



# Purton. Magazine

November 2021

Purton Artists Society are celebrating their 40th year, visit their annual exhibition at Purton Village Hall from 29th-31st October.

Image: Monoprint by Rachele Dickie

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## Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2-5pm; Tuesdays 2-7pm; Wednesdays 10am-5pm; Fridays 2-5pm)</i>		
Museum	Marion Hobbs	770185
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

*(Tuesday-Friday 9am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm) [www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/](http://www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/)*

### 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](http://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](mailto:vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk)  
Tel: 770077 (773031 emergencies only)  
Curate: Revd Judith Wells email: [judithwells36@googlemail.com](mailto:judithwells36@googlemail.com)  
Tel: 770627

Wardens Sandra Horsnall: Jane Smith:  
770157 772422

Administrator: Rosie Harris [administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto: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 Shirlyn Toppin Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT

**Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett**  
[www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk](http://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](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk) for previous issues of Purton Magazine, and our advertisers' database for local businesses. We welcome submissions for publication in the December issue. Our copy deadline is the 10th November, please email [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

# Purton. Magazine

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Also online at [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk) © 2004-2021

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Design & Print

## From the Editors

Autumn is often the time for changes including the end of summer time when the clocks fall back on 30th October. Inside this issue readers will find a few changes starting with two new series that we hope will become regular items in future editions of your magazine.

Firstly we are starting a new series called *One of Our Own* where we are hoping to highlight different people who have achieved notable success in their chosen area of expertise including when they have moved away to pastures new. Although we start on page 46 with a national sporting success, we are really anxious to feature Purtonians who have achieved their moments of fame in all other areas, perhaps attracting the spotlight in business, with charities, government, scientific endeavours or in research and development, either nationally or internationally. We hope that this new occasional series will somehow complement the annual Volunteer Community Awards that our Parish Council are announcing on page 6. There are lots of people from our village who have had significant successes in many different places and learning about their achievements can only provide inspiration to the younger generations here as well as giving our older residents more reasons to have even more pride in Purton.

For our other new series we are very grateful to the Tower and Town publication in Marlborough for allowing us to use articles from one of their regular contributors. On page 45 you will find what we hope will become a regular series of nature notes by Robin Nelson whom many will recognise from his nearly 20-year spell as the Musical Director of the Swindon Choral Society. With all his amazing achievements over his lifetime, he would be a perfect candidate for featuring in the new *One of Our Own* series – if only he had lived here!

Elsewhere you will find inside many interesting articles from our regular contributors that keep us all up to date with local community affairs as well as unusual information from further afield. This year the annual Poppy Appeal runs from 30th October to 13th November with more details on page 35.

Even if the encroaching winter chills and darker days are about to reduce time for gardening, our ever active Gardeners' Guild have provided yet another glorious list of interesting facts; where in the world is a nut not a nut? Find out on page 26.

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35''

Growth of a plant in a single day - find out where on page 26

39

Ladies all to himself! Find out more about such a daunting challenge on page 31

£1364

Raised for the St Mary's Tower Masonry repair fund but 25 table top sales – see page 41



## **Volunteer Community Awards**

It is that time of year when we ask you all to consider those within our community who have inspired, cared, and supported as a volunteer to make our community a better place.

The award scheme is now open for nominations. Forms are available to download from our website, or from the office. The closing date for nominations is Monday 31st January 2022 and awards will be made during April at our Annual Parish Meeting (Monday 4th April 2022). [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news-articles/community-volunteering-award-scheme](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news-articles/community-volunteering-award-scheme)

## **Speed Indicator Devices**

For those who have not seen them or been “flashed” at, we are delighted to advise that the installation of three Speed Indicator Devices, on Station Road, High Street and Restrop Road, has taken place. The process has been fraught with issues from location permissions to equipment weightage and posts, but we are delighted to finally have these in place. We hope this will aid the reduction in speed of those who are not familiar with our village and be a constant reminder of the speed limits required to keep our community safe.

## **Budgeting 2022-23**

The Parish Council will be looking at budgets for the coming financial year during November and December and want to hear from the community on projects, requests and concerns that could be considered as part of this process. Please email the Clerk directly, phone, or pending restrictions, pop into the office for an open discussion. #communitengagment #purtoncares #budgets

## **Annual Parish Walk**

The Annual Parish Walk organised by the Footpath Team took place on Sunday 3rd October; it had been delayed due to Covid. It was something over 4 miles in distance. Starting from the layby, the route took in some of our local places of interest including Mud Lane, Ringsbury Camp and Francomes Hill. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't so good; rain was threatening at the start and came soon after. Luckily the walkers had anticipated this and came suitably attired. But it did go away, and we'd like to think it didn't spoil the afternoon's walk. Huge thanks to the people who turned out despite the outlook, making seventeen in number – a good walk in good company. Hopefully next year we can do it again and we'll be back to our normal September date – here's hoping for a nice sunny day! From the Footpath Volunteer Team.

## **Council Meetings – November 2021**

COVID – Please call the office to book your space if you wish to attend as a member of the public.

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 shauna.wheeldon@gmail.com or Tel: 07717 560296

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04/22

  
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**10am-1.30pm Sat (last orders 1pm)**

**For the latest information visit our Facebook page [facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/](https://www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/)**

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

**email: [marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk)**  
**Tel Mary: 01793 772298,**  
**Duty team: 07498 526872**

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Agendas are posted on our notice boards (Purton Village Hall and Pavenhill Shops) and our website [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Staffing Meeting (not open to the public) Monday 1st November 2021  
(commencing at 7.00pm)  
Finance and General Purposes Meeting Monday 1st November 2021  
(commencing at 7.30pm)  
Council meeting Monday 8th November 2021  
(commencing at 7.00 p.m.)

### **Youth Club**

Purton Youth Club restarted on Wednesday 15th September at Purton Village Hall, for ages 7 and upwards. Please contact the Rise Trust for more information on 07715 681950 or email [danielleb@therisetrust.org](mailto:danielleb@therisetrust.org)

The Youth Club is supported and funded by Purton Parish Council open to all children resident in Purton.

### **Councillor Vacancies**

We currently have four Councillor vacancies to suit community focused people who are willing to dedicate time and resources to the role. Application details are available on our website or call or email the Clerk for more information on the interview process and post.

### **Planning Applications**

Planning applications received are discussed by the Council on the second Monday of each month. Purton Parish Council is only a consultee and the final decisions are made by the planning authority, which is Wiltshire Council. Details of applications are posted on our website should you wish to view them or through the Wiltshire Council portal link, which is also on our website. Applications to be considered at our meetings will be posted on our agenda, which can be found on our notice boards and website.

### **Permission Granted**

PL/2021/06216 12 High Street, Purton SN5 4AA. Change of use from Dental Practice to residential dwelling.

### **Withdrawn Applications**

21/01796/FUL 4 Cricklade Road, Purton SN5 4HS. Replace and rebuild existing rundown garage/barn and add a new first floor to create a home gym and games room.

### **Purton Red House**

The Council, as Sole Trustee of the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity, would like to thank the community for their return to the Purton Red House. No membership required, open to all and all welcomed. Our first musical event was held in September and will be followed by an event each month with a planned Christmas

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“all day” celebration for young and old... Details will be advertised shortly.

james.poole@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk 01793 778347 or call the Council Office 771066.

