachael Wilson Tel: 764330, 34 Wrde Hill, Highworth SN6 5LR

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

Purton. Magazine

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INTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

Probably the most recognisable voice in our village has sadly been stilled with the death of Tony Price. There was never any doubt about who was on the other end of the phone when he called. The combination of his powerful voice and glorious accent will be hugely missed by so many in our community.

Somehow he managed to phrase his phone calls so that you were left with the feeling that you had just received an offer you simply could not refuse. As with seemingly everything that Tony did, what was being offered, encouraged or simply requested was always to the benefit of the village.

As you might well imagine, we have received so many reflections – all of which describe a huge character in many more ways than just the obvious one. Tony selflessly made so many different contributions to so many different aspects of life in our community that he was sometimes referred to as Mr Purton. With all due respects to Tony's relations living in the village, our new normal will have a Price – less hole at the heart of Purton affairs for the coming months.

Age has not been the only contributory factor for the community to lose important people. On page 42 we learn about the very untimely death of two members of staff at St. Mary's Primary school who were both still only in their 30s. It seems doubly unfair that the inspirational services of Sarah Browne and Daniel Collict have been so cruelly ripped out of the heart of our Primary school as well as from their respective families. Losing a relative when so young must be simply horrible.

Books also feature in this issue. There is yet another author living in Purton and her first book, *Bertrand's Brother* has recently been published. On page 50 we learn that Ruth Derham had always wanted to write something and the spark came from a curious little novel written 100 years ago. Then, on page 52 we have two contributions about the same "book I will always remember" from a Grandfather and his Grandson who lent him the book in the first place.

On page 10 there is some good book news on which we can end. Not only is Purton Library open again on Tuesdays between 2.00 and 7.00pm and all fines caused by covid closures are cancelled – but please bring the books back!

4

Excellent tennis courts
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The year Purton Parish
boundaries were first
recorded – see page 32

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Raised by Purton Football
Club from their recent
reunion match
– see page 64



Anthony (Tony) Price BEM, Former Parish Councillor From Chairman of Council Ray Thomas

It was saddening to hear of the death of Tony Price on 17th June. Tony has been a stalwart of this Parish for many years, being a Parish Councillor and Chair of Charity Trustees, he dedicated himself to the welfare of others without thought for himself. I first met Tony when I joined the Council roughly 20 years ago, and was in awe of his authority, knowledge and determination. He had a special place in his heart for the Village Centre, otherwise known as the Red House, his family were involved in its inception, and he was very protective of it both as a War Memorial and a place where all were welcome for the sporting activities on offer. We had our differences, but they were always resolved in an amicable manner, he was always honest and true to his beliefs, but was someone I considered a friend. He bore his illness well, without complaint and when I spoke to him over the last few months his main comment was that he was lucky to have the support of his family, especially Sheila, and he was not in pain.

His contribution to the lives of people within the Parish was immense, Age Concern, Parish Council, Trustee, to name a few he will be deeply missed, and I doubt we will see his like again. The Parish has lost a gentleman, a true defender of the people and someone who was not afraid to defend his principals whatever the personal cost. I will miss his presence as I am sure many others will. Rest in Peace Tony.

Council Meetings

The Council does not meet during August and has delegated powers to make decisions on compulsory mandatory items. Full meetings resume in September. The office remains open should you have any questions or queries.

Cemetery Works

Thank you to those residents who tried to locate owners of graves where no contacts were available. We will be working on sinking the headstones in line with H&S and regulations from 12th July onwards. Any questions or queries please contact the Clerk directly.

Planning Applications - Permission Granted

- 20/11573/VAR Dugemoor Farm, Hayes Knoll, Purton Stoke SN5 4JT. Variation of condition 3 of 17/12519/FUL in relation to the construction of Barn A.
- 21/01180/FUL Field East of Braydon Manor Farm, Braydon. Erection of general purpose agricultural building with new access off the highway to access the new Barn.
- PL/2021/04097 Tara House, 5 Station Road, Purton SN5 4AQ. Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation: Fell 1 Yew Tree.

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email: marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk
Tel Mary: 01793 772298,
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21/01675/TCA The Garden Cottage, Church Path, Purton SN5 4DR. Fell 1 Conifer (T1), 1 Cherry (T2), 1 Rowan (T3) and 1 Beech Tree (T4).

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

Freedom of information request - road closures

EIR 202100303 DS C70 Hayes Knoll Junction and Lower Pavenhill Junction

As a freedom of information request I have now received the following information. Given this information will you [Wiltshire Council/Purton Parish Council] now be in a position to justify the reason for this road closure?

The costs quoted do not include repair to the barriers or subsequent strengthening that appears to be carried out on a regular basis.

Other elements of society, riding scooters and motorbikes appear to be able to circumnavigate the obstruction.

P Wilson, Bentham Lane

Environmental Information Regulations Request Case ID 202100303

Thank you for your request for information received on 24 May 2021, in which you asked for the following information:

The C70 Hayes Knoll junction at the Tadpole Lane, B4553, Packhorse crossroads is currently closed to traffic. A reason given by the council is that people have complained about the danger of this intersection.

The following was requested:

- The number of statements, in any form, written, digital or verbal recorded by the council stating or suggesting that the aforementioned junction is dangerous within the last ten years.
- The number of traffic accidents recorded within 20m of this junction within the last ten years. The total number of human injuries or fatalities within 20m of this junction within the last ten years.
- Traffic flow volumes for weekdays, with particular emphasis on rush hour traffic numbers. Assuming this is available for any week in the year ending December 2019 or prior.
- The cost to the council of any of these events – if any.

-
- The cost of the temporary road closure barriers over the life of the existing experimental closure.
 - The expected cost of a future permanent barrier should one be required.
 - I would also like to request the same information for the junction of the B4696 Braydon rd with the Lower Pavenhill junction West of Purton.

Under the Environmental Information regulations 2004 (EIR) the Council is obliged to make environmental information, that it holds, available on request.

In response to my request:

I can confirm that following searches of the environmental information held by the council, it does hold the information you requested. The requested information is below.

- We have found seven records regarding accidents, incidents and confusion relating to the junction, but only one of these records specifically mentions the junction being “dangerous”.
- Eight injury collisions listed. All classed as slight severity, no fatalities.
- Traffic flow volumes for weekdays, with particular emphasis on rush hour traffic numbers. Assuming this is available for any week in the year ending December 2019 or prior. The cost to the council of any of these events – if any.
- Cost of vehicle count = £700
- The cost of the temporary road closure barriers over the life of the existing experimental closure. The latest overall cost of the installation is £6,505
- The expected cost of a future permanent barrier should one be required. This information is not held because an estimate for a permanent solution has not been prepared.
- I would also like to request the same information for the junction of the B4696 Braydon rd with the Lower Pavenhill junction West of Purton. 13 injury collisions listed. Three serious, 10 slight, no fatalities.
- No other information available as this junction has not been requested for further investigation as a location of concern by the CATG.

Purton Library

Your library re-opened on Tuesday 13th July!

Currently only open on Tuesdays from 2pm-7pm, owing to lack of volunteers.

There will be a plastic screen on reception, a new book exchange computer, hand sanitiser, masks and open windows. ALL FINES CAUSED BY COVID CLOSURES ARE CANCELLED JUST BRING THE BOOKS BACK!

Hope to see you all again!

Jill Watts, Library volunteer, 01 793 770437

Purchases

Many thanks to Purton Parish Council for a Grant of £1248 towards the higher chairs with arms for each of the consulting rooms, this means that we will be able to make an earlier purchase.

200+ Club – a message from our Chair

Thank you so much to all of you who have signed up for the 200+ Club. It's wonderful to see how many of you are joining, but we still need more.

To those of you who have signed and paid or chosen to do standing orders – thank you. To those of you who have taken forms, we look forward to receiving them back at your earliest convenience.

Marietta Crockford, PPG Chair

Please note – if you would like someone to pick up your form, then phone 07909 510826 or 770371.

Dates

Saturday 25 September, PPG Table top Sale in Purton Surgery Car Park, see page 26

National Patient Survey

The results of a Patient Survey across all GP surgeries in the country have shown that Purton and Green Gable ranks among the highest and at the top in our area. We all know how good our surgery is, it's good to see it recognised.

Donations for the PPG

Thank you very much to those who have donated to our PPG funds – if you would like to make a donation 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'.

As always, your support for our work to both inform and support patients 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 Profferings

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

- Each month copies of Country Living, People's Weekly and other magazines are recycled. If you would like to see them they can be made covid safe before reading. Contact Joan: 07984 550920

Our Tony



This article is going to be all about Tony, our President and our friend who sadly passed away on the 17th June. I have been given permission to use the wording, as it was used in church on Wednesday 7th July, which was the day of the funeral, so it's for all those people that wanted to be there, but couldn't be for whatever reason. So thanks to the family and Judith, our Curate.

Judith: Today is Trip Wednesday. Let me explain for those who don't know.

The GWR used to have an unpaid holiday for its workers to the seaside for over a hundred years which always took place on the first or second week in July.

There's no train to take us now, nor a coach either, but when cousin Richard could travel to Weymouth, he'd take the route their coach used to take, including to all the stop off points.

Tony always enjoyed this trip, so it's just fitting that his final journey is on Trip Wednesday.

We're here to celebrate the life of Tony Holbrook Price. We're going to remember what Tony meant to us as a relation and friend and to ask for God's help at this sad time.

Kevin and David:

Memories of Dad.

Dad was born on the 19th of May 1932, at The Peak, Purton to Mervyn and Dorothy. His brother was Godfrey. He attended St Marys School in Purton.

He did his National Service at Aldershot, spending his weekends helping out on Uncle Arthur and Auntie Gertie's farm in Bracknell. He learnt to drive during his National Service.

He worked in the Railways Works in Swindon and then in the Pressed Steel Factory.

The majority of his holidays were spent at Paignton, staying with his friend Derek, his friend from work, who moved down there to run a B&B.

On holiday we used to rent a beach hut at Preston Sands Paignton, playing cricket with just about everyone who had beach huts taking part, and it was organised, of course, by Dad!

There were days out to Weymouth and other destinations, with Bob and Pat Unit and their family. Memorable breakfasts were cooked on a little camping stove on the way there.

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Dad liked his horse and greyhound racing. He owned a Greyhound called Fred; but his racing name was Niloc Boy. Fred used to race at Poole, so that was a trip for us all, leaving on a Saturday afternoon to watch him race. Fred lived at home in Station Road when he retired.

We think Dad's love of Dartmoor started when on holiday in Paignton, when Derek used to take us out there and showed us sights which were off the beaten track. He later enjoyed taking holidays and walking on Dartmoor with Sheila.

They then used to go further afield, being chauffeured by Cousin Richard to Yorkshire, Llandudno and Whitby, which tested Tony's map reading skills, especially when sleeping!

Dad also enjoyed trips to Cornwall with Kevin, Sally and Morgan, telling them the way to go, which took them over Dartmoor, stopping at the East Dart Hotel, Postbridge for lunch and then on to Cornwall. Maps weren't included on these trips, so that he couldn't plan where to go once we got to Cornwall.

He loved his sport, especially football. He played for Purton Youth Team, which were called the Tanner Boys, because they paid sixpence for expenses and their kit to be washed. They played on a pitch off Collins Lane.

He also liked darts and played for The Hope and possibly the Workman's Club and The Angel.

Dad enjoyed going to The Hope, which had a lot of village characters.

He loved playing cards and having a singsong and he always said old Ma Shurry kept a strict watch on them, making sure things never got out of hand.

We're sure there's a big reunion going on with them all now...

Tony's always been involved in village life. Taking part in the carnival first, whether on foot or a float, which he helped to make. He began with the Greyhound and later on with Age Concern.

Whilst taking part in one carnival, Dad along with Cousin Richard, dressed up as monks and called themselves the slimming monks. All was well until one of them fell into a hedge after they had a little bit to drink.

Dad also helped to organise bonfire nights in The Peak, which were done in his Mum and Dad's Garden one year and Graham Miles the next. He then helped Ray Matthews with bonfire nights and other celebration bonfires in Ray's field off Station Road.

Apart from Age Concern he was on the committee of the Workmen's Club, the Purton and District Darts League and the Parish Council.

It sounds as if Dad was just a man of leisure, but there was another side to him, he was hard working, along with his work in Pressed Steel.

He was a football pools collector in the village and at Pressed Steel, and later progressed to be a main agent for the area.

He also carried out a lot of work in his home in Station Road, modernising it.

But if he had any spare time, especially at Christmas, it was charity work he was involved in.

At Pressed Steel they used to gather Christmas presents for children's homes in Wiltshire, which were connected to the Red Gables children's home in Purton.

The house was full of boxes of toys/games etc, which all required wrapping before being delivered to Trowbridge, Melksham, Calne and Box to name a few, so plenty of trips out.

Dad also helped Kevin and Sally to landscape the garden when they brought their house. He had a gift for this.

Even though he loved going on holidays and day trips out – which had to be in the UK, he always looked forward to coming home to Purton.

He was very proud of his country, although he did venture to France to see the war graves, he hated the local cuisine probably because they never sold 3Bs over there.

There was another trip which was even further from Purton than France which was when Dad and Sheila visited David and Kim in Aberdeen, where the local cuisine suited him better. No matter where he went, he was happiest when at home in Purton.