Hall Hire - The Millennium Hall and Village Hall are both available to hire with COVID-19 precautions in place. If you would like to hire a hall, please give us a ring or email [lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Full Council details can be found on our website [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Telephone number: 01793 771066

Email address: [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

We also have Facebook and Twitter accounts.

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

## Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

### **Table Top Trail – 25 September, Purton**



Over £800 was raised, with more than half of this being taken on the morning. Very many thanks to all who donated - we had some lovely donations of cakes, plants and many other items to sell. Thanks are also due to all those who came and bought from us, without all your support we couldn't have been successful. Thanks are also due to Sylvia for the loan of her drive and to Libbie too for organising the event and publicising it. There were so many people around and a great atmosphere.



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## 200+ Club

The first of our monthly draws was in early October and the winner of the first prize of £100 was Paul Baker. You can now join the 200 Club after 1 April 2022.

## Donations for the PPG

The surgery has been included in a legacy by a grateful patient. We would like to thank all 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](mailto:groupforpatients@gmail.com)

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



*The Inaugural 200 Club draw was made by Suzanne, a receptionist who has worked for the Surgery for over 33 years.*

## 2022 Purton Magazine Subscriptions

Purton Magazine is very proud that it continued to publish its monthly community news and information each month throughout the Covid-19 pandemic - when most of our neighbouring towns and villages ceased. It provided a lifeline to some who found themselves isolated from village life.

Your village magazine relies on supply and demand - interesting articles, relevant news and information being provided by the community - and local people wanting to read it! It is mainly written by, and for, residents of our Parish. Please help us continue this tradition by sending us your contributions by the 10th of each month for inclusion in the following month's edition.

2022 Annual subscriptions for Purton Magazine will remain at £10 for 12 issues and will be collected before Christmas by your distributor. If you'd like to subscribe, please email [distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk) with your name and address and Sandra would be happy to add you to the delivery list, see page 32 for further details. You can also contact Sandra if you'd like to become a distributor either in Purton or help to grow our readership in Ridgeway Farm or Mouldon View.

Thank you to all the volunteers who deliver Purton Magazine in Purton, Bentham and Purton Stoke, and to the local businesses who sell copies on our behalf.

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## The Royal British Legion Purton Branch

The Purton Branch members would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Purton and the surrounding area for their generosity over the years towards the Poppy Appeal, and the support of everyone is very much appreciated.

Due to the Covid restrictions placed on fund raising, the financial year to the end of September 2021 was, understandably, considerably lower than previous years, resulting in the total collected for the Branch of £2,923.57, down by approximately 70%, which is probably the same for all charities this year, but for which we are very grateful. We are fortunate in having Shirley and Mike Lawrence as Poppy Appeal Organisers, for whom we have to thank for most, if not all, of the above sum, and to all of the many other wonderful people who give their time to help to collect for the Poppy Appeal we extend our grateful thanks. In addition we would also like to thank all the customers of ASDA who gave so generously.

### **Remembrance Service**

This year is particularly important as it is the Centenary of the formation of The Royal British Legion, and also of the Purton Branch of the Legion, so we are relieved to announce that the Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 14th November at 2.30 p.m. at the Cenotaph, and the format will be as normal.

Regardless of the weather it will be held outside, so come dressed accordingly but, in the event of inclement weather, for those who don't wish to stand outside, the Silver Threads Hall will be available and a speaker will relay the service indoors.

We hope that, as now has become the custom, the road will be closed for approximately one and a half hours, and diversions put in place, but the police will not be on traffic duty and this will be carried out by volunteers, so please have a little patience and understanding as the task is quite difficult enough without adding to the problem.

The Branch would again like to extend a warm welcome to any serving or ex-service members of the civil or military uniform branches who would like to join us in the parade, regardless of whether or not you are British Legion members.

This year, and in future, the Legion will be placing the wooden crosses in the Field of Remembrance only for those whose lives were lost as a result of conflict, but of course, anyone can place a cross in the Field of Remembrance for someone to whom they wish to pay their respects. This has been done because of the increasing numbers and to avoid offence to the loved ones of people we miss; we hope you will understand.

We will also be holding a short service on the morning of the 11th at 11.00am at the Cenotaph in order to join with the rest of the country in holding a two minute silence to commemorate the Armistice on the 11.11.1918. This will include the "Last Post" and "Reveille", so please come and join us. Thank you very much.

*Colin Pearson, Honorary Secretary*

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**Are you new to the village?**

Our Christmas voucher list needs updating soon and also we would like to hear from any people 65 years and older, who might not be on the list, and who would like to be contacted by one of our Street Wardens so that they can receive information on our events throughout 2022, which we are hopefully going to run, fingers crossed. The Christmas vouchers will be circulated this year during December as usual.

**Christmas cards**

We are going to be producing Christmas Cards again this year with local photographs on the front, taken by local photographers. I'm afraid the closing date for any more has passed, as we will be selecting the final few at our next meeting. Thanks to those who sent us a lovely selection to choose from.

**Neighbourhood watch**

We have been distributing Neighbourhood Watch leaflets produced by the Parish Council, through our Street Wardens, to residents in the village that we look out for. It is important to take notice of the advice there, because as a village, we don't have a lot of crime reported, but that doesn't mean that we can assume, therefore, that it won't happen. We must always look out for suspicious people and unusual comings and goings.

**Help required**

Our committee needs to replace some of the long-serving members who have decided, in some cases after nearly 40 years' service, to take a back seat and leave the committee. We have lost four people and would dearly love to replace them as soon as possible. So if you feel you could spare time to help us to continue at full strength then please contact either myself or Georgina, or if you know anyone else on the committee or street wardens, contact them for details and come and join us.

**Obituary**

I have to report the sad death of John Macdonald who lived in Glevum Close. John took on the role of Street Warden from his wife after she died and served for many years before resigning about five years ago. John always produced hand-made Christmas cards for all his residents each year and was liked by all his neighbours. His working life was in the RAF and he often told of different countries he had visited during that time. He ran the PCC skittles team for many years and was always keen to attend even when his mobility was affected. We shall miss his cheery attitude and his one-liner jokes! He was a nice man. Condolences to Andrew and Denise and the rest of his family.

**Useful contacts**

If you have a problem or need to speak to anyone about prescriptions, food shopping or any other topic then the contact numbers you should use, after you have talked

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to your street warden, are Peter Berry from Age Concern on 778119, Heather Ponting-Bather from Purton Outreach on 772954 or Debbie Lawrence, Clerk of the Parish Council, on 771066. Remember that Purton is a very special village and there is always somebody that can help and will help.

***If you need it!***

Bobby Van – If you need the Bobby Van for replacement batteries or if the smoke alarms are not working properly then call them on 01225 256867. Please be aware that there might be restrictions in place at this time. If you are self-isolating and not letting anybody enter your home then you will need to replace your smoke alarm yourself as they won't leave one on the doorway. If they are called to replace one, then they have to do it. Please be aware.

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

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

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

*Peter Berry, Chairman*

## *John Macdonald 1930 - 2021*

Douglas John Macdonald (known by all as John) was born in 1930 in Stamford, Lincolnshire to parents who were in the RAF. He therefore spent many of his early years living in places such as Egypt and Harrogate. He was an only child and decided to also join the RAF in 1946, where he trained to be an electrical engineer.

He did his final years' service at RAF Lyneham and he and his wife Aron bought a house in Wootton Bassett. He retired from the RAF in 1984 and in the early 1990s, they moved to Glevum Close, Purton. Aron became the Street Warden and, after her death in 2011, John took over the role. He continued to do this for many years and only retired from the post when walking became harder for him.

John loved to play skittles and from 2006 to 2019 was an active member of the PCC team in the Cirencester and District League, also taking on secretarial duties.

He loved aeroplanes and built many models of planes he had worked on in his life. He and his son Andy went to many airshows and he loved it when the planes came over the house on their way to the Fairford air show. There was always a pair of binoculars to hand!

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He also loved to paint watercolours and made greetings cards, which he sold at local craft fairs. He was skilled at DIY and mending cars.

Although he left the gardening to Aron, he loved to feed the birds and make nesting boxes for them and was very proud when various broods were hatched. These were avidly photographed as he was a keen cameraman.

John leaves a son, Andy, and daughter, Denise and three grandchildren – Ellie, Leonie and Emmeline. He was also a Great Gramps to Harlee, Ellie's daughter in New Zealand. He took an active interest in their lives and was supportive and generous to them.

The family wishes to say thank you to all the people who knew Aron and John and particularly to those close neighbours who looked after John as he became older. We are very grateful to them for keeping an eye out and helping with practical tasks etc.

His funeral service is scheduled for Friday October 29th at North Wilts Crematorium at 10am and all are welcome. There will be a live webcast for anyone who cannot attend and please feel free to email Denise ([denise@chdesign.co.uk](mailto:denise@chdesign.co.uk)), explaining your connection, and I will send the log in details. This is available for a few weeks afterwards. After the service we will be having refreshments at The Angel in Royal Wootton Bassett.

## *The late Douglas Desmond (Des) Raikes May April 7th 1934 - April 21st 2020*

Des was born in Purton on 7th April 1934 to Ethel and Christopher May – the youngest of four boys. He attended St Mary's school until age 15, then went to Swindon College on day release to study a motor mechanic course.

The early years were wartime so the school was very different to the lovely Purton school we have today.

Des' first job was as an apprentice motor mechanic at the Swindon Motor Company – which he didn't enjoy, so at the first opportunity when he reached 18, he joined The Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm for a period of 12 years.

Des completed training and became a radio-electrical mechanic, working mainly on helicopters. He very much enjoyed the work which took him all over the world, serving on aircraft carriers and also shore establishments.

In 1958 he met me, Margaret. I was a nurse training to be a midwife. We were married in 1959 at St Mary's Church in Purton, where, as a boy, Des had sung in the choir. Our first home was in Ilchester, Somerset, where Des served at HMS Heron at Yeovilton, a very happy period in our lives.

Des left the Royal Navy in 1962 and the family moved back to Purton. Between 1960 and 1967 we had three children; Deborah, Nigel and Andrew. Des was a great family man and loved his children dearly, he was very proud of each one.

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For the next twenty years Des worked at Plessey on the Cheney Manor Industrial Estate in Swindon, until redundancy brought a very difficult chapter in our lives. Several months later he found employment with Chris New at Graphic Print. His final job was at Serobex, a screen printer in Calne.

Des retired in 1998 and we remained in Purton, Des was very much a country boy! During his working life he served on Purton Parish Council and also Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District Council, which is now Wiltshire Council. He was also chair of Governors at Bradon Forest School. For many years he was a member, and later chairman of the Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Sadly in 2004 Des developed Macular Degeneration and became registered blind. This was a difficult time in his life, which took away his independence. We had wonderful support from family and friends, and Des just got on with life. Due to his service background he became a member of St Dunstons – now re-named Blind Veterans UK. They are an amazing organisation which cares and supports both serving and ex-service men and women from all the armed services, who have suffered sight loss for whatever reason. They were a great support to us. We were also given great care by Wiltshire Blind Organisation.

Des and I were fortunate to have a long and happy marriage, celebrating both our golden and diamond anniversaries. Our lovely granddaughter Francesca joined our family in 1990.

To our very great sadness Des developed vascular dementia in 2012 and Alzheimer's Disease. We cared for him at home for two years but he eventually needed round the clock care and our family was devastated. Des moved into Stainsbridge House in Malmesbury where he was cared for lovingly by the wonderful staff for the next six years. I was a frequent visitor and it became my second home – the staff cared for me as well!

In 2020 our country was hit by the deadly Covid-19 pandemic and we were all suddenly in lock down. Little did I realise that mid-March 2020 would be my final visit to see Des, Stainsbridge House was closed to all visitors. Sadly, Des contracted Covid-19 and was not strong enough to recover. He passed away on 21st April and I was unable to be with him.

I will be forever grateful to the wonderful staff at Stainsbridge House, our children and friends, and Revd Judith Wells for all their care and support over many years.

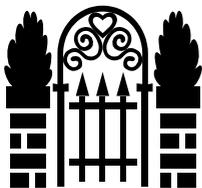
Because of the restrictions we were unable to hold a funeral service in St Mary's Church, but at last we can put this right.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Des will be held on November 20th 2021 at 2pm at St Mary's Church and all will be welcome.

*Margaret May*

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**[www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)**

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# Ten Years Ago...

At last, Purton had a new Vicar. Dr John Railton's arrival at St. Mary's was announced (by himself) in the November 2011 issue of Purton Magazine. His appointment was for only a year while the Diocese continued to think about what was the right solution for the Parish. That entitles me to say, "watch this space".



Even though the Maskelyne celebrations had wound down, there were plenty of other reminiscences of past times. The museum offered a copy of a 1961 receipt from the Angel Hotel, complete with a signature over an old tuppenny stamp. This was a form of taxation – though it could not have raised much for the Treasury – and I think was abolished at the same time as the decimalisation of currency in 1971. Going further back, After 8 offered an advertisement from 1889, announcing that E. Kempster had been running the Post Office for 25 years. He must have been an important cog in the village as he would have been the source of those 2d stamps but he was also the "agent" for Huntley and Palmers' Cakes and Biscuits as well as Cole's Pig Powders.

But the magazine looked forward as well. St Mary's School had buried a time capsule "full of memories" to be opened in 2061. In case everyone has forgotten, it's under the stairs. Purton Evening WI looked forward just to January, suggesting that their jumble sale then was a good outlet for unwanted Christmas gifts. Well, what do you expect from a group which ran a brassiere competition? The members who entered "did Purton WI proud".

The final word must go to the Tennis Club: "It's definitely not all gloom and doom and we have Christmas to look forward to!" Let's hope that works out in 2021.

## We Record ...

### **Funerals at St Mary's Church**

24 September 2021 Arthur James (Jim) Baker (78)

27 September 2021 Andrew (Tony) Edwards (77)

### **Weddings at St Mary's Church**

2 October 2021 Fiona Hill and Trystan Jones Cullen

8 October 2021 Manon Katie Mary Bales and Liam Thomas Jones

9 October 2021 Dominic Harry Ritchings and Emily Jade Fisher



**Preparing for Christmas**

Have you started your preparations for Christmas yet? Do you have a list? Can I suggest you add a visit to St Mary's Church for some quiet time?