He was a big believer in families and proud of all his family, new and old.

He was the main organiser of the regular Price family gathering, instead of meeting up at only baptisms, weddings and funerals.

He enjoyed the cousins' nights out, touring all the pubs in Purton, when there were a lot more of them then. The nights were always enjoyable with plenty of laughter and the odd practical joke and leg pulling being played.

One night you won't know about, was the one when he put a For Sale sign in Percy Griffin's front garden.

The following morning when he and Dad were on the way to church together, Perce said to him,

“You seen what those young so and sos done last night?”

Dad said, “What was that Perce?”

“They only went and put a For Sale sign in my garden – people know I don't want to move from here!”

Dad said nothing. And Perce never knew who it was!

So, this is the confession to one of our night's out.

When the cousins couldn't manage the pub tour of Purton, Dad organised the family get-together. We used to meet at the Red House Club for a drink and back to Dad and Sheila's for a bite to eat.

On one occasion, Dad went back a bit earlier than some of us. When we got there,

Dad was sitting in his chair, looking green, with a tea towel on his chest. Sheila walked in with a bucket. So, he had the nickname of the bucket man for a while. Thanks Ian, for buying that last pint for Dad.

To sum it up Dad was a proper Purtonian who was passionate about the village and his family. He was a regular church goer from an early age and had a strong faith. And he enjoyed life to the full.

TONY by Sheila. My tribute.

Tony married Sheila in 1987 and he acquired two grown up children, Philip and Louise, and eventually went on to have nine grandchildren – Morgan, Christine, Robert, Stanley, Catherine, Lily, Josie, Maggie and Llewyn.

He was a loving husband, father, stepfather and grandfather who got such pleasure from his family and was very proud of them all but especially his two sons David and Kevin. Morgan was really the special grandchild because she was Kevin's daughter. Tony treated all the grandchildren the same and never differentiated between them, but he was so pleased when Kevin met Sally and got married, and when Morgan was born it was the icing on the cake.

He was also so pleased that David met Kim and it was a comfort to know that throughout Covid and the lockdown, they had each other in Aberdeen when David was separated from Purton and Kim from her family in Wales.

Tony also loved his Price cousins and enjoyed their company, organising (always a bit bossy and very much in charge) Prices' get-togethers for meals and a day in his beloved garden, cousins' nights out and latterly Prices' tours (please ask a Price for details!).

He was involved in so many things in the village including the Parish Council, but his great love was Purton Age Concern where he was chairman for more than forty years, taking it from a small committee to an organisation with street wardens covering the whole village and two minibuses for the elderly with a large team of volunteer drivers. Tony had a gift for getting people to volunteer and to give the organisation support and things it needed – a gift he must have been born with! Also, his bossiness came in useful here. For his work with Purton Age Concern, he was awarded the BEM in 1993 but always said that it wasn't his medal it was all about Purton's Age Concern.

Typical of him – he had no idea of how highly he was thought of in Purton and beyond.

The family wishes he could see all the tributes in the many, many cards and letters they've received. He just wouldn't believe it. He was a good and loyal friend with strong views and beliefs – always telling it like it was and he wasn't afraid to tell people what he thought, even if they didn't like it.

One comment from the tributes the family have received, typical of many was – “He acted with persistence, integrity and kindness, always with a sense of fun, friendship

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and humour – we will miss his presence, but continue to be enriched by his legacy and his example”. The family felt that they had a celebrity in their midst and perhaps they should have treated him with a bit more respect! There have been lots of tears and laughter when they have read the letters and cards, and these have helped enormously with the loss of such a lovely and special man. Tony loved his family, his friends and all the people he knew in Purton and most of all he loved Purton and never wanted to live anywhere else!

Judith: What more can I say as a mere observer about Tony?

Tony is a legend in this village, and he was someone I went to for information because of his living here for so long and his knowledge about the village and its people.

He was often seen as a Gentle Giant – a charismatic organiser. To some he was known as Mr Purton.

Many years ago, Tony was an altar boy with Canon Willis at the early daily Holy Communion service here, before he went on to school.

These two were the only ones at this service which took place come sun, rain or snow. Tony said that sometimes a coffin would be like lying in church overnight.

He didn't enjoy school all that much, the school garden and looking after the chickens were his strong point.

Later he married Myrtle, a marriage that was unfortunately unsuccessful, but Tony always said to me that they had two fantastic sons of whom he was enormously proud.

He and Sheila made an exquisite garden at their home in Church Path full of flowers, shrubs and vegetables and enjoyed watching all the birds in it from their windows.

Tony, however, was definitely a man of principle.

Just one example is when Cadbury's was bought out by Kraft Foods.

They promised to preserve all the jobs at the Fry's factory at Keynsham. Tony was furious when they went back on their word and sold out to Taylor Wimpey for development of the land and the machinery was shipped to Poland. He never ate any Cadbury's chocolate again.

These principles however, were a blessing for Purton.

He spent hours campaigning for the rebuilding of The Cedars Care Home and when it looked in doubt he even involved the Press.

He was totally trustworthy and was as straight as a die.

He always said what he thought, even though that might mean he had a few run-ins with the Parish Council, and he spoke up for what he believed in; he always considered what was best for the village.

For countless years he enjoyed tidying the Cenotaph garden and made sure the road was closed for the Remembrance Day Service.

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And he enjoyed years of fund-raising for Purton Age Concern with his reliable team and Sheila always backing him up too. He was also extraordinarily generous to people and charities in so many ways, many of which I'm sworn to secrecy.

Tony had a wonderful sense of humour and always a twinkle in his eye for whoever came to care for him.

He and Sheila are so appreciative for all who helped him while he was ill, from people from all over the village, with shopping, cooking, running errands, fixing things around the house, nursing and caring for him in so many ways – particularly Cousin Heather who was alongside Sheila in Tony's final times.

The family are so grateful for the wonderful care from the nurses and carers from the Malmesbury Community Team, the Prospect Hospice, and the team of doctors from our surgery.

At the end of his life, he knew he was going to meet his Lord and Saviour and was ready to go to Heaven.

At long last Tony, may you rest in God's heavenly peace, AMEN.

Purton and District Age Concern is part of Tony's legacy and it is up to us to try and maintain his high standards where and when they are required. He will be sorely missed by everybody who knew and worked with him.

God bless you Tony, for you being you.

Peter Berry, Chairman

Memories of Tony Price

Tony Price left his indelible mark on life in Purton over so many years. Here are just a few memories of his generosity, thoughtfulness and persuasive powers.

Howard Smith tells us that Tony Price's trailer is a symbol of Tony's long standing generosity towards the Scout Group. For the last 20+ years (pre-COVID) his trailer has been used to transport signs and fencing stakes to, from, and around Lydiard Park for the Scouts' Firework display. He would not even let the Scouts pay for a new tyre when one failed under a heavy load in Hook Street after a gruelling weekend.

Back in 2000, Tony was helping to organise the "Millennium Parade" through the village to showcase all the village organisations. One of Tony's friendly phone calls arrived a few days beforehand saying "Howard, I am looking to you to get the parade off on time from Highridge Close. You will be there to do it, won't you?" "Er, yes" was my reply "The Scout Group is taking part." "Good, that's another thing sorted. Start off at 2:00 p.m. please." he replied. His ability to recruit volunteers meant few refused to help him whenever they could.

Over many years before his death in 2020, John Papworth regularly used to claim that Tony Price was keeping him alive because John was worried what Tony might say

in his legendary obituaries in the magazine.

David Bisset remembers that when he was Chairman and President of Purton cricket club, Tony was always a regular supporter and generous with an annual donation.

Wilshire Councillor Jacqui Lay recalls that Tony was always larger than life at council meetings and although usually from a different political persuasion, Tony always supported Jacqui's work.

Godfrey Fowler says that Tony was a definite 'one off' Purtonian. "I am not even sure whether he was born in the village but in so many ways he certainly made huge and memorable contributions to the life and quality of our community."

Tony's valued contributions to the debates and work of the Parish Council were already well established when I joined the Council and continued during my chairmanship and beyond. His detailed knowledge of Purton families and past village history and events were not only useful but also well utilised in the obituaries and articles he used to provide for Purton Magazine; his sterling work as Chair of the Trustees of the Village Charities helped to ensure that the correct balance (management and financial) was maintained between the Council and the Charity Trustees.

A friend to so many; his passing leaves a large and possibly unfillable gap in our community – his name and work will be long remembered.

Purton Age Concern Minibus

The monthly shopping trip to Cirencester subject to Covid restrictions has started. Anyone wanting to join the shopping trip should have had both their jabs (unless there is a proper medical reason for not having them) and also wear a mask. Hand gel will be provided on entering the bus.



The next two trips to Cirencester will be on Friday July 30th and Friday August 27th; you can also be dropped off and picked up from Dobbies Garden Centre. Pick up around the village from 9am. We usually aim to return from Cirencester at about 12ish. The suggested donation for this trip is £4. The trip on July 30th is already over subscribed. If you are interested in either the Friday before or the one after please get in contact with me. We park fairly centrally just by the Police station with a short walk to either of the main streets.

There may also be some extra shopping trips to new places over the next couple of months, if you would like to come then please phone me- an early call avoids disappointment.

Please don't forget the bus is available for surgery visits.

Take care and stay safe, Hazel Woodbridge, Minibus Co-ordinator

Ed: In a vibrant village such as ours, change is inevitable and often to the benefit of the community. However, changes rarely happen in an orderly fashion and several steps can be made between one magazine copy date and the next copy date. True to our principles, we aim to publish every contribution that we receive. The downsides are that facts and circumstances change after some submissions have been received. What follows are four articles about the changes being planned for the Silver Threads hall, the Luncheon Club and the Pips Community Café. When you have read them all you will doubtless appreciate how reactions to certain positions cannot reflect any changes in the later announcements.

Purton and District Luncheon Club

It is with great sadness that I have to announce that the Purton Luncheon Club will not be able to reopen in the future. The lease for the Silver Threads hall has been given to Pips Café making it impossible for us to operate there anymore.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful volunteers who have devoted so much of their time over the many years we have been open and all the diners who have supported us. I for one will miss all the laughter and joy we all shared on luncheon club days.

Take care of yourselves, Pat Suddaby

Silver Threads changes

The WRVS handed over the Silver Threads hall with the understanding it would continue to provide meals for the elderly. This has been done for forty years now. The Silver Threads committee decided in June 2021 that as there was no income coming in they would let Pips move from their premises at the back of the Workmen's Club to the Silver Threads hall Monday to Friday although there was a standing hiring Tuesday and Thursday by the Lunch Club. Now anyone with any idea of Health and Safety will know you cannot have a café and Lunch Club running at the same time using one hall and kitchen.

There seems to have been no compromise so Lunch Club lost out. I took the monies at Lunch Club and saw the mini bus drivers cheerfully in all weathers take the members door to door. When it was someone's Birthday we all sang Happy Birthday, men and women like myself who live alone and so eat alone enjoyed a good cooked meal with meat from Andrew's, fresh veg, a lovely pudding and tea or coffee all for £4.50 with company to eat it with.

Christmas we had a free lunch and the Silver Thread members were invited. We had a roast dinner, Christmas Pudding cheese board, mince pies and wine as good as any restaurant.

The red post box in the corner everyone placed their Christmas Cards which were taken round the tables so anyone who might not get a card normally was sure to receive one.

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All this has now been lost and the hall was called The Silver Threads meaning the elderly as well.

Pat Suddaby and her crew did a marvellous job as did the ones before her, thanks also to the minibus drivers and I shall miss seeing the people I used to meet.

Joan Garlick

Exciting news from Silver Threads and Pips!

Following the request for help from the Silver Threads Committee in the June magazine, Pips, Purton's Community Café, approached the Committee to discuss whether moving Pips from The Purton Club Function Room to Silver Threads Hall might provide part of the solution. This move has now been agreed and it is hoped to make the move sometime in August/September. Keep an eye on Pips' Facebook page for news.



The Silver Threads Hall will still be available to hire in the evenings and at weekends (Pips will continue to open on the Saturdays when the Hall is not hired out), and existing daytime users such as Coffee and Chat, Knitting Club and Art Groups will now meet in the Pips Café. It is anticipated that, in its new location nearer the schools, Pips Café will attract more customers at school drop off and pickup times and, in its central location, more villagers with reduced mobility will be able to visit the café for a coffee and a bite to eat during the day.

Many of you will be concerned about how this change will affect the Purton and District Luncheon Club which has been providing hot meals for the elderly in the village since at least the 1990s. We have been in discussions with the Luncheon Club and the outcome is that Pips will be continuing meals on a Tuesday and Thursday for senior citizens as soon as Covid restrictions allow, probably from September. Many will have missed attending this Club during the pandemic, both the tasty hot meal and the good company it provides, and we thank all those who have worked so hard and with such dedication over the years to create and sustain it. We look forward to welcoming back all the members of Luncheon Club and we hope many of the existing volunteers will want to continue to help Pips provide this service.

Pips will continue to provide its menu of hot and cold drinks, simple meals, cake and snacks in its new home and yes, we will be taking the coffee machine with us! We want to thank The Purton Club for hosting us for the last three years. Without their generosity Pips Café would not have been possible.