Starting on Advent Sunday, 28 November, David Suchet will be reading the whole Bible in the Church (a recording). He will start with the Gospel of Matthew on Advent Sunday evening between 6.30 and 8.30 and then from Monday, the Old Testament will be read from 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. each weekday starting at Genesis and running to Lamentations. If you would like to hear the Psalms, they will be reached during Thursday afternoon. The Gospels of Mark and Luke will be read Tuesday and Thursday evening between 8 and about 9.30 and John on Saturday morning between 9 and 11. Acts will be read Sunday afternoon 5 December from 2 to 5 and the reading of the Old Testament will be completed on the next day (Monday) starting with Ezekiel at 7.30am and finishing around 4 that afternoon. The New Testament beyond Acts to Revelations will be read between 7.30am and 6pm on Tuesday 7 December. We hope to provide refreshments during the Gospel readings but please pop in anytime during these readings and find somewhere to sit. We hope the Bible reading will help your contemplation time. If you would prefer to contemplate in silence, the Church is open each day, so plan a visit after 7 December. The commercial side of Christmas can easily drown out the real message of Christmas Day, the birth of Jesus, the son of God and the Saviour of the World. Why not take a few minutes to contemplate this awesome event in St Mary's Church this Advent season?

Dave Nettleton

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# 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.*



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## **'Flu Vaccinations**

I would like to congratulate all involved at Purton Surgery for the efficient way they processed so many of us during the

vaccination clinic on 9 October. I was nearly back home by the actual time of my appointment!

Thank you to all concerned.

Rick Dixon

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## St Mary's Fellowship of Women

St Mary's Fellowship of Women is celebrating 50 years since their inception as a group whose roots were in the Mothers' Union initially. It's not quite clear why this group was formed but it consisted of women from the church congregation who wanted to meet on a regular basis in the evening because of work commitments. They invited speakers to come along and talk to them on various subjects, not necessarily religious themes.

The membership is made up of ladies of all christian denominations who don't have to be regular churchgoers, but each meeting is opened by the President saying a few prayers, after welcoming everybody warmly.

In the past, trips were organised for all sorts of reasons and could consist of a visit, with a guide, to a nearby village or garden and could include a meal. This is something we haven't been able to do recently but will endeavour to resurrect these events in the future. In recent years we have always had a summer party in mid-July.

The meetings are held in the Methodist Church in Play Close, initially in the evening, but latterly on the third Monday afternoon in the month, which seems to suit people better, as all are retired and prefer to travel in daylight.

There are devotional meetings at Easter and Christmas attended by a member of the clergy where possible.

We aim to always send a donation to a chosen charity each year if there is money available.

We have space for more members, so if you feel this is something you would enjoy then please contact Claire Housley on 770189 or Susan Berry on 778119 – we would love to hear from you. Why not come along to one of our meetings? They are listed in the diary section of this magazine. Our meetings will resume from January 2022.

*Susan Berry*

## *Cricklade Revealed for Christmas?*

The very last Cricklade Revealed booklet (Index Book CRE 5) of the whole series of fifteen is due out next month, and whether you are only interested in one particular part, have missing parts, or would like to collect the series from scratch (there is a discount for six or more bought together) please let me know. Also still available are a few copies of my 2020 VE/VJ souvenir booklet (£3.00) containing the memories of people living in this area who have vividly described their personal circumstances and celebrations of those momentous events from numerous places across the country in 1945. Both issues have been very popular as Christmas stocking fillers, and both have raised funds for Cricklade Open Door.

For further details, please ring me on 01793 750542 or email [mfp Parsons071@btinternet.com](mailto:mfp Parsons071@btinternet.com). I will be delighted to hear from you.

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## Purton Historical Society



We are pleased to announce that our venue will be:

Purton Methodist Church, Play Close, 8 Church Path, Purton SN5 4DR

**The following presentations have been arranged:**

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

In his talk, Joe takes us back in time to the origins of Bradon Forest. He'll take us through a series of perambulations documented in the 13th century which outlined the changes in the area the forest encompassed. Each of which he has walked himself, retracing the perambulation bounds on the ground. He will also use inferred evidence, even before documentation, to trace back to the earliest beginnings of the forest. Visitors welcome, fee £3.

**Friday 3rd December 2021 – Christmas Social 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall**

We welcome back, by popular request, 'Out of the Box Catering' and 'The White Horse Folk Club' from Highworth. These are the same caterers and entertainers that were so successful at the 2019 Social. Tickets are £15 per person and include a buffet supper, entertainment, quiz and lucky ticket number. Bring your own choice of drink and we will supply the glasses.

Please order your ticket by mid-November 2021. These are available at monthly meetings or from Janet and Tony Neate (770117), Jim Mosley (778395) or Marion Hobbs (770185). Visitors and friends are welcome.

**Looking forward to the New Year**

**Thursday, 27th January 2022 at 7.30pm - Abolition of the Slave Trade – Martin Collison – further details to follow**

Janet and Tony Neate, email: [tjneate57@gmail.com](mailto:tjneate57@gmail.com)

## Museum News

Thank you to all our visitors for their encouragement following our opening with Covid-19 regulations. The Museum is now closed until the spring. 'Watch this space' for the date of reopening and details of our next exhibition.

At present the position of Voluntary Curator is still vacant.

We are delighted that Purton Public Library is now open.

We apologise that the Purton Museum AV screen situated in the library is not currently operating. Quite a while ago the specially prepared USB stick was removed from the AV Screen and at present, we are unable to show an up-to-date set of photographs with script. If anyone knows the whereabouts of that USB stick, I would be most grateful to have it returned to the library. Visitors to the library could

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then see photographs on the AV screen of the artefacts in the museum upstairs. This is particularly important while the museum is closed over the winter and also for anyone who cannot access the museum due to the stairs.

The Wiltshire Life 75th anniversary celebratory magazine contains information and photographs about the county in 1946. It includes a letter sent to Purton Football Club, dated April 1946. There is a photograph of the football team on our webpage (details below).

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

## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



October 10th and unseasonably warm weather is still allowing work to continue apace on our gardens and allotments. Each time the lawnmower is brought out from the shed, we wonder if this will be the 'last cut' before colder conditions finally stem the grass growth until the spring. For the moment though, we continue unchecked with our tidying up jobs, preparing the ground for next year's sowing and cutting back and preparing plants for overwintering as necessary.

Meanwhile the allotments will continue to provide for months to come with sprouts, leeks, and parsnips the 'go to' vegetables.

Just as we are thinking the gardening season is drawing to a close, a seed catalogue and order form has popped through our letter box. Something for us to peruse over the colder days to come when outdoor gardening is curtailed.

It makes you realise that gardening, in one form or another, is a year long project.

Amazing secrets are lurking everywhere in our gardens and what follows are some interesting facts from North America that maybe you didn't know about plants. Every fact could be followed by the catchphrase 'Not a lot of people know that', attributed to Michael Caine but actually coined by Peter Sellers when he did an impression of Caine on Parkinson. Now dare I say it, 'not a lot of people know that'!!