As regards Silver Threads Club, we may well meet once a month in future at Pips for a social gathering but obviously this still depends upon social distancing and any current Covid regulations.

Lindsey Hall (Silver Threads) and Dave Nettleton (Pips)

The future of Luncheon Club

There has been a great deal of misunderstanding in the village about the future of Luncheon Club as Pips moves to Silver Threads, details of the move are set out in a previous article. Pips has always been determined that the Luncheon Club should continue. We met Pat Suddaby of The Purton and District Luncheon Club to explore how this could be achieved, and we offered to not open the Café until after lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays if necessary, so that Luncheon Club would have the kitchen to themselves and continue as before. We regret that Pat felt that it was impossible for the Luncheon Club to operate if Pips is using Silver Threads. But we remain committed to the continuation of a Luncheon Club, which we see as a core purpose of the Silver Threads Hall going right back to the days of the WRVS, and we are planning to reopen the Club again as soon as possible once our move is completed.

So, we have recruited a new volunteer, Louise Cordas, to run the Luncheon Club going forward. Her aim is to provide a hot meal for all members of the Luncheon Club each Tuesday and Thursday as before. The cost will be the same too. We will let Luncheon Club members know when as soon as the date for the first hot meal is set. If you have been a helper at Luncheon Club and would like to continue as a volunteer (or you would like to become a volunteer) for this important service for Purton's more elderly villagers, please contact Louise on 07495 008484.

Dave and Mary Nettleton for Pips Community Café

Pop up table top trail

We are organising another Pop-Up Table Top Trail around the village on Saturday September 25. Please let us know if you would like to join in.

The idea is that you sell anything you want, outside your house, or in your garage or garden. In exchange for a £10 fee, to St Mary's West Tower fund, we shall publicise your table for you, where it is and the sort of things you are selling. Should be a fun day out in Purton!

There will be posters around the village from mid August and then, a week before the event, we will publish a list of all the tables, using social media, so that people can walk from one table to another.

Please do join in... last year there were about 12 tables... it would be great to have even more this time. You can sell clothes, toys, cakes, homemade sweets... whatever you want, on your 'pop-up' table. I shall be selling curtains, a chair, pens, crockery, stationary, books... all sorts of bric-a-brac... and possibly cake too!

And all the money raised at my table will go to St Mary's West Tower Fund.

Please contact Libbie if you want to join in or want to know more. Tel: 771018
email: libbie@sheppard.org

Ten Years Ago...

It seems customary for this column to commence with a sideways look at the Purton Magazine editorial. However, in August 2011 one's eye was immediately taken by the front cover. Purton Artists had donated twelve paintings for this and the first appears with this article. It is entitled "Summer Seagulls" (not my favourite bird) by Jill Winson.



Purton Gardeners at their monthly meeting were given a talk on the treatment of soil. It included the remarkable statement that "a handful of soil contains more life forms than the seven billion human population of the entire planet". The Editors have three small boxes on the first page highlighting statistics in the magazine, but they did not include this – probably didn't have enough space for all the naughts!

The Museum Exhibit of the Month was a summons. Maybe a strange thing for anyone to keep but fascinating for the language used. To quote: "...that you on the twenty-fifth day of October 1940, at the parish of Purton in the county of Wilts, did unlawfully permit a light to be displayed inside a certain dwellinghouse there situate... during the hours of darkness, to wit at 8.15 p.m.". The ARP warden in Dads' Army doesn't speak like that!

Purton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, as always, were active. Everything from a Canadian canoeing taster session, making shelters for 2 cm tall dolls, and going to Exeter for pizza-making and ferret racing to an American-themed teddy bears' picnic. If only I weren't an ancient male, I could enjoy all that!

And, as if Purton didn't have enough excitement, the Historical Society was proposing an astronomical trip to Hawaii.

Val Jackson – Celebrating 50 Years of Hairdressing in Purton

On the 1st of August 2021 I will have been hairdressing in our lovely village for 50 years.

I started out as an apprentice at 'Nicolas Antony', who was situated on The Parade. While I was there, I first met some of my longest serving customers including Jenny Barnes, Pat Brett and Joan Hawksworth who are still with me after so many years. It was Joan who, whilst I was at college, would act as my model for competitions and the fact that she is still with me, makes me think she REALLY did forgive me for some of my "creations".

I would like to thank all my customers, both old and new, for coming with me on this incredible journey and for their continued custom and support.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



As the Silver Threads Hall prepares to open up for business again following the lockdown, the Gardeners' Guild committee has considered our options for the club and after some deliberation we have made the decision to delay the start of our regular monthly meetings until 2022.

There are several reasons for this. As Covid took hold, we gradually cancelled our scheduled speakers for 2020, managing to re-book several for the following year. However, these too were cancelled as the virus continued to impact further on our lives.

Several speakers I've contacted recently are re-assessing their working practices and some are now only offering Zoom bookings. Aside from the speakers and all things garden related, there is an active social element to our regular meetings which we feel would not translate to Zoom in the normal way.

Social distancing, hand sanitising and the sanitising of door handles etc. at the end of each meeting are all pre requisites.

We have therefore decided to forgo the September, October and November meetings and look forward to a new start in 2022 all being well. Watch this space.

In the meantime if you're looking for some garden inspiration, I have received the following information from Tricia Duncan who is the Publicity & Booklet Co-ordinator, Wiltshire National Garden Scheme. She details a wonderful range of gardens for members to enjoy in August and September that may just fit the bill.

Enjoy your gardening.

Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)

August

Sunday 1st - Duck Pond Barn

Church Lane, Wingfield, Trowbridge, BA14 9LW. Janet & Marc Berlin, 01225 777764, janet@berlinfamily.co.uk.

On B3109 from Frome to Bradford on Avon, turn opposite Poplars PH into Church Lane. Duck Pond Barn is at the end of the lane. Big field for parking.

Sun 1 Aug (10am-6pm). Admission £5, children free. Visits also by arrangement May to August. Garden of 1.6 acres with large duck pond, lawns, ericaceous beds, orchard, vegetable garden, big greenhouse, spinney and wild area of grass and trees with many wildflowers. Large dry stone wall topped with flower beds with rose arbour. 3 ponds linked by a rill in the flower garden and large pergola in the orchard. Set in farmland and mainly flat.

Sunday 15th - Broadleas House Gardens

Devizes, SN10 5JQ. Mr & Mrs Cardiff, 07584 119362, robwaller76@gmail.com.

1m S of Devizes. Turn L from Hartmoor Road onto Broadleas Park. Follow the road

until you reach a grassed area on R with red brick wall, stone pillars, grey gates, cattle grid. That is the entrance. Sun 15 Aug (2pm-5pm). Admission £7, children free. Home-made teas. .

6 acre garden of hedges, perennial borders, walled rose garden, secret garden, bee garden and orchard stuffed with good plants. Well stocked kitchen and herb garden. Mature collection of specimen trees include oaks, magnolia, handkerchief, redwood, dogwood. Overlooked by the house and arranged above the valley garden crowded with magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas, cornus, hydrangeas etc. Wheelchair access to upper garden only, some gravel and narrow grass paths.

Gasper Cottage

Gasper Street, Gasper Stourton, Warminster, BA12 6PY. Bella Hoare & Johnnie Gallop, bella.hoare@icloud.com.

Near Stourhead Gardens, 4m from Mere, off A303. Turn off A303 at B3092 Mere. Follow Stourhead signs. Go through Stourton. After 1m, turn R after the phone box, signed Gasper. House 2nd on R going uphill. Parking past house on L, in field. Sun 15 Aug (11am-5pm). Admission £5, children free. .

1½ acre garden, with views to glorious countryside. Luxurious planting of dahlias, grasses, asters, cardoons and more, including new perennial planting. Orchard with wildlife pond. Artist studio surrounded by colour balanced planting with a formal pond. Pergola with herb terrace. Several seating areas. Garden model railway. Partial wheelchair access.

Sunday 22nd - The Old Mill

Ramsbury, SN8 2PN. Annabel & James Dallas. 8m NE of Marlborough. From Marlborough head to Ramsbury. At The Bell PH follow sign to Hungerford. Garden behind yew hedge on R 100yds beyond The Bell. Sun 22 Aug (1.30pm-5pm). Admission £6, children free. Tea.

The River Kennet runs through this garden with a millrace, a millstream and small channels to walk across and watch the reflections in. The planting is relaxed and colourful near the house and gets more naturalistic further out into the meadows beyond. Gravel and grass paths wind through controlled wilder areas with seating for visitors. There is a more formal and productive kitchen garden. Partial wheelchair access as gravel paths and bridges and very soft ground in places.

September

Sunday 5th - Horatio's Garden

Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre, Salisbury Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Odstock Road, Salisbury, SP2 8BJ. Horatio's Garden Charity, www.horatiosgarden.org.uk.

1m from the centre of Salisbury. Follow signs for Salisbury District Hospital. Please park in car park 10 (which will be free to NGS visitors on the day). Sun 5 Sept (2pm-5pm). Admission £5, children free. Pre-booking is essential with 30 tickets per

hourly arrival slot (2pm, 3pm and 4pm). <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/30781>. Tea and delicious cakes - made by Horatio's Garden volunteers - will be served in the Garden Room.

Award winning hospital garden, opened in September 2012 and designed by Cleve West for patients with spinal cord injury at the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre. Built from donations given in memory of Horatio Chapple who was a volunteer at the centre in his school holidays. Low limestone walls, which represent the form of the spine, divide densely planted herbaceous beds. Everything in the garden is designed to benefit patients during their long stays in hospital. Garden is run by the Head Gardener and a team of volunteers. South West Regional Winner, The English Garden's The Nation's Favourite Gardens 2019. Designer Cleve West has 8 RHS gold medals. 3 p.m. – short talk about therapeutic gardens and the work of Horatio's Garden, Salisbury.

Thursday 9th - Pythouse Kitchen Garden

West Hatch, Tisbury, SP3 6PA. Mr Piers Milburn, 01747 870444, info@pythousekitchengarden.co.uk, www.pythousekitchengarden.co.uk.

A350 S of E Knoyle, follow brown signs to Walled Garden approx 3m. From Tisbury take Newtown road past church, stay on it 2½m, garden on R. Check map on www.pythousekitchengarden.co.uk.

(10am-3.30pm). Admission £5, children free. Light refreshments. If hoping to have lunch in the restaurant, pre-booking required on www.pythousekitchengarden.co.uk.

Acres of working kitchen garden, in largely continuous use since C18, with fruit-lined walls and gnarled apple trees leading down to an orchard via ravishing, rosa rugosa-edged, beds of flowers, soft fruit, vegetables and beehives. A restaurant now occupies the old potting shed and conservatory, with terraces for tea on open days. Abundant herbs, kiwis and apricots, as well as the deliciously scented 1920s HT rose, Mrs Oakley Fisher, growing by the kitchen door. Restaurant opens 10am for delicious home-made food at coffee, lunch and teatime, served both inside and out on the terrace, open until 4pm. Grass paths across slope.

Sunday 12th - New Cortington Manor

Corton, Warminster, BA12 0SY. Mr & Mrs Simon Berry.

5m S of Warminster. From Warminster, take rd thro Sutton Veny to Corton. Do not bear L into Corton but continue for ½m. From A303, take A36, L to Boyton, cross railway and R at T jct. Continue for ¾m. Sun 12 Sept (2pm-5pm). Admission £7, children free. Home-made teas. Acres of wild and formal gardens surround the rose clad C18 manor house. Herbaceous border, yew bays with Portuguese laurel line main lawn. Bank of white roses and foxgloves edges the swimming pool. Sweet pea arch opens to cutting garden, veg garden and orchard divided by yew hedges. Lime avenue leads to a river and pond from a walled herb garden. Stable yard features pleached hornbeams and beech hedges.

Southview

Wick Lane, Devizes, SN10 5DR. Teresa Garraud, 01380 722936, tl.garraud@hotmail.co.uk.

From Devizes Mkt Pl go S (Long St). At the roundabout go straight over, at the mini roundabout turn Left into Wick Lane. Continue to end of Wick Lane. End of terrace on L. Park in road or roads nearby. (2pm-5pm). Admission £4, children free. Visits also by arrangement May to Sept for groups of up to 20.

An atmospheric and very long town garden, full of wonderful planting surprises at every turn. Densely planted with both pots near the house and large borders further up, it houses a collection of beautiful and often unusual plants, shrubs and trees, many with striking foliage. Colour from seasonal flowers is interwoven with this textural tapestry. 'Truly inspirational' is often heard from visitors.

Wednesday 15th - Hazelbury Manor Gardens

Wadswick, Box, Corsham, SN13 8HX. Mr L Lacroix.

5m SW of Chippenham, 5m NE of Bath. From A4 at Box, A365 to Melksham, at Five Ways junction L onto B3109 towards Corsham; 1st L in 1/4m, drive immed on R. (10am-4pm). Admission £5, children free. Home-made teas.

The C15 Manor house comes into view as you descend along the drive and into the Grade II landscaped Edwardian gardens. The extensive plantings that surround the house are undergoing considerable redevelopment by the owners and their head gardener. A wide range of organic horticulture is practiced in 8 acres of relaxed yet playful gardens. Regretfully, very little wheelchair access.

Saturday 18th/Sunday 19th - New Julia's House Children's Hospice

Bath Road, Devizes, SN10 2AT. Nicky Clack. Situated just off A361 Bath Road in Devizes. Please note there is no parking available at the hospice. We kindly ask visitors to use the nearby Station Road car park. For SatNav use SN10 1BZ. (10am-3.30pm). Admission £3, children free. Proceeds from refreshments and plant sale to Julia's House.

Julia's House Children's Hospice provides respite care for children with life threatening or limiting conditions. Our garden has been designed so the children can experience and enjoy different sensory elements and is cared for by our volunteer gardeners. Explore how our children use the garden. Hospice tours may be available.

Some of our gardens require booking, but at all times please check out the web site before leaving for your visit, to make sure the details have not changed due to any circumstances. www.ngs.org.uk/wiltshire is the easiest route to all the Wiltshire gardens.

Tricia Duncan, Wiltshire National Garden Scheme 01672 810443
Facebook @WiltshireNGS. Instagram @wiltshirengs <https://ngs.org.uk/wiltshire>

Gardeners' Guild has sadly lost one of it's longest serving members and much-loved characters

Tony Price was a great supporter of ours, regularly attending meetings and always entering our annual mini-show. He would sit at the back with Sheila, often contributing a witty comment during a talk, which would have us all laughing. He was always more than happy to do the vote of thanks, not an easy thing to do, and I know he was very appreciative of the work done by the committee. We all send our love to Sheila and her family. He will be sadly missed.

Moira White (Chair)

Purton Historical Society

The Vill of Purton - 25th June 2021



Joseph Wright led a group of members and non-members around a three mile section of the boundary of Purton Parish starting at Mouldon Hill. Joe had produced a booklet showing how the boundaries of the Parish have changed since the first records began in 795 AD to the present day. We stopped at various places en route where Joe explained how the boundary followed parts of the River Ray and where it followed parts where the river had been diverted for the construction of the canal and the railway line. Explanations were given of how various place names were derived. The original sites of Sparcell's Farm and Ridgeway Mill were visited and parts of original field hedge boundaries that still survive were pointed out. All in all, it was a very interesting and entertaining evening, learning so much of the history of the area that is so familiar to most members of the group from regular walks on the local footpaths.

Jane Halstead

Autumn Programme

The following presentations have been arranged. It is hoped that we will be able to meet in the Village Hall but if this is not possible due to Covid-19 regulations the talks will take place via Zoom.

Thursday 23rd September 2021 at 7.30pm 'Half the wealth of England runs on the back of the sheep'.

What did it mean? In particular, what did it mean in The Cotswolds and roundabout? Sheep and wool, weaving and wealth: the story untangled! Richard Martin, Cotswold Woollen Weavers

Thursday 28th October 2021 at 7.30pm - Coleshill during World War II
– Liza Dibble

Thursday 25th November 2021 at 7.30pm - Bradon Boundaries, the early years
– Joe Wright

The annual Christmas Social has been provisionally booked to take place on Friday

3rd December 2021 at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall. This will be confirmed, taking into account Covid-19 regulations, nearer the time.

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

Purton Museum News

Did you know that museums are good for your wellbeing?

We are very proud of our little museum which is housed on the first floor of the Workmen's Institute building, now also used by the library. We are seeking to fill the voluntary position of Curator to join an already established, enthusiastic team.

Museums are also good for the well-being of the younger generation. Our latest exhibition is entitled "Purton Farming and Butchers". During the school holidays, on a Saturday morning, do call into the museum with the family. They will have fun finding and counting the mice. A quiz is also available for young and old alike. Finally, stand amazed at the collection of agricultural implements displayed on the walls.

Why not walk down Station Road afterwards and pop into Pips Café? While there enjoy a treat and contemplate how a century has changed a farm labourer's life.

The museum is open on Saturday morning from 10.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Opening will continue throughout the summer and autumn until Saturday 30th October 2021 and is in accordance with relevant Government Covid-19 guidance. Admission free

Marion Hobbs, Chairman, www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Records & Recollections of Purton & District

Purton Historical Society is updating and reprinting this insightful and interesting book written by Alec Robbins in 1994. Unfortunately there are some photographs that we have been unable to trace. Can you help? If you have the original, a copy or something similar of any of the images that follow, please contact Lucy Lewis on 01793 772466.



Members of the Primitive Methodist Chapel Celebrate their Centenary in 1956



A Jamboree Photograph c. 1970
 Back: D Hilder, R a'Court, N/K, K Dah
 S Robbins, N/K, R Stevens Leader.
 A Harrison, M Heywood, O Ball, J Ball
 J Mitchell

At a Patrol Leaders' Course c.1970
 Back left Ian Rudden. Taking aim, Tim Brooks
 with Derek Hilder offering a steadying hand



At Legge House 1971
 R Boonfield, S Price, P Godwin, B Hilder,
 K Dahd.
 S Kelly, A Harrison, S Blagborough, R Cam,
 J Rice, P Miles, R Millican, N/K.
 N Preddy, M Wyniatt, M Hayward, P Wilshire,
 K/K, N Burgess

Purton Cub Scouts

Purton Cub Scouts have continued
 to be a keen and active pack. The happy
 group below were enjoying their Gro
 Camp under the enthusiastic leadersh
 of Marion Hobbs.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works
 in: Witts Lane, Jewels Ash, Waite Meads Close, Pear Tree Close (and from Moulden View)
 Mustang Way.



African American Music Month

African American Music Month is the annual celebration of African Americans' musical contributions to the soundtrack of American life. Every June, in the USA, Americans are reminded of the important contribution African Americans make to American music, and to music around the world. In the UK we have close ties with American culture, so at Bradon Forest we wanted to celebrate too!

Staff and students were invited to submit their contribution to a special playlist. There were so many genres to choose from – pop, soul, R&B, jazz, gospel, hip hop, musical. The music was played around school during the last two weeks of June. Music is best when shared!

Ocean Generation

Year 8 students have been learning about plastic in the oceans as part of their Geography lessons this term. Earlier in the month they had the opportunity for a virtual chat with a volunteer working with the charity, Ocean Generation (www.oceangeneration.org/our-story). Lara Paxton, an old school friend of Bradon Forest Humanities teacher Mrs Loxton, was assisting with the clean up of 30 beaches in 14 days. She made time to talk to our students who had expressed an interest in finding out more about what she was doing whilst she was up in Scotland.

Mrs Loxton said, "I was so impressed with the students. They engaged well and really listened to what Lara had to say. They asked insightful questions and have big plans to raise the awareness of the amount of litter going into our oceans as well as raising funds for the charity."

One student asked Lara what was the most unusual piece of litter she had found and the group were surprised to learn it was a pair of pants! Another student asked about the largest piece of rubbish and Lara told them about a drawer from a chest of drawers they had found.

The students have agreed to meet again soon to discuss their fundraising ideas and how they will raise awareness of the plight of the oceans to the whole school.

Theatre Trip – The Woman in Black

The English Department took sixty students to see the chilling performance of *The Woman in Black*. Students studied this novel as part of their gothic unit earlier in the year during January lockdown. The simple yet spectacular staging, along with outstanding performances from the actors left students mesmerised... and terrified!



Purton Cricket Club



Our delayed 200th anniversary match against the MCC takes place on August 29th. We hope the village will join us to celebrate this special milestone for the oldest club in Wiltshire and one of the oldest in the entire country. And apart from the cricket there will be food, drink, and fun to be had.

Meanwhile our teams have been having some successes on the field. The Dynamos (English Cricket Board designed softball cricket for 8- to 11-year-olds) played their part contributing players to our first home Under 9s festivals. The Under 11s season started well with two victories, that have evened out with two losses. Plenty more matches to go in the season for our enthusiastic players. The team are enjoying their training and we have been pleased to welcome younger players from Dynamos to the sessions.

Our Under 15s have completed 3 great matches with 1 rained off and a lot learned. Changeable weather, affecting training consistency has meant it's been a "difficult wicket at times". A number of our U15s now play across the men's sides, delivering encouraging performances on the field and receiving great encouragement from our seniors off it. If you are keen to explore adult cricket then please reach out to one of the captains, coaches, managers, or via secretary.purtoncc@gmail.com.

Purton 1st XI have continued to be a strong force in Division 1, lying 4th after 10 games. Central to the teams' success has been early wickets from the opening bowlers with Callum Wright top of the league's wicket takers. Greg Davies and Alex Duffel have been Purton's stand out batsmen with 203 and 166 league runs.

Purton 1st XI, 2nd XI and Lydiard Millicent Home Fixtures for August

Saturday 7th	1st XI vs Bear Flat
Tuesday 10th	Lydiard Millicent vs DC United (at Purton CC)
Saturday 14th	2nd XI vs Winsley 2nd XI
Saturday 21st	1st XI vs NALGO
Saturday 28th	2nd XI vs Westbury

Finally, a request. As with all small clubs, volunteering is our lifeblood. We are looking for support across all areas including from machine or building maintenance, administration to fund raising, amongst other roles. Perhaps you are interested in coaching, umpiring, or scoring then we can help you with that. If you feel you can contribute in any way then your time will be gratefully received, even if it is only a couple of hours per month. Or if you know of someone looking to contribute back into the community, we would like to hear from you. Please contact us chair. purtoncc@gmail.com.

From the Archive

Alex Grant (Middle row, second from left 1933): Played for Essex Under 13 schoolboys at Grant Hill Ilford, a match which was played in St Valentine's Park. He remembers

having two teas on this day – the second one as a reward for winning the match.

Alex's father, also named Alex, was one of the Lord's grounds staff just prior to the outbreak of World War I.

It was a most fortunate turn of events when Alex came to live in Swindon in 1948 and came to Purton to play his cricket and make such a massive contribution both on and off the field of play for over 60 years.

Graham Wright



Purton CC Bicentenary

Copies of *200 Not Out*, written to celebrate the bicentenary story of Purton Cricket Club are still available from the author at francis.sheppard@live.com or on 771018.

Purton Tennis Club

This is a lovely time of year for tennis fans, because of course, Wimbledon is on the television! At the time of writing, we are currently into the second week of Wimbledon, and until yesterday, so was our new rising star – Emma Raducanu. Sadly, Emma had to pull out of the tournament due to illness, but she had a good tournament, as did Cameron Norrie, Dan Evans and even Andy Murray managed to win a couple of matches – with his new metal hip!



It is great to see British Tennis doing well and of course all these players started playing at local clubs, on courts similar to the ones we have at Purton.

All our 'A' teams are doing well in the Swindon & District League, but the 'B' teams are not faring quite so well at the moment. However, on the plus side, everyone is pleased that tennis is being played again on a competitive level and so far, hardly any matches have been postponed due to rain.

Our singles ladder has been great fun, with lots of games being played. Prizes are awarded, not just for winning, but for the longest match and for the most matches played. Unfortunately, our prizes cannot match those of the All England Club – ours tend to come in the form of chocolate!

Saturday morning training is on-going for our juniors; run by Nicola with help from Tom. These sessions are free to attend for our junior members and usually, at the end of the summer, we hold a tournament for all those who have attended over the summer. We hope that this will go ahead again this year.

We have four excellent courts by the Red House in Church Street, Purton. If you are interested in joining the tennis club, please take a look at our website or contact me at the address below, or our membership secretary Michelle: thehays16@gmail.com we will be happy to help you.

Janet Saunders (secretary) janetcsaunders@gmail.com

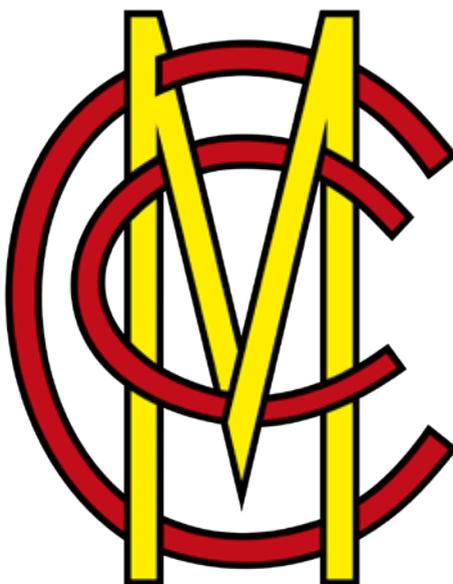
Purton Village Diary - August 2021

1	Su		Lammas Day, celebrating the start of the harvest
7	Sa	1.00pm	Purton CC 1st XI v Bear Flat CC
8	Su		International Cat Day
9	M		Rice Pudding Day
10	Tu	6.00pm	Lydiard Millicent CC v DC United at Purton CC
13	F		Left Handers Day
14	Sa	1.00pm	Purton CC 2nd XI v Winsley 2nd XI
16	M		Under 18s will no longer need to self-isolate if they come into contact with a positive Covid-19 case and show no symptoms
21	Sa	1.00pm	Purton CC 1st XI v NALGO
24	Tu		2020 Paralympic Games start in Japan International Dog Day
27	F	9.00am	Age Concern minibus to Cirencester
28	Sa	1.00pm	Purton CC 2nd XI v Westbury
29	Su		Purton CC Bicentennial match v Marylebone CC
30	M		Summer bank holiday



**Purton
Cricket Club
vs
Marylebone
Cricket Club**

**Food, Fun
and fantastic
cricket**



**Bicentennial
Anniversary
Match
Sunday 29th
August 2021**

**Save the
date. Details
to follow**

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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Beneath the Wool

Finally this month I can officially say we have sheared the sheep. Thanks to Sid for coming again and doing a brilliant job. Shearing sheep is a job that's undervalued until you have a go yourself and you realise how hard it really is. When you are shearing you need to point the blades towards the skin on the sheep in order to cut the wool as well as you can, which is the opposite to what your brain thinks. The other thing is knowing how to hold the sheep in all the different positions in order to shear all the wool on the sheep. It really is jolly hard work.