1. A sunflower is not just one flower. Both the fuzzy brown centre and the classic yellow petals are actually 1,000 – 2,000 individual flowers, held together on a single stalk.
2. There are more microorganisms in one teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth. That fact might make you uncomfortable, but microbes are important for keeping your soil full of nutrients.
3. Plants really do respond to sound. Talking to plants to help them grow is a well-known old gardener's tale, but studies have shown vibration (like music, or perhaps even the sweet sound of your voice) can affect plant growth. Plus, the Myth Busters (in an admittedly not-so-scientific study), compared a silent

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greenhouse to one where they piped in a voice soundtrack and found that plants in the latter grew more.

4. Butterflies might be more attracted to your weeds than your flowers. Colourful blooms aren't the chief reason these insects love your garden – it's more about the fragrance and nectar. According to the Smithsonian Institute, new cultivars of popular flowers have been bred for enhanced colour and size, but have often lost their fragrance in the process. So everyday weeds, like dandelions and clovers, might actually be the most appealing things in your yard to butterflies (they hate pesticides, too). Taking care to choose heirloom flower seeds can get them to also fly your way.
5. Some of your favourite fruits are actually in the rose family. Apples, peaches, and pears; believe it or not! Plus cherries, raspberries, strawberries, and more are rosaceae, making them relatives to the long-stemmed Valentine's Day variety.
6. The right orchid combination can smell like your favourite dessert. Did you know that the vanilla bean comes from an orchid variety? And it's not the only sweet-smelling kind: "An oncidium hybrid called Sharry Baby smells like chocolate," says George Hatfield, president of the Santa Barbara Orchid Show. "It's 'baking cookie' aroma has made it a winner." And that's not all: The cymbidium Golden Elf smells lemony, and the phalaenopsis violacea has a cinnamon scent. "Just like you'd combine Jelly Belly beans to create new flavours, you can combine orchids to create a garden that smells like a dessert buffet," says Hatfield.
7. Wishbone flower is real. Torenia, a shade-loving annual, is called the wishbone flower. Look for tiny wishbone-shape stamens inside the purple, blue or burgundy petals.
8. The world's tallest-growing tree is the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), which grows along the Pacific Coast of the United States, mainly in California. Interestingly enough, it's not the world's oldest-growing tree; that award goes to a bristlecone pine (*Pinus aristata*).
9. What is the fastest growing woody plant in the world? Bamboo! It can grow 35 inches in a single day.
10. Where did making wine originate? Archaeologists have uncovered evidence that grapes were grown to make wine about 8,000 years ago in Mesopotamia (today's Iraq), although the ancient Egyptians were the first to record the process of making wine about 5,000 years ago.
11. What flower was once more valuable than gold? During the 1600s, tulips were so valuable in Holland that their bulbs were worth more than gold. The craze was called tulip mania, (a sort of tulipomania) and caused the crash of the Dutch economy. Tulips can continue to grow as much as an inch per day after being cut. Does this mean money really does grow on trees/bulbs?
12. What do vanilla and corn have in common? Vanilla flavoring comes from the

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pod of an orchid, *Vanilla planifolia*. Though the pods are called vanilla beans, they're more closely related to corn than green beans.

13. What fruit is from the bromeliad family? The word pineapple comes from European explorers who thought the fruit combined the look of a pinecone with flesh like that of an apple. Pineapples are the only edible members of the bromeliad family.
14. Did you know... From a botanical standpoint, avocados and pumpkins are fruits, not vegetables, because they bear the plant's seeds. Rhubarb, on the other hand, is a vegetable.
15. Where did Poinsettias originate from? Well they were natives of Mexico, but were brought to the United States in 1825 by the first U.S. minister to Mexico, Joel Poinsett, for whom the plant is named.
16. Why do cranberries float? Small pockets of air inside cranberries cause them to bounce and float in water.
17. What is the largest flower in the world (and the stinkiest)? The flower of the titan arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*) is the largest unbranched flower in the world and can reach up to 15 feet tall. The bloom produces a smell like that of rotting meat, giving it the common name of corpse flower. A similar smell comes from *Rafflesia*, another plant that hails from the rainforests of Sumatra. Both plants developed their scent so they could be pollinated by flies; they don't compete with other blooms for butterflies and hummingbirds.
18. Did you know... All parts of the oleander (*Nerium oleander*), a beautiful Mediterranean-native flowering shrub, are poisonous. Ingesting oleander leaves can cause gastrointestinal, cardiac, and central nervous system problems and possible death.
19. Random fact – Angiosperm is the scientific name for flowering plants and refers to the seeds being borne in capsules or fruits. Nonflowering plants – pines, spruces, firs, junipers, larches, cycads, and ginkgos – are called gymnosperms.
20. What flower resembles a dragon? It's the beloved snapdragon flower. It resembles a dragon, and if you squeeze the sides, the dragon's mouth will appear to open and close.
21. What is the difference between nectarines and peaches? The difference between nectarines and peaches is that nectarines don't have fuzzy skins. You can graft peach branches onto a nectarine tree or nectarine branches onto a peach tree so you have both types of fruits.
22. What fruit has seeds on the outside? The average strawberry has 200 seeds. It's the only fruit that bears its seeds on the outside.
23. Why do we cry when cutting onions? Sulphuric compounds are to blame for cut onions bringing tears to your eyes. According to the National Onion Association, chilling the onion and cutting the root end last reduces the problem.

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24. What is one of the oldest living tree species? It is the Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*); it dates back to about 250 million years ago. Dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) is another ancient species; it dates back about 150 million years. Both were known in the fossil record before they were found alive.
  25. The longest living organisms on earth are.... Trees are the longest-living organisms that exist on earth!
  26. A nut is not a nut. Peanuts are not nuts, but legumes related to beans and lentils. They have more protein, niacin, folate, and phytosterols than any nut, according to the National Peanut Board, (and yes there really is a National Peanut Board, even if not in Britain). Keep warm!

*Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)*

## After 8

Our first “proper” meeting – what a great turn out we had!  
The topic for the evening was “Jane”, which was led by Eve.  
“Jane who?” you might well ask. Mansfield? Eyre? Seymour?  
None of the above.



We learned that Jane was a comic strip character, created by the artist Norman Pett. She was a feature in the Daily Mirror newspaper from 1932 to 1959 in, “Jane’s Journal, Or the Diary of a Bright Young Thing”.

She was created to make a comic strip that was popular with adults. Originally the model for the pictures was Pett’s wife. She, however, clearly got fed up and took up golf...

Pett teamed up with Chrystabel Leighton-Porter as his model and she later became the live personification of Jane. The comic strip was salacious and always seemed to involve some misadventure where she appeared to inadvertently lose parts of her clothing. Once, when Jane lost her panties, many concerned readers of all ages sent in pairs of pants, so that Jane could keep her dignity!

Jane had a pet dachshund called Fritz in whom she confided. There was an outcry when the paper tried to get rid of Fritz due to the German connotations during the war. He was quickly reinstated. The comic strip was extremely popular, especially during the war years and was considered morale boosting. Churchill suggested that Jane was “Britain’s secret Weapon”. The character of Jane was also incorporated into training manuals for the forces.