With all this hard work there should be some return in money for it. Well there once was, but now it actually has become quite a joke. We sheared 42 ewes this year they each cost me £3 each to get them sheared plus a £50 call out and set up cost. Sid was telling me he sent off his wool last year, which was nine wool sacks each containing 40 fleeces, and his wool cheque for the year was just £18! It is utter madness and a complete joke that it is practically worth nothing and we sheep farmers are losing money on it. Thankfully it's lovely to see some fleeces going to good use in the village as Judith Wells took four and she cleans, preps and spins the Wool herself. This is so lovely to see a product from your own sheep being used, loved and enjoyed, so thanks to Judith for taking some as it makes shearing that much better.

After several weeks of wet conditions, the weather has finally changed and we have cut some hay this evening and I'm sure by next month you will hear all about the haymaking. The crops of grass are very good this year and there should be plenty of bales there, which is good, as in the last few years the crops have been a little bit thin in places. Haymaking is always hard work and long hours; last night I didn't get my dinner till 10:50 as I was mowing some grass but it's all worth it in the end and the long hours are only needed for a few weeks .

The lambs are all growing very well and soon it will be time for them to say goodbye to their mums as they need to be weaned so the ewes get back into prime condition by the autumn when they go to the ram again. This is usually a noisy time, but sometimes, as I leave it later than a more commercial flock, they don't seem as bothered which is good for the neighbours.

One of the fields on the farm towards Collins Lane has got quite a few different types of wildflowers in it this year and certainly more than normal. This is nice to see as we don't do anything different for them and they always grow there. We have common knapweed, ox eye daisy and some cowslips this year. If you're passing through on the footpath you may be able to see them but remember don't pick them as they are wild and that's where they live.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton

The other side of the gate

So I've managed to get hold of the pen this month. I can't promise it will be as entertaining as the farmer's perspective from the gate! I hope it will give you an insight into life at Dora's Dairy.



Let's start with the usual way farmers start their conversations; the weather. Wet and windy – you could've been forgiven for thinking it was autumn when you poked your head out of the window! How does this affect us? Aside from the ground becoming very sticky and therefore unfavourable for tractor work, it means milking takes longer. Because we produce raw milk we have to make sure the udders are spotless before we put the clusters on for milking. So when the cows come in, it's no quick wipe for our girls. They have to be washed with warm water before we use the mild disinfectant dip, Hydrosept, which smells a bit like a swimming pool. After a visual check to make sure they are clean the cluster can go on.

This month has been all about looking after the land. Luke has been back and forth spreading dung from the winter housing. Jon and I attended a regenerative farming conference this month called Groundswell (www.groundswellag.com), which gave us some great ideas for how to make sure the land in our care is healthy and will feed our cows, support the Mycorrhizal to make a healthy soil microbiome beneath the surface, improve water retention and overall soil structure.

This year our plan is to plant herbal leys into all the fields at Quarry Farm. This will help us drought-proof the land. As you may know, the farm is on a seam of coral rag which drains well and means we can turn out earlier than most farms. However, this also means that in hot weather it cracks and dries out quickly, thereby stunting grass growth. The seed mixture we will use provides high quality forage for grazing and gives us the option to cut for winter forage too. It can also provide grazing for early turnout and continues to produce forage through the summer and autumn. The mixture contains deep-rooting plants, this not only improves soil structure but also draws up essential vitamins and minerals that our cows need.

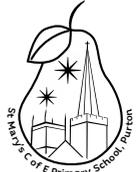
We are halfway through our dairy replacement breeding programme. We are, however, not as advanced as we had hoped. We have new Moo heat detectors in place, but we haven't managed to find a vasectomised bull to alert us when one of the girls is on heat and ready to be served. I hope we've not missed too many of our ladies.

We also have some very sad news this month. When Luke was getting the cows in for morning milking, he found Bread, one of our beautiful Brown Swiss twins, dead in the field. There's no apparent reason for her death and she had not shown any signs of illness. We think that she was either playing head butting or maybe she had an undetected physical abnormality. Jon had been giving her scratches and attention the day before. We are all devastated as she was a lovely calf with a great personality and Jon's favourite of this year's crop.

Sarah, Dora's Dairy

St Marys Primary School

St Mary's Church of England Primary School very recently suffered the loss of two wonderful members of staff within a very short space of time. Both Sarah Browne and Daniel Collicot were much-loved members of staff: calmer, more caring or sweeter people, you simply could not wish to meet. In their own ways, both dedicated their whole working lives to helping children achieve their very best – and always smiling and with a fabulous sense of humour throughout!



Sarah Browne (1985-2021)

“Remember, you’re the one who can fill the world with sunshine.”

This quote is from a very well-known Disney princess, Snow White, but could equally have been about Sarah. She loved all things Disney. Sarah filled everyone’s lives with sunshine: this is how she lived her own life and the influence she had on the lives of others.

When asked to sum up Sarah, it was done by saying, ‘A love of all things Disney - and cake for afters!’

One of two girls and a sister to Laura, the girls attended primary school in Swindon and as primary school was almost concluded the family moved to Purton. All of us are shaped to some degree by our school time experiences and Sarah was no exception; or perhaps she was: the impression primary school had on her was lasting and helped shape her ambitions to be a primary school teacher.

Leaving school Sarah studied for her Bachelor of Education Degree at Cheltenham and, following her first interview, she secured her first teaching job back in Purton at St Mary’s. Sarah had a natural affinity with the very young children in reception and Years One and Two.

She loved children and found that the combination of learning with hugs and affection yielded the best results. She loved all her ‘little pickles’, as she called them.

Paul Browne, Sarah’s father also passed away at a young age of MND. Sarah’s work ethic was bred from her father, who also took pride in his trade as a builder, providing nothing short of perfection with every job he carried out. He passed away in 2005, but is now no longer alone...

Sarah’s job was her life. She was forever thinking about how to engage her class, typically buying numerous items for her class and classroom whenever she was out and about.

It was in 2016 that Sarah and Mike met, initially through an online app. By incredible coincidence, shortly after making contact, Sarah realised that Mike in fact lived opposite her! Surely it was destiny that they were meant to meet and be together.

An exciting time settling into their new home that was sadly disrupted when Sarah was diagnosed with breast cancer. With the support of Mike, her mum and sister Laura; Sarah fought a brave and courageous battle: a battle that she was destined not to win. Despite the discomfort of the many treatments and its side effects, Sarah's humour never left her. Even when she needed a wheelchair, she would lighten the mood with a comical "Beep! Beep!" as and when needed. Sarah's humour eased the burden for Mike, her family and friends. Sarah's family are eternally grateful to Mike for all the love and care he gave to Sarah; they will be forever appreciative of all he did to ensure Sarah's comfort.

Sarah had a passion for supporting all children in her care, but particularly those with additional needs. She intuitively knew when a child needed her guidance and care, and she gave it unreservedly to support them with their learning and development. She was never afraid to give comfort to a child who was having a difficult time, and she handled this superbly, time and time again – and the children loved her for it! Having spent many years in Foundation Stage with the youngest children, they considered her 'their school mum', who cared for them as any mother would.



Daniel Collict (1983-2021)

Daniel was a happy and energetic bundle of joy when he arrived and was such a blessing to his family. His parents didn't want Daniel to be an only child, but they were concerned that they couldn't love another child as much as they loved him! They soon learned, however, that the more love you give, the more love you have to give when two brothers for Daniel joined the family. Kris and Paul have both been a tremendous support for their parents and families at this terribly difficult time.

Daniel was born at a time when few people believed in hyperactivity. There was limited general knowledge of ADHD and little was widely understood about autism. He was very tall for his age and quite boisterous; unfortunately he found it difficult to make friends, but he really enjoyed the company and love of the whole family. He loved his nephew and nieces and would have loved a family of his own.

He was adventurous and very brave for someone who found life challenging at times with his dyslexia and Asperger's both diagnosed too late: Daniel enjoyed travel tremendously. He visited Scotland, Puerto Rico and Texas to name but a few locations. It is so sad that we only learn some things about our loved ones after they die. We learnt that despite Daniel's limited friendships in the physical world, he had a huge active life online where he gave comfort to, and was comforted by, many people. We learned that he was held in high esteem by his IT colleagues and was a fountain of knowledge for others. We had always enjoyed his wonderful sense of humour but to find out that he made so many other people smile and laugh around the world was lovely.

That was how Daniel lived. He was incredibly supportive and encouraging of everyone – in person and online. One of his responses to a struggling friend on Twitter was: “You have brought joy and laughter, amusement and fun across the globe. I know it must be hard to see it from the inside looking out, so borrow our eyes and never doubt.”

The same could have been said to Daniel himself: he was perhaps not so good at recognising when he needed help and not good at asking for it. As his family said, if only he had sought help for the pain in his leg, his DVT could have been diagnosed and he might still be here today. We can all learn a lesson from this: be more alert to others who may be struggling or in pain and ask if they need help in any way.

Daniel met Helen online and they had been together for the last 4 years. They shared a love of all things ‘Harry Potter’ but their greatest joy came from their shared love of their dog, Penny, the little cabochon. Helen and Daniel were active members of Christ Church, Swindon, and had a supportive group of friends there.

Daniel had worked at St Mary’s Church of England Primary School for many years, maintaining the computer network and digital equipment, and could always be found helping those for whom technology is a complete mystery! Daniel was a quiet and caring man. He never wanted the limelight and worked quietly and conscientiously in the background to keep the system running smoothly at all times. When Daniel was diagnosed with autism he was able to better understand why sometimes life had been difficult to navigate especially his own time at school. His choice of career in educational technology was a reflection of his desire to help make other children’s experiences as positive as possible. His passion for helping other autistic people was also reflected in his active support for a local charity.

Since the devastating loss of these two members of staff, their friends and colleagues in school and their families have concluded that they would like to create a lasting memorial to these two very special people within the grounds of St Mary’s.

So, in memory of these two very special members of staff, and in order to create for them a legacy continuing their life’s work in supporting children, their well-being and their learning, for many years to come, we are hoping to build a garden of peace and tranquillity. This would be a place where children and adults can take a minute to experience the beauty of nature, to pause and reflect. Miss Browne loved her garden, and we hope that the garden we create would have been a place she would have loved. We also hope that for children who also find school difficult to navigate, that this will be a place of peace and tranquillity for them, as would have been Daniel’s wish.

If you would like to support the school and the families in this endeavour, you can make a donation for Sarah and Daniel’s memorial school garden, simply by contacting the school on 01793 770239 or admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk.

Other charities close to the hearts of Sarah and Daniel are also receiving donations in their name.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SomeoneSpecial/DanielCollict>

<https://breastcancernow.org>

www.mndassociation.org/get-involved/donations/

The funerals of these two wonderful young people both took place in June: Daniel on Monday 14th and Sarah on Thursday 17th.

Staff from the school felt proud and humbled to be asked to attend the funerals by the families. On Monday, we heard how Daniel had touched so many lives around the world, as well as closer to home. On Thursday, Purton saw countless people gathering to line the road, dressed in Sarah's favourites of pink and purple, to clap and throw flowers as Sarah's funeral cortege passed through the village.

Both Sarah and Daniel's families expressed their heartfelt thanks to everyone associated with St Mary's for the love and support they have received which has impressed upon them a lasting memory of how well-loved they both were by our school community and how they will be missed enormously.

God bless you, Sarah. God bless you, Daniel. Your lives were tremendously well-spent, dedicated to supporting and caring for others.

Mrs Naomi Clarke, Head teacher

School Governor

St Mary's CE Primary School is seeking to appoint a Co-opted School Governor. The school is located in the heart of the village of Purton where you will find our children 'Shining Brightly' in faith, love and friendship. As governors we aim to ensure that all children, including those who are disadvantaged, feel valued and special and enjoy attending a school which has a strong Christian ethos. At St Mary's, a highly motivated and dedicated team ensures that all children aspire to achieve their full potential, both academically and socially.

Commitment: Six meetings per school academic year and additional time for dedicated committees, training, school visits and events. Governors meetings are usually held in the evenings however training, school visits and some meetings will take place during the school day.

Salary: This role is voluntary.

Closing date: Wednesday 1st September 2021

Interviews: Week commencing: 6th September 2021

We are looking for someone who:

- Is keen to support a school where there are high expectations for the outcome of pupils and a culture that enables both pupils and staff to excel;
- Is committed to undergoing appropriate training in order to provide effective support and challenge to the school leadership team;
- Recognises that the need for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is at the heart of the school's work, underpinned by the school's

Christian values;

- Is able to be flexible with their time, and fully committed to the role, in order to attend a range of Governor events;
- Has vision to shape the future of the school with a clear strategy that considers the views of all key stakeholders and protects the longer term interests of St Mary's and the community of Purton.