After the war, Jane, portrayed by Chrystabel Leighton-Porter, began a musical hall striptease act, which was performed on army bases around the country.

The cartoon strip came to an end in 1959 when Jane sailed off into the sunset to be happily married to her long-standing boyfriend Georgie Porgie.

*Marion Andrews*

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## *Christmas Concert in aid of the St. Mary's West Tower Masonry Repair Fund on 4th December.*

Dodecantus, the amateur mixed voice chamber choir based in North Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire is preparing for their first post-covid concert in our recently renewed and reopened church. More details about the programme and performance in aid of the West Tower Masonry Repair Fund will be published in the December issue of Purton Magazine.

The name Dodecantus is derived from two languages – the Greek for twelve is “dodeka” and the Latin for singing is “cantus.” Although there are not always only 12 choir members singing in any concert, numbers are kept small to produce a special and intimate sound at every performance in each different surrounding.



Founded in 2004 the choir has regularly performed up to six concerts a year in this region and in addition has toured five times in Europe to France, Malta, Spain and Gibraltar, performing at several wonderful UNESCO World Heritage sites. In more recent years the choir has also deputised for cathedral choirs in St. David's in Pembrokeshire and Truro in Cornwall as well as being booked for Chichester Cathedral in Sussex next year.

Last year they had planned to give only the second performance of a special piece commemorating the Peterloo Massacre entitled One Universal Shout with an orchestral reduction specifically written for Dodecantus. Although the anniversary has now passed it is hoped that the new work can be included in a future concert. Their website ([www.dodecantus.uk](http://www.dodecantus.uk)) has recently been updated during the covid interruptions and has many more details about the choir including numerous testimonials as well as listing over 300 works in their repertoire.

Readers might be interested to visit the website and see the music previously performed at Christmas concerts to get a flavour of some of the seasonal music Dodecantus will be performing at St. Mary's church on Saturday 4th December. £10 tickets will be available on the door but as a sizeable audience could be anticipated, tickets can also be reserved in advance through [francis.sheppard@live.com](mailto:francis.sheppard@live.com) or by phone on 01793 771018.



## *Beneath the Wool*

This month seems to have been a not so busy one, but when we start to think about it there's been a few little things going on. This last month has been an exceptionally bad time for flystrike. It's where the green bottle flies lay their eggs in the sheep's wool. Usually it really starts to tail-off in September and the risk is significantly lower. However we have found we've had more cases now than we had all summer, mainly due to the unseasonably warm weather. It started in the lambs but in the last week just started in the shorn ewes, which is even rarer as they have very little wool. Keeping an eye out on this is important and sometimes catches you by surprise.

We are starting to plan how the tupping is going to work and where's best to put the new ram Jules with his ladies. He's got a big job on this year, and he's got to perform as he's got 39 ladies all to himself. We are trying to flush the ewes, which is where we put them onto lots of grass which tricks their bodies into producing more eggs, and hopefully means more lambs. If they don't have much grass the complete opposite happens and the lambing percentage is significantly impacted.

Unfortunately we've had a few problems with tractors this month, mainly with fuel problems. Luckily, Tris managed to stop the fuel leaking, but the problem has come back so he's having to have another go. So on this subject a huge thanks to Tris for fixing it.

This month we've been a bit busy away from the farm doing some topping for friends of ours at Tarlton. We've been topping some very steep banks of long grass ready for the winter season and this took us quite a long time as it's a slow job and, at times a little bit scary, but we managed it. We do a few jobs like this for people, which helps the farm financially, but also makes good use of our machinery, helping it to earn its keep.

We had a very spectacular rainbow over the farm and railway this week and it was truly stunning to see and a very good example of a rainbow. This always puts a smile on your face when you're checking sheep and it's raining, especially if you've forgotten your coat.

*Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton*

## Purton Village Diary - November 2021

- 4 Th Diwali, the Hindu festival of light  
5.00pm until 11pm Christmas shopping event at The Royal George
- 5 F Guy Fawkes Night  
5.00pm until 12pm Christmas Shopping event at The Royal George
- 7 Su 8.00am Communion at St Mary's Church  
10.30am Morning worship at Purton Methodist Church  
10.30am New to church at St Mary's  
6.00pm All Soul's Service at St Mary's Church
- 11 Th Armistice Day
- 13 Sa World Kindness Day  
7.00pm PADS Murder Mystery evening at St Mary's Church
- 14 Su 10.30am Morning worship at Purton Methodist Church  
10.30am Remembrance Sunday Communion at St Mary's Church  
2.30pm Remembrance Service at Purton War Memorial
- 15 M 2.00pm St Mary's Fellowship of Woemn meet at Purton Methodist Church, Play Close
- 17 W 7.30pm Purton Evening WI meet at Silver Threads Hall
- 19 F 7.30pm Mad March Hare Quiz night at Swindon Town Football Club
- 21 Su 8.00am Communion at St Mary's Church  
10.30am Morning worship at Purton Methodist Church  
10.30am New to Church service at St Mary's
- 25 Th Thanks Giving
- 26 F Black Friday, or for anti-consumerists, Buy Nothing Day  
9.00pm Live music at the Red House:Abbalicious
- 27 Sa 11.00am until 2.30pm Christmas Market at St Mary's Church
- 28 Su 10.30am Morning worship at Purton Methodist Church  
10.30am Communion at St Mary's Church  
4.00pm Advent Messy Church at St Mary's Church  
Until 6 December, Hanukkah Jewish Festival
- 30 Tu St Andrew's Day



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# Purton Village Diary

## Every week

- M 6.30pm to 7.30pm Purton Village Voices choir practice at the Red House function room (term time)
- Tu 9.00am to 11am Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)  
2.00pm to 7.00pm Purton Library open  
7.30pm Bridge Club at the Red House
- W 6.15pm Purton Youth Club for school years 4-7 at Purton Village Hall
- Sa 10.00am to 12.30pm Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-Nov)

## Every month

- 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 2-4pm Purton Charity Knitting group meet at Pips Community Cafe  
7.30pm Purton Evening WI meet at the Silver Threads Hall
- 4th Thursday (September to May) Purton Historical Society meet at 7.30pm in Play Close Methodist Church.

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](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

## Church Floodlighting

- Nov 14 The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Monica Kinnett**. This is the 16th year since she passed away. Forever in our thoughts. All our love Peter, Mandy, Paul, Jenny, Jerilyn, and family.
- Nov 28 St Mary's will be floodlit to celebrate the life and birthday of **Mary Wightman**. Dearly loved and sadly missed by Roderick, Mark and Ben and all the Wightman family.



*We rejoice that our Church is welcoming people in again and we are delighted to say that, once again, floodlighting can be booked if anyone wishes.*

*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.*



## **Fabulous Football Success**

Our Year 8 team had an emphatic win in round two of the English Schools' National Cup Football beating Backwell School (Somerset)



6-0. Goals scorers were: Jack Oakes (3), Jay Horgan (1), Louis Gunning (1) and Finley Davies (1). Man of the Match was Louis Gunning. Bradon Forest's PE teacher, Mr Bray, said, "It was an excellent team performance all round and it was a great start to their football journey at Bradon Forest School. They should all be proud of themselves."

## **Black History Month**

Interim Head of History, Mr Koniarski, and Maths teacher and leader of Bradon Forest's pro-diversity student group, Mrs Doffour-Dapaah, led Black History Month events in school this year. In a Food and Nutrition class Year 10 students assisted Mrs Doffour-Dapaah with cooking some Ghanaian food. We will report further next month on other activities held during the month.



## **Art Workshops for Year 10 students**

Our Year 10 students who are studying Art at GCSE level took part in three workshops on an off-timetable day. In a previous lesson, students had studied natural forms and then recreated one in clay. The second workshop was looking at typography and then students produced a painting. The third workshop focused on printing techniques inspired by nature.



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Thank you to artist, Catherine Chappell, for visiting the school to share her printing press with our students. Also to Mr Martch-Harry and Mrs Holmes, Bradon Forest School Art teachers, for organising this event for our students.

### **Netball Success**



The first Swindon Schools netball tournament of the year for year 7 was played recently at Dorcan School. There were two pools and we took two teams. The B team played well and drew one match. 'Players of their Team' were Eloise Adam and Emily Phillips (who was also captain!). The A team, captained by Layla Hynes, won all of their matches, having scored 26 goals and didn't concede any – so were Pool A winners! Well done to all the girls for a great display of skill and resilience and thanks to Lauren Ambrose for assisting Mrs Evans.

We are looking for new members to join our support staff. Vacancies currently exist for a Design and Technology Technician, Midday Supervisors and Cleaners. Anyone interested can call the school for an application form on 01793 770570.

### *Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2021*

Please support the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal which will take place from Saturday 30th October until 13th November.

There will not be a house-to-house collection, but poppies will be available in many local businesses as usual. If anyone is unable to get a poppy or a remembrance cross, please contact us and we will arrange delivery to you.

*Shirley and Michael Lawrence, Poppy Appeal Organisers  
Tel. 01793 771084 or email the\_lawrences@btinternet.com*

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## The other side of the gate

September showed us some good, some bad and some very ugly. The very ugly was one of Estelle's twins. You maybe don't remember the horrible events that preceded Estelle's death in February and the subsequent pneumonia of one of her twins. It was a sad story. The twins adopted new mums for a while but one never really got over that stress. The pneumonia he developed had done far more damage than I'd realised. Early last month I noticed him starting to struggle to breathe; It was very pronounced and he had some froth on his muzzle, so a strong, long-acting antibiotic (Zactran) was ordered from the vets and quickly administered along with Metacam (Painkilling anti-inflammatory). Improvement normally happens very quickly but not in his case. Two days later his condition was much worse. I had no choice but to end the suffering. Such a sad life to watch but a relief to know his suffering was over!

The bad came in the form of more twins! We knew Chunky was having twins eight months ago and we were eagerly awaiting their arrival. We'd put Chunky in the small heifer paddock (right next to Mum's bungalow) as I'd noticed her udder starting to engorge. I was expecting a few days of watching her closely. Knowing it was twins I was expecting to calve early - they rarely go full term - but not quite early as she wanted! Mum texted me early the next morning to say there was a calf but it wasn't moving! We rushed out to be greeted by a calf standing up. Not at all what I was expecting! The elation was soon shattered by finding his dead twin next to Chunky. No idea why he died but might have been why she pushed him out early. We'll never know! The remaining twin is growing extremely fast and taking a huge amount of



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milk. He's a jolly little man and runs around a lot. Would have been so good to have seen him run with his brother!

The good (with just a minuscule of not so good) came with Shorty (she's a Shorthorn) we purchased from Brian Scott at Bentham. Long-awaited calving with her. She'd been getting bigger and bigger, so big in fact that her whole body rolled as she walked. I would have put money on twins or triplets she was so round! Shorty is very easy to pick out in the herd not just because of her enormous bulk but as her markings are red and white like a dappled horse. So, milking time she was coming in the parlour and I'd give her a poke and quick examination to see how soon she'd calve. All was going well until one morning I noticed she wasn't in the yard. Had a walkout. No sign of her anywhere. Experience told me this was not good! Hop on the quad and start a search is the immediate reaction. I found her in the far-field, on her side! I knew immediately she had milk fever. Rush back to the farm to get calcium borogluconate from the medicine cabinet and a big needle and delivery tube. Milk fever affects their muscles and can result in death quite quickly so you never hang about. Got back to her and as I approach she manages to stand up. It's like watching a very drunk Bambi!

I realise at this point that she's calved... No sign of the calf anywhere! Worst nightmare now as I've got a wobbly cow looking for her hidden calf. No idea where it is and I don't think she did either. I jumped back on the quad and started to search for the calf. They usually get hidden in hedges but this field has been fenced off so I know it'll be visible. Didn't take long to find him. Right across the field. She spots him too and makes for him. I can't do anything now until she stops and hopefully



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lays down. The calf is hungry which is a good sign but now he won't give up trying to suckle. Her teats are low to the ground and he can't get latched on! The only thing I can do is wait until she's down. I decided to leave her alone and come back in 10 mins. The plan worked and I found her led down with a nice belly vein exposed that I could use to get the injection into. Although the medicine can work very quickly she was happy to stay led down whilst I dragged her calf up to her teat. I'd already wrestled him to the ground and he latched on and had a good feed! Problem fixed, I could return to milk the cows (albeit quite late by now!)

Shorty's udder continues to be difficult for him to find so we are feeding him by hand. I thought it would be nice to share bottle feeding with some of our customers so Sarah put 'Feed a calf' on the website shop and social media. Within minutes we had someone buy a session and it's not stopped since. It seems feeding a calf is something a lot of people want to do!

We managed to plant 33 acres of herbal mixes during the later dry spell. Part of the process of improving our soils. Next year we should have a lovely mix that the cows will be able to enjoy munching through. It will be something quite different for them and should help us provide much more tasty forage throughout the grazing season.

Sarah and I had a day away from the farm (again). We travelled to sunny Telford for the annual 'Dairy Day' industry show. We always see people we know and meet plenty of new people too; we had a fantastic chat with a manufacturer of ice cream equipment... it may have planted a seed...!

With the onset of autumn and the threat of winter so close it was time to reduce our herd numbers. We have been carrying far too many animals and winter housing can only accommodate so many. I hate seeing animals leave but I must concentrate on the greater good so on a Tuesday at the start of September we took nine beef animals to the market at Cirencester. Trade was extremely good and we were very happy with the prices we received. One of our heifers made over £1300!

Sales of milk continue to increase. We've run out of milk on numerous occasions over the last few weeks so it seemed like a good time to start overnight weaning the calves so we can have more milk to sell. They don't need it 24 hours a day anyway.

It's quite a simple process. The calves are separated from the herd about 6 p.m. with hay and some addictive (so it seems) sugar licks. They are comfortable on the straw and mingle with all their friends whilst the mothers enjoy time without them! We do get a bit of mooing (neighbours warned) but it's not much and it doesn't last long. By the third night, the calves are waiting by the gate to be let in!