Ideally we would like applicants with some or all of the following skills:

Strategic Management

Setting direction, decision making, risk management, working collaboratively with stakeholders.

Accountability

Financial management and monitoring, adhering to standards, analysis of data.

Compliance

Monitoring of statutory and industry compliance.

Health and Safety.

Data Protection.

People

Knowledge of the educational system, experience of working with young people or those with special needs.

Experience of recruitment, staff and performance management, assessing and developing personal individual and team effectiveness.

We will offer you:

- The chance to work with a team of governors, who are highly dedicated, welcoming and receptive to new ideas;
- The opportunity to support the school Leadership Team in shaping the lives of the young people in our community.

Please apply in writing, stating your relevant skills and interest in the position (no more than 1 side of A4) to the Clerk to the Governors at clerk@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk

Further information on being a school Governor can also be found at www.nga.org.uk

St Mary's CE Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All applicants will be subject to a full Disclosure and Barring Service check before appointment is confirmed.

The Wessex just love music!

Moving house, starting a new job and getting married rank among the top 10 most stressful life events so maybe deciding to join a choir might just nudge into the top 40! Meeting new people, stepping outside your comfort zone and challenging yourself to do something that, in many cases, you have not done since your school days takes a little nerve, but can be so rewarding.



The last 18 months or so have been tough for all of us and in some cases have been truly life changing. For the men of the Wessex Male Choir it's been hard to not see each other every Tuesday and not being able to sing together has deeply affected them. Being part of a choir is more than singing, it's like having an extended family. So the Choir has worked hard to maintain contact and interest during lockdown with Zoom meetings and a variety of audio and video projects published on Youtube. They even had a virtual Christmas party!

The extra time has given many the chance to re-evaluate how they spend their time and some have taken the decision to retire from full time work and concentrate more on what they really enjoy and for many, that is simply spending more time making and listening to music. One of the projects was to ask choristers to pick two songs to make 'The tracks of our years'.

The Choir's events manager, Stuart Allinson said;

"We asked the guys to pick two songs that 'quicken your heart and soothes your soul' to make 'the tracks of our years' – a mixtape to capture the diverse range of music that the choristers have enjoyed as they grew up. I was amazed at what came up; Rock, Pop, Hip Hop, Soul and New Wave with Classical music and Madrigals thrown in too. Queen and The Beatles featured heavily and what also came through was that we are all suckers for great songwriting and a beautiful melody. We asked them to tell us why the songs were so important and for many it simply evoked a memorable time or a special person – music has such power to move you."

Patrick, one of our Baritones picked 'I wanna be like you' and 'Good Vibrations' and said:

"'I wanna be like you' – cool singing by King Louie and Baloo, great rhythm and the first film I ever saw at a Cinema. I also had the original soundtrack, which was played every Sunday morning between church and roast dins.

"'Good Vibrations' by The Beach Boys was on the first cassette I ever bought – The Beach Boys Greatest – and reminds me of the hot summer of 1976 and school trip

to Greenwich. It was played on the radio on the way home and I was sitting next to the girl of my dreams on the coach!”

We shared the Spotify playlist on our website and to the friends of the choir and it makes for an interesting and eclectic listen. What we discovered was that we just love music – any music, and what struck us was that many of us never listen to choral music but love performing it.

You can find the Spotify playlist at:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/47x7wJjEobEj6tNAbIgEZko?si=rZBGC7ZnSU60n9SxZfG87Q>

The Choir returned to rehearsals last month – outside for now – and they look forward to being back in the warm after restrictions are eased. The Choir’s MD, Tom Graff is delighted to be back at the helm of one of the UK’s top male choirs and was delighted to find that the last 18 months has left the guys sounding pretty good and keen to get stuck into new material and preparing for the coming year’s concerts.

Inevitably, there are some who may not return to the choir and we have embarked on a recruitment campaign leading up to an open evening on the 14th September at Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club, where we will warmly welcome men who are keen to see what singing in a choir is really like. As part of the campaign on social media we put together a series of tongue in cheek ‘chorister profiles’ to show that being part of the Wessex is for anyone who ‘just loves music’.

#2 The Husband – George, 48, is a bit bored. “Why don’t you get a hobby like me?” says Mildred (27). He’s not sure that Emmerdale, Cori, Casualty, Strictly, 999 ‘What’s YOUR problem’ 24 and Love Island IS a hobby, but is wise enough to keep schtum. “Maybe I do need a hobby and getting out on a Tuesday night to sing with some like minded friends seems like a good plan.”

#3 The Yodeler – Alphonso, 46, was a champion yodeler back in the old country – he could call to his true love Birgit three mountain ranges away. Sadly there are no mountains in Swindon. He wonders if his skills could still be of use?

Well, The Wessex might not need the yodel but if you can yodel like that, you can certainly sing!

The Wessex perform all kinds of music from traditional folk tunes, through pop, rock, modern choral music, show tunes and much more. We sing and compete across the UK and Europe and we welcome men from all walks of life and provide a challenging, supportive and friendly atmosphere in which to sing and thrive. We provide one to one support with our buddy system as well as online singing aids as well. Text ‘save me’ to 07956270354 to find out more about us and our open evening on September 14th.

You get the picture! For more details visit Wessexmalechoir.co.uk

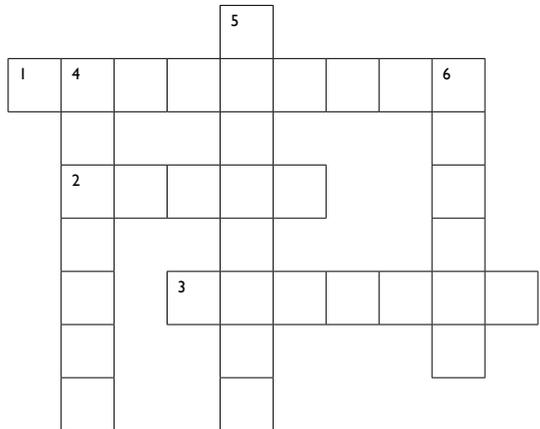
Purton Methodist Church

On a Wednesday afternoon towards the end of June an informal get-together was held at the Methodist Church to give opportunity to the congregation to say farewell to our Minister, Rev David Perkins and his wife, Christine (taking into account the necessary Covid restrictions at that time), as they begin their retirement and return to Wales. We began with a short Service of Holy Communion led by David. This was followed by a delicious “vintage-style” tea that included a selection of ham, salmon and egg mayonnaise sandwiches, cheese scones, strawberries and cream and an assortment of cakes. During this time gifts were presented to David and Christine on behalf of the Fellowship. We have greatly valued the ministry and support of David and Christine in the church and in the village during the time they have been here. They will be very much missed. We pray that God will bless them both. Our new Minister and Superintendent of the Upper Thames Methodist Circuit, Revd Shirlyn Toppin, will take up her appointment at the beginning of September.

Mini crossword

Here is the tenth 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 July’s puzzle are 1) Maharajah 2) speed 3) clanger 4) hospice 5) renewal 6) machinery

1. (across) social groups (9)
2. (across) hard work (5)
3. (across) alter appearance (7)
4. (down) naturally grown (7)
5. (down) printed flyers (8)
6. (down) end of play (6)



Answers in the September issue and if any reader would like to create their own mini crossword we would be delighted to include it in a future issue of your magazine. 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 recent Purton Magazines and especially from the advertisements but, of course, dictionaries provide many more options. We aim for the clues to have a spread of difficulty to attract readers initially 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

Purton Wordsmiths

Purton has yet another published author: Ruth Derham talks about becoming an author and the publication of her first book, *Bertrand's Brother*.



I'd always wanted to write 'something', but until a few years ago I had no idea what. The spark that finally gave me an idea was a curious little novel written in 1921 – *Vera* by Elizabeth von Arnim. I'd already read several of Elizabeth's books. She was famous in the 1890s for the bestseller *Elizabeth and Her German Garden* and she'd written (and I'd read) *The Enchanted April* which had been adapted into a drama by the BBC. Elizabeth was typical of women writers of the time; strong, confident, independent, witty. At least that was what I'd thought. Most of her novels were whimsical with a condescending air and a touch of sarcasm, but *Vera* was different. It was dark and apparently, semi-autobiographical. The male protagonist – a rather pathetic tantrummy tyrant named Wemyss – was said to have been based on her former husband, Frank, 2nd Earl Russell, older brother of philosopher Bertrand Russell. If that was true, I wondered, how could she marry such a man? It didn't fit with what I thought I knew about her. So I decided to do a little research.

A little research quickly became a lot of research. The more I found out, the more I wanted to know. Frank's story was incredible! The sort of thing that would fill the pages of a Victorian melodrama. He was born in 1865. His paternal grandfather was former British Prime Minister Lord John Russell. His parents had been radicals and agnostics and Frank had been raised to be independent and to think for himself. They had died young and by age 10, Frank was orphaned and two years later inherited his grandfather's title to become Earl Russell at the tender age of 12. He was schooled at Winchester College where he befriended another unusual character – the poet Lionel Johnson – and the pair set about planning their futures with all the arrogance of youth. The plan did not include Frank getting 'sent down' or expelled from Oxford, but in 1885, when he was 20, this is exactly what happened. He was accused of writing a 'romantic' letter to another male undergraduate and, incensed at the accusation, Frank argued with the vice-chancellor and was forced to leave. He then embarked on two years of 'wild follies' before settling down to business as an electrical engineer and marriage with a young lady named Mabel Edith Scott of whom his family disapproved on the ground that her mother was well-known in society as 'something of an adventuress'.

The marriage was a disaster. The pair were completely incompatible and ended up in the divorce court, fighting over the terms of their separation in what would become a ten year cause célèbre reported in newspapers across the globe. For Mabel (quite

innocently, she claimed) accused Frank in court of being over-friendly with one of his old university pals which, in the hands of her barristers became a veiled accusation of homosexuality – a practice that was then illegal and subject to up to ten years' penal servitude if proved. Though neither Frank nor Mabel particularly wanted to remain married, by her actions Frank had no choice but to defend his good name and honour, thanks to the interference of Mabel's mother, who criminally libelled him in a manner that would make Lord Queensberry blush. The next ten years saw their quarrel play out in the divorce court, the appeal court and the central criminal court, eventually going all the way to the House of Lords, where in 1901 Frank was tried for bigamy for having taken matters into his own hands by marrying wife number two before he was legally rid of his first.

What a story! And, I was to discover, this wasn't all. Frank earned himself three months in Holloway Prison for his felony. When he emerged he was in fighting form. He took up his seat in the House of Lords and always a rebel by nature, took it upon himself to fight injustice wherever he found it. Over the next thirty years, among other things, he fought for the reform of the rigid divorce laws that had given him all the trouble in the first place. He also fought for women's suffrage, prisoners' rights, birth control, the rights of motorists not to be persecuted by police speed-traps, the rights of conscientious objectors during the First World War and the rights of workers after it, eventually becoming the first peer to join the Fabian Society and support the burgeoning Labour Party.

So how is it you've probably never heard of him? History is not so good at remembering the pioneers and supporters of causes who were no longer active or alive when their campaigns came to fruition. And, arguably, Frank has been overshadowed by the more famous figures in his illustrious family. But with Amberley Publishing of Stroud agreeing to publish my book, which came out in April this year, perhaps that will change. And with them agreeing also to publish my next one – a wider history of the late-Victorian divorce court with the provocative title *Decadent Divorce* I find myself at last, after a rather topsy-turvy career, becoming an author.

Ruth came to Purton 28 years ago to take over Webber's shop on the High Street which she ran with husband Ian for eight years. After becoming a mum, she retrained to become a homeopath and moved into teaching the subject at the University of West London. Then she and her husband ran a second-hand book business which, when it was sold in 2015, allowed her to take a bit of time off and enjoy living in Purton. It was only a year later when Frank, 2nd Earl Russell strolled into her life completely uninvited.

Bertrand's Brother: The Marriages, Morals and Misdemeanours of Frank, 2nd Earl Russell by Ruth Derham is the first biography of Frank Russell to have been written. It makes extensive use of family papers and contemporary records and is available to purchase on amazon.co.uk or can be ordered online from all leading bookshops. Find out more about Ruth's work at ruthderham.com

A book I will always remember

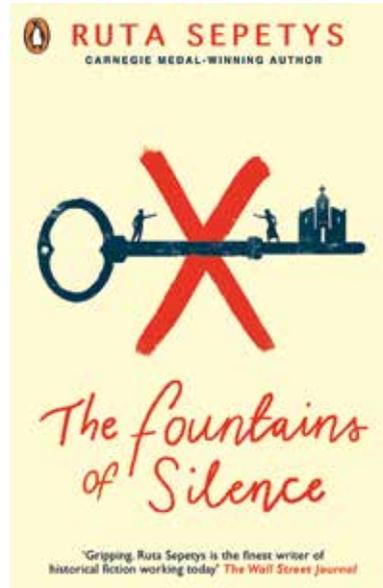
“There is a hidden violence in silence when we become trapped by the difficult issues of difference and how this silence becomes its own voice”

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.

The Fountains of Silence

by Ruta Sepetys

A good friend; a Liberal, Sculptor, Doctor and a Surgeon often poses the question “But is it really art, does it challenge you, does it change you and what will you now do?” The Fountains of Silence meets these criteria and it is no surprise that its author, Ruta Sepetys, is a Carnegie medal winner. She is an academic researcher who delves into libraries and oral histories but is also a field worker in the country and amongst the people about whom she writes her compelling and riveting stories. Some regard these as historical novels, but I see her as more of a Dickens for our time, writing social commentaries.



We are confronted with Franco's Spain, from the events of the 1936 to 1939 Civil War, through the aftermath of the war and the Franco regime up to his death in 1975 and on to the emerging dawn of 1976. It is a country Sepetys has grown to love. It is a story that is ongoing. I first became aware of Spain and its politics from the valve radio in my parents' home when around 12 years old, then of the return to democracy from the television over the period 1977-78 and of Spain's accession to membership of the European Community in 1986 whilst I was working part-time in Brussels. Subsequently, I have made visits to Madrid. Finally, over three recent years, I have walked

the Camino through the Basque, Rioja, Leon and Galicia regions discovering the different cultures and being confronted by monuments to the many victims of both the Civil War and the subsequent regime, as well as the ongoing debates over The Valley of the Fallen. Estimates of the total dead from the brutal war and the atrocities committed by both Nationalists (entitlement and Tradition) and Republicans (socialist progressives, some anti the Catholic church) as well as from hunger, disease, and revenge range from 500,000 to 1 million, including 20,000 republicans executed after the end of the war. Even in 1977/78 there were still outbreaks of political violence. Amongst the children and grandchildren of the victims there remain important live issues that Spanish society is still struggling to resolve.

These dates and timelines are important as they give context to this fictional work. It is mainly set in 1957 when Spain was gradually opening its borders and beginning to develop economic links with America, but still within Franco's rigid vision of the purity of the country that Spain should be. It concludes in 1976 after his death.

The main theme of the book is that there is a hidden violence in silence when we become trapped by the difficult issues of difference, and how this silence becomes its own voice. Others are that the Republicans had a genetic fault, a red gene, and deserved to be eradicated, or at least punished whether, by violence, neglect or the theft and subsequent sale of their new-born offspring (up to 300,000) with doctors and some Catholic padres and nuns selling them

for around 200,000 pesetas each. It is hard to give an equivalent value today but historically this would be some £55,000, but in terms of equivalent current economic power around £430,000. This was a political enterprise and like any business, it kept good – albeit not comprehensive – records. Further Republicans/Protestants could be buried at night or dumped in a ploughed field. Within this environment, survival and the pursuit of any peace and happiness was a constant struggle, presenting a gulf in understanding which few outsiders or visitors could ever hope to bridge. In the real world of the republican ghettos such as Vallecas on the outskirts of Madrid one needed to be sure to avoid incurring the wrath of the state whether in what you asked, said, or did. The regime's 30,000-40,000 strong Guardia Civil the so-called "crows", under their merciless leader Vega, in their uniforms of stiff capes and tricornio hats and armed with rifles were both the secret police and the enforcers – "patent leather men with patent leather souls." The American "castle" in Spain, the Castellanos Hilton Madrid was opened in 1953. It represented a land of fortune, neither of the real world of Spain or its life and to the young was a dangerous temptation. Life was not a fair fight. Most Republicans had secrets, including jail and extreme torture, and these bred the twin diseases of fear and loneliness. Paradoxically for some these became the seed from which courage grew. A woman's role was to be subordinate and seek the purity and perfection of a Madonna.

The writing is clear and direct. The

first short chapter sets the scene and immediately draws you into the plot. Thereafter each chapter brings up a new issue and moves the story forward in bold brush strokes which get you inside the characters. Daniel Matheson (“Texano”) is from Texas, an intrepid would-be photo-journalist whose mother Maria is Spanish. He is new to Spain and seeing disturbing images with fresh eyes and from the standpoint of an American upbringing and culture. He seeks the back story to his pictures and to understand the why and how of situations. Ana is a maid in the hotel where Daniel and his family are staying and she is assigned to make their lives easier. Her family is from a Republican background and whilst she is young and hopeful, to survive she is compelled to live by the code “curiosity is a sin”; “Don’t speak, don’t talk, we are prettier with our mouths shut” and “Forget the past, look to the future”. She shares Daniel’s commitment to telling the truth through his photos and has a flair for finding the perfect captions. This is the story of their growing love and the interactions of their families and friends.

I love the book’s many supporting characters; they ring true, have their own backstories, issues and dreams. Nick and his father, the U.S. embassy’s public affairs man Shepard Van Doren are great foils for Daniel and responsible for many scrapes and standoffs. Miguel, a Spanish photographer, and Ben, an established American journalist are both mentors and friends to Daniel. Carlitos, the lively 12-year-old bellboy is a great

facilitator. Daniels’s mother Maria loses a baby, overcomes cancer, and then adopts a daughter from the Madrid orphanage. Father Fernandes is the Catholic priest in Vallecas who is part of the glue which holds the community together with both spiritual and practical help. The five pages revealing characters’ different needs and responses to the confessional are extraordinary. There are more important and well-drawn characters; enjoy discovering them as they fit, often with wry humour, into locations as diverse as a slaughterhouse, a cemetery, the orphanage or inclusa, a junior bull ring, and the American embassy.

I see this book as akin to Bayeaux tapestry or better still a Patchwork quilt. It draws together sometimes conflicting events and facts into meaningful patterns or pictures. The families, communities and many characters in the book have their own stories – The quilt gives a sense of completeness but depends on the detail and uniqueness of the individual pieces of fabric, how well they fit with those around them and how well they are stitched together, often in entirely surprising ways. In this context, Sepetys is a master craftswoman.

My daughter and grandson* lent me their copy of this book. I am now re-reading my own copy. It is one that will stay firmly on my shelves. It is not a page-turner, the issues are too troubling, but it is always compelling and rewarding. It is a visceral and emotional book. Be ready to shed real tears of anger, sadness, and ultimately joy.

Tony Williams

**Tony's year 9 grandson (who lent the book to him in the first place) has also written a review of The Fountains of Silence as a school book review project – and here it is*

The Fountains of Silence

I have just finished reading the most amazing Fountains of Silence. This is an absolutely incredible book about life in Spain under the dictator Franco. The story focuses on young people mainly, although there are some older characters and ironically is about what the young people in Spain lost due to their parents' actions. The story is about Spanish culture in Spain but also about American people in Spain and the differences and similarities between the two cultures. In the time that this book is set Spain is far behind the progressive America.

There are shocking revelations that come out in this book with clear discoveries towards the end of the book that are made all the more interesting by the natural feeling of the characters who are easily relatable to and who feel like actual people that we may know. As the title suggests, the story is based around the concepts of the time in Spain that silence is better than the truth at times. This theme is followed thoroughly through the themes of the book. But at the end of the book we are told by one key character, Puri, that his silence has to end and that not speaking the truth is not always a good thing. Even this character does try to justify her own silence as a good thing.

This story is a love story between two characters who come from different parts of the world and different cultures connected though in many ways. Their love story takes a long time to have a happy ending and it transpires that they have family connections already which they had no knowledge of. This is a sad and happy story but shows much struggle in life and heartache that some young people experienced, especially in Spain.

My favourite part of this book was probably around the most important themes of love and family and how these two things can endure. I liked these themes and particularly the ending when all of the mysteries are drawn successfully to a close with much hope for the future. This book has excellent research interspersed between the narrative chapters which helps us to understand the times in which this book was set. I learnt a lot by reading this book and had no idea the Spain I have been to on holiday had these dark secrets.

This book can be enjoyed equally by teenagers and adults. I urge you to read this excellent book which is a complete page turner from a few chapters in. Keep going through the first few chapters which were scene setting and important but a little challenging. The characters are different in each chapter and then come together, so it is important to concentrate hard at the beginning to understand who is who and how they are connected. I look forward to reading more books by this author.

Oliver

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

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04/22

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

08/21

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.



Help to recycle more

As well as Purton Vets accepting pet food packaging for recycling, the Co-Op is launching in-store recycling bins this summer for its soft plastics such as bread bags, crisp packets and plastic film lids. All you have to do is rinse your plastics and bring them to the store to go in the recycling bin. Well done to the Co-Op and the vets for this initiative to help the environment.

Bernice Seviour



Thank you from Peartree Pealers

The Peartree Pealers, a Handbell Team in Purton, wish to say thank you to Purton Parish Council Community Fund for a recent grant towards new equipment. The Peartree Pealers have managed to keep going, through covid times, by ringing virtually (!) The team intends to use the grant to buy new equipment and we look forward to performing and fundraising again. Money raised from playing goes towards Prospect Hospice, which is dear to our hearts. Thank you PPC.



Cricket runs in the family

Purton Cricket Club wishes to thank Rosemary and Nicola Gardner for all their time and effort in supporting the recent exhibition of the Club's 200 year history. It would not have been possible without their hard work over many years!



A War Memorial to be proud of

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who keep the War Memorial looking so smart and colourful. The flowers are such a treat... and I know they have all been donated by Purtonians. Thank you all so much.



A Priceless Purton

We would like to thank so many people for their kindness during Tony's illness and, since he passed away, we have had so many cards, letters, telephone calls, flowers and gifts and such lovely comments it has been overwhelming. We would like to thank you all – it has helped us all a great deal.

We have special thanks as well – for our surgery who couldn't have done more for Tony, the nurses and physios from

the Malmesbury community team and the carers from 247 homecare who were always kind and compassionate to Tony and also to us and to Prospect who kept in regular touch and were willing to step in with practical help and advice when it was needed. There are so many people who offered help and comfort during the last months – too many to mention. But there are special people that we must thank. My cousin Heather giving up so much of her time during Tony's last illness to support us in so many ways with helping to care for him, Sylvia and Colin Freemantle and Bernice Seviour who shopped for us, brought many meals, sorted out prescriptions, doctor's appointments, mended things and were always there on the end of the phone – very special people; all the Price cousins for all they did, particularly Richard who provided lifts and constant support for the cousin he loved, also our lovely neighbours Kate and Duncan, Jo, Jill, Patrick and Michelle for all they did. Last, but certainly not least, Rev. Judith Wells who visited Tony regularly, brought communion and comfort and was there during the last days as often as we needed her. She did a wonderful

service, with the hymns, psalms and music Tony had chosen and memories from all the family in her speech. We can never thank her enough.

To all of you and all the other people we haven't mentioned but who also supported us and helped us, thank you.

From Sheila, Kevin and Sally, David and Kim, Philip and Mary Jane, Louise and Ian and all the grandchildren



Much-loved teacher's final journey

A heartfelt thank you to all the villagers, parents, schoolchildren and St. Mary's School staff who lined the streets on the day of my daughter Sarah's (Miss Browne, Yr 2 teacher) funeral. The sight of so many people was overwhelming.

We would also like to thank Mrs Naomi Clarke (head of St. Mary's Primary) for enabling so many members of staff to attend Sarah's funeral.

It is a great comfort knowing what an affect she had on so many people, she would have been very proud and not a little embarrassed at such a gesture.

*Thank you again,
Sarah's family and partner.*

Church Floodlighting

St Mary's Renewal work has now been completed.

We rejoice that our Church is ready to welcome everyone in again within current Covid-19 regulations, and we are delighted to say that people can book floodlighting if they wish.

Contact Libbie if you would like the Church floodlit and a tribute published in the magazine. At least one month's notice is needed if possible. The cost will be £20 per evening; and the lights are usually on from dusk to 11pm. Please contact Libbie for further details on 771018.





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Lockdown Limericks

The covid lockdowns that started last year were an ideal opportunity to challenge ourselves to complete a special task or branch out and try something new, often aided by some new resources on the internet.

Local author and BBC producer Anna Quarendon has always enjoyed dashing off a little limerick from time to time. During the lockdown she challenged herself to write one every day to record many of the everyday details of the pandemic that otherwise could so easily be lost. At the end of last year she produced a book with them all. Now she has generously given Purton Magazine permission to reproduce a selection each month from the same month last year. Here are some from August 2020 providing some interesting reminders.

Pub Grub 3 August 2020

So more of us go out for grub
The government's offered a sub
£10 off your dish
Of veg, meat or fish
When you order a meal in a pub

Mocks 18 August 2020

On Sunday, assessment's a no-no
On Monday, it seems it's a go-go
U-turning shockery
A level mockery
Cred now as dead as a dodo

Hands, Face and Bumpsadaisy

8 August 2020

The mantra is "Hands, Face and Space"
To distance and not to embrace
While the covitriolic
Shout cries of "Shambolic"
At those who're all over the place

Cupboard Love 27 August 2020

For months some have been quite
fanatic
Clearing out cupboards and attic
SO much to drop
At the charity shop
But they don't seem to be that ecstatic

Test Results 13 August 2020

Those who are feeling distressed
At the way their exams were assessed
May ask for revision
Of Ofqual's decision
If feeling they've not done their best

Raving Loony Party 31 August 2020

At the weekend a rave in South Wales
Saw thousands go right off the rails
Let's hope that the rave
Won't start a new wave
Of Corona – and good sense prevails

A selection of Anna's lockdown limericks from September 2020 will be included in next month's magazine but if you can't wait as long as that, a published collection is now available from the White Horse Bookshop in Marlborough at £8.99.

If any other reader has made a personal record of the lockdown, perhaps as a diary or through regular messages to friends and family, we would be delighted to include some examples next month. Information about other local lockdown achievements would also be gratefully received for suture publication. Please contact the magazine (see page 4) if you would like any further details.

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Outreach Purton

As the country emerges from lockdown, communications have dwindled from Wiltshire Council, however, with restrictions being lifted from 19th July it's a good opportunity to clarify what we legally can and can't do with respect to Covid-19. Particularly so for members of our community who don't have internet access to look up the guidelines.

Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread from 19 July

While cases are high and rising, everybody needs to continue to act carefully and remain cautious. This is why we are keeping in place key protections:

- testing when you have symptoms and targeted asymptomatic testing in education, high risk workplaces and to help people manage their personal risk.
- isolating when positive or when contacted by NHS Test and Trace.
- border quarantine: for all arriving from red list countries and for those people not fully vaccinated arriving from amber list countries.
- cautious guidance for individuals, businesses and the vulnerable whilst prevalence is high including:
- whilst Government is no longer instructing people to work from home if they can, Government would expect and recommend a gradual return over the summer
- Government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport;
- being outside or letting fresh air in
- minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts.
- encouraging and supporting businesses and large events to use the NHS COVID Pass in high risk settings. The Government will work with organisations where people are likely to be in close proximity to others outside their household to encourage the use of this. If sufficient measures are not taken to limit infection, the Government will consider mandating certification in certain venues at a later date.

As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, it is important that we all use personal judgement to manage our own risk. All of us can play our part by exercising common sense and considering the risks. While no situation is risk free, there are actions we can take to protect ourselves and others around us. Following this guidance will help you stay safe and protect others by controlling the spread. Every action to help reduce the spread will reduce any further resurgence of the virus in the coming months.

Lifting restrictions

Most legal restrictions to control COVID-19 will be lifted. This means:

- You will not need to stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with. There will also be no limits on the number of people you can meet.

-
- However, in order to minimise risk at a time of high prevalence, you should limit the close contact you have with those you do not usually live with, and increase close contact gradually. This includes minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts.
 - Meet outdoors where possible and let fresh air into homes or other enclosed spaces.
 - The Government is no longer instructing people to work from home if they can. However, the Government expects and recommends a gradual return over the summer.
 - The requirement to wear face coverings in law will be lifted. However, the Government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport.
 - There will no longer be limits on the number of people who can attend weddings, civil partnerships, funerals and other life events (including receptions and celebrations). There will be no requirement for table service at life events, or restrictions on singing or dancing. You should follow guidance for weddings and funerals to reduce risk and protect yourself and others.
 - There will no longer be restrictions on group sizes for attending communal worship.

COVID-19 has not gone away, so it's important to remember the actions you can take to keep yourself and others safe. Everybody needs to continue to act carefully and remain cautious. If you are worried about going back to a more 'normal' life, there is information from the NHS on how to cope with anxiety about lockdown lifting (www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/coronavirus/tips-to-cope-with-anxiety-lockdown-lifting/).

Get tested and self isolate

If you develop COVID-19 symptoms, self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test, even if your symptoms are mild. You should self-isolate at home while you book the test and wait for the results. You must self-isolate if you test positive. Your isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days. This is the law.

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

You will be exempt from self-isolation from 16 August if you are under 18 and a contact of a positive case. As with adults, you will be advised whether a PCR test needs to be taken. If you are 18 years old you will be treated in the same way as under 18 year olds until 4 months after your 18th birthday, to allow you the opportunity to get fully vaccinated.

You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following notification by NHS Test & Trace.

Get vaccinated

All adults in England have now been offered at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines are safe and effective. They give you the best protection against COVID-19.

Using the NHS COVID-19 app

Using the NHS COVID-19 app helps stop the spread of the virus by informing you that you have been in close contact with someone who has since tested positive for coronavirus, even if you don't know each other. The app is free and easy to use and doing so can help you protect your loved ones and others.

It is important to consider that others may wish to take a more cautious approach as we open up. We should all be considerate of this, and provide the opportunity and space for others to reduce close contacts if they wish.

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

Purton Football Club

The first piece of news is that we have a new management team of Andy Ealey and his coach Frank Hunt. A few years back, Andy was a player at Purton and most recently was manager at Marlborough Town. Our previous management team of Wayne and Dave have split up with Dave retiring and Wayne going to manage a Swindon and District team.



The second piece of news is that we had a successful old players reunion match on July 10th to raise money for a memorial bench for Pierce Bolger and this target was reached thanks to all who attended and contributed and other various donations on the day. More information on the siting of the bench and dates etc will follow after discussions with the Parish Council.

The match raised a fantastic £835!

Our season kicks off on August 14th versus Trowbridge on the provisional list issued by the Wilts FA and should this change I will post something on the notice board in the Purton Red House, which hopefully will be open by the time you read this.

Finally no news on the return of footballs from our resident “ball snatcher” and ironically his next door neighbour, who we were told supported him wholeheartedly, threw a ball back immediately it went into his garden during the match. The referee assistant (that is a linesman now for our older readers) brought it back to the changing rooms after the game.

Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC

News from The Cedars

Along with the England fans I have adopted the Neil Diamond classic hit “Sweet Caroline” for this month’s article.



Where it began, I can’t begin to knowing....

This could be a reference to the current COVID situation or the Euro 2020 final. By the time you read this, we could be cup winners and the country could be open for business! Masks a choice of fashion attire, rather than compulsory. Or we could be in lock down due to another variant sweeping the country. At Cedars we will not be giving up our PPE and we will continue to observe various Covid guidelines in order to keep our residents safe and well. The theories of where ‘it’ (Covid or Gareth Southgate’s team) all began are many and none of us know how it will all pan out. Well, we’ll know if we’ve won a cup but as for Covid, who knows?

But then I know it’s growing strong...

The England vs Italy Euro 2020 final will be a distant memory and my fingers are crossed we are cup winners. One thing’s for sure; activity ideas and event planning are really under way now. This is due to a new full time activity coordinator taking up her role. A huge welcome to Khia Rendall. She has been doing a sterling job as covid-coordinator and as that was winding down, she felt she’d like to use the skills she has learnt working at Cedars in a different capacity. Now, with continued support from myself, Katie Tomes and our carers, we definitely know our Activities are growing strong.

Was in the spring

And spring became the summer...

Well, it is warmer, we’ve had some sunny days but again, as I write, it’s drizzling, grey with not much summer sun in sight. So, to cheer us up, here are a few pictures from our activity garden. It’s an ongoing project to make our garden space into somewhere to walk or wheel around. It’s designed to promote conversation and interest in our outside spaces. Our chef Lynne has planted some lovely smelling herbs and our miniature garden contains a local landmark, animals, a golfer, and some lovely plants that are now really coming on. All designed to create curiosity and discussions. Including a bit of physical activity with our apple tree game in the background.



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Hands, touching hands

Reaching out, touching me, touching you...

I hope that everyone is now meeting up with family and friends and having those hugs that we've missed so very much. We are working towards this as safely as OSJCT guidelines will allow and while we feel our way towards allowing more tactile visits for our residents and their families, rest assured we are reaching out, touching hands and making life as warm and tender as we can for our residents.

Sweet Caroline

Good times never seemed so good...

I have faith that Gareth's boys will have done us proud, that our vaccination programme has protected the NHS and that finally we will be looking forward to good times ahead.

We are currently interviewing for a hairdresser to share their expertise exclusively to Cedars residents. If you feel this is you, or for information on other vacancies please call Victoria on 01793 772036 or email V.Wallis@osjct.co.uk.

Gardener wanted! We're struggling to keep on top of our lovely garden space! So, if you are a keen gardener, please contact Khia or Jane via Email k.rendall@osjct.co.uk, j.pitcher@osjct.co.uk or Ka.Tomes@osjct.co.uk or call the above number and ask to speak to one of us.

Thank you and best wishes, Activities Team at The Cedars.

Flower Garlands Personalised Pictures

These painted art garlands come in four seasons of flowers and can be for Christenings, Weddings, In Memoriam, or welcome to your new home; whatever you want.

A4 standard size or could be trimmed to 10" x 8". Each is hand-painted and costs £10 for the St Mary's Church West Tower Fund. If you want it in a frame the cost will be £15. If you want to paint it yourself the personalised sheet will cost £8. Wording is usually different for each one so please discuss further with Libbie Sheppard (01793 771018).



Carer Support Wiltshire

It's been 15 months since the doors were forced to close on Carer Support Wiltshire's face-to-face carer cafes and support groups. The charity is now delighted to be able to welcome back carers for a cuppa, slice of cake and a chat at venues across Wiltshire.

Carer Support Wiltshire runs the cafes to give those people who care for someone the opportunity to meet with others who are in a similar situation to their own. Being a carer can be an isolating experience and carers may spend a lot of time at home if the person they care for has a disability or illness that makes it difficult for them to go out.

You must book your place in advance as numbers will be restricted to give everyone the space they require. Call 0800 181 4118 to book, or email admin@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk.

You can view all events taking place over the summer on the Carer Support Wiltshire website. Online catch-ups are continuing for those who prefer to continue meeting up online and details can be found on the website. There is also a cafe especially for parent carers to meet together.

- Evergreen Court Café, Amesbury – 1st Wednesday of the month, 10.30am - 12 noon
- The Weaving Shed, Bradford-on-Avon – 4th Thursday of the month, 10.30am - 12 noon
- Lansdowne Strand Hotel, Calne – 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10.30am - 12 noon
- Angel Hotel, Chippenham – 3rd Monday of the month, 10.30am - 12 noon
- Methuen Arms, Corsham – 3rd Thursday of the month, 10.30am - 12 noon
- Bear Hotel, Devizes – 1st Wednesday of the month, 10.30am - 12 noon
- The Queens Head, Ludgershall – 1st Tuesday of the month, 3.00pm – 4.30pm
- Angel Tea Rooms, Mere – 3rd Monday of the month, 2.30pm - 4.00pm
- Parent carers café – 3rd Wednesday of the month, phone for venues/times
- Red Lion Hotel, Salisbury – 3rd Monday of the month, 10.30am - 12 noon
- Beaton Café, Tisbury – 4th Tuesday of the month, 10.30am - 12 noon
- Palmer Gardens, Trowbridge – 3rd Wednesday of the month, 2.00pm - 3.30pm
- Crockerton Garden Centre, Warminster – 2nd Tuesday of the month, 2.00pm - 3.30pm.

Kath Brice, PR & Communications Officer, Direct Line: 01380 819606

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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

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12/21

Fuel – The free holiday activity and food programme

Holiday activity and food camps will be running across Wiltshire this coming August to support all primary and secondary age pupils who receive benefits-related free school meals. We are looking for staff who are committed to making the school holidays an enriching experience for these young people and are prepared to go the extra mile to achieve this.

The Summer Camp Site Coach will be responsible for running activities for young people, ensuring the wellbeing of young people and supporting the Site Leader in running a safe, fun programme. Must be 18+ years old.

Key responsibilities:

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Puts young people at the heart of the operation

Ability to engage with young people

Essential:

Able to follow safeguarding, H&S and professional conduct policies

Ability to engage with young people

Preferred:

Ideally holding first aid qualification

Ideally holding safeguarding qualification

Ideally holding a level 2 coaching qualification

Location and hours of work

Camps are likely to run Monday to Thursday 9am to 2pm throughout August with additional set-up time and close down time required. This role is a month-long contract starting on 2 August 2021. Training will be provided prior to the start date.

Job Locations:

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We Record ...

**Funeral at St Mary's Church
A Service to Celebrate the Life of ...**

7 July 2021 Anthony Holbrook Price BEM (Tony) (89)



Join the Prospect Hospice 'thanks a million' summer raffle and you could win £2,000 cash!

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To enter all you need to do is visit www.prospect-hospice.net/raffle. Tickets cost just £1 each and with every ticket purchased you will be contributing to the care and support that Prospect Hospice provides to local people living with a life limiting illness. This year our summer raffle is part of our 'thanks a million' campaign which aims to raise £1m to cover the funding gap left as a result of Covid-19. 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.

Online entries close on Thursday 23 September 2021. For full terms and conditions, please visit www.prospect-hospice.net/raffle

The Apron

The apron or 'pinny' seems to be a garment seldom worn these days, but it holds many fond memories (amongst other things).

The principal purpose of the apron was to protect the dress underneath because women had fewer clothes and washing was much harder work without automatic washing machines. But it served myriad other purposes; an oven glove for removing hot dishes and pots from the oven, and drying children's tears. The Apron was used for carrying eggs in from the chicken coop, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to finish in the warming oven.

When visitors arrived it was ideal for shy children to hide behind and, when callers were unexpected, it was amazing how much furniture could be dusted with it in a matter of seconds!

Aprons were used to mop many a perspiring brow when stood at a stove or when using elbow grease to remove something stubborn. They carried wood and kindling into the house from the wood pile, vegetables from the garden and apples from the trees in autumn.

It was ideal for carrying the pods from shelled peas or broad beans.

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