Those of you that walk over our fields at Restrop will have seen we've been muck spreading too. We save the bedding from the sheds and put it where the cows don't go. It's a valuable fertiliser for the grass. We spread it the day the school contacted me to see if they're allowed to use the fields for cross country... so I'm sorry (not sorry) if your children's running shoes came back with a different aroma than normal!

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It's not uncommon for some of the cows to believe they're more 'free-range' than they actually are with numerous breakouts over the last few years. Brooke saw the gate was open one day and decided the grass was looking much greener on the other side. Normally I'd retrieve offending animals quickly but as my lawnmower was broken and the grass was indeed much

greener on my lawn I allowed the indiscretion to continue until she'd consumed a belly full. She then walked back and stood patiently waiting for me to open the gate.

I've recently seen some pictures and videos of animals doing some pretty stupid things and it seems that mine are equally as stupid. Testament to the sturdy construction of my Brother in law Brian's (Aspen Fencing) fencing. This isn't a normal test but the fence passed although I had to get the saw out and destroy it to release said stupid animal!

*Jonathan Cook, Quarry Farm*

## *Supporting Afghan Refugees*

There will be a collection of winter clothing for Afghan Refugees at Sylvia's house, 35 High Street on November 6th between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

So if you have warm clothes in reasonable condition that you are happy to donate please bring them along, labelled as mens, womens, children etc. Phone Sylvia if you need more details: 770686. Thank you so much.

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## A book I will always remember

It really was just what  
was needed to enthuse  
reluctant readers —  
especially top junior boys!

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.

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# Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

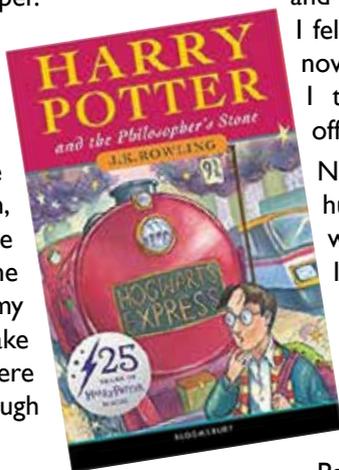
by J K Rowling

**A**s a school librarian I wanted to share my love of books with children. As a child we had NO books in the house but somehow I learnt to read from food packets, shop signs and the local newspaper.

When presented with a book on my first day at school I thought you had to read it all – so I avidly read the title page from top to bottom, only to be bored with the stilted sentences of the rest of the book. Luckily my grandmother began to take me to the local library where I soon read my way through all the appropriate books.

Part of the duties as a librarian was to review books, both fiction and non-fiction, prior to purchasing them for our library. Each week a parcel would

arrive from the booksellers full of new publications. The duty librarian would share these out among the staff. The day we received “Harry Potter & the Philosopher’s Stone” it was my duty day and since I was only part time, I felt I should take the longer novels to review so of course I took J K Rowling’s first offering!



Next day, having seen my husband and sons off to work and school, I thought I would spend half an hour starting to read my selection of books. So, with coffee to hand I made myself comfortable and began the Harry

Potter story. I’m sure I don’t need to recall the plot here. Hours later I reached the final page – I just couldn’t put it down.

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Not being a fan of “fantasy”, I was surprised how it had caught my imagination and couldn’t wait to share my enthusiasm with the rest of our staff. It really was just what was needed to enthuse reluctant readers – especially top junior boys!

The proof came a few days later when I was fulfilling another part of our work – taking books into schools to read to classes to gauge their reaction. Naturally I took my copy of Harry Potter to read to Year 6 – but only the first chapter! They all listened intently right from the start.

As I finished there was an outcry – what happened next; could they have the book; When could they have the book? I was thrilled to be able to share that book and as we obviously ordered as many copies as we could afford – budgets being what they were – spreading the joy of reading to many who would otherwise have been overlooked.

It was a pleasure to realise that I was part of introducing Harry Potter to so many. It will always be one of my favourite memories of my working life.

*Gwen Britchford*

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## *Total – so far – for the Table Sales for the West Tower Repair Fund*

To my amazement, now I have totted up all the contributions people have passed to me, we have managed to raise over £1,364 for the Tower Repair Fund.

This fund was started by Sylvia making over 100 Bakewell Tarts and Lemon Drizzles, raising over £300! Then there was £10 from each table owner who took part (there were 25 tables in all so that was another £250).

Pips generously gave us all the money they raised on sale items that day and allowed me to sell items in the cafe each week throughout the summer, to get the fund going. Several table owners generously gave some or all of their takings as well, selling cakes, plants, furniture and even musical instruments! So we have surpassed our target... in fact we have doubled my original hopes!! And all 25 table owners also raised money for their own funds at the same time. Many charities benefited including Hearing Dogs, Cancer Research and also our own Purton Surgery.

Thank you again everyone who participated in one way or another. It just shows that every book sold, hat knitted, candle made, jam cooked and Bakewell tart baked really does help!

*Libbie, 771018*

## *Prayer for Purton*

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

# Purton Placard



## Purton Artists Exhibition 2021

29-31<sup>st</sup> October

Purton Village Hall

Open Friday 6-8pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am-4.30pm

Refreshments available



## Purton Evening WI

...is up and running again!  
at The Silver Threads Hall.  
On 17th November Jan and  
Angela, from Royal Wootton  
Bassett Flower Club, are  
returning for a demonstration  
and practical evening. Meeting  
starts at 7.30pm.  
Visitors are most welcome.

St Mary's Church invites you to a...

## Murder Mystery



## Evening

on

Saturday 13 Nov 2021

*in conjunction with*

### PADS

St Mary's Church, Purton  
7.00pm for 7.30pm



Tickets £8.00

- to include a light supper

Please bring your own drinks and glasses  
Max 6 to a team

For details or tickets please call

Sandra 770157; Sheila 770970



## ADVENT

Mess  
Church

Come along and make your very  
own advent candle!

On the 28th November  
at 4pm inside St Mary's Church  
All are welcome!



St Mary's Church Purton

**Early Christmas Shopping with**

**BASSI GIFTS**



AT THE  
**Royal George**  
PUB - PURTON

THURSDAY 4th November - 5pm - 11pm  
FRIDAY 5th November - 5pm - 12pm

In support of **mnda**  
motor neurone disease association



Beautiful gifts for all occasions including Christmas. Items are a fraction of what you would pay in the High Street!

Charise this fundraiser and join us in supporting this worthy cause.

Raffle being held with proceeds going to MND Association.

Cash or card facilities available.

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All proceeds support the Mad March Hare, an annual event that encourages an active lifestyle and raises funds for Breast Cancer Now

Visit: [www.madmarchhare.org.uk](http://www.madmarchhare.org.uk)

### **The Red House**

Abbalicious play live  
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### **Date for the diary: Saturday 4th December**

Dodecantus, the regional chamber choir, will be giving a concert of seasonal choral music in St. Mary's Church in aid of the West Tower Masonry Repair Project.

See p30, more details will be in the December magazine.

### **St Mary's Church**

All Souls' Service  
7th November 2021, 6pm

*All are welcome to come to remember and give thanks to God for loved ones who have died.*

### **Christmas Market**

Saturday 27 November, 11am-2.30pm.  
At St Mary's Church.

*Light lunches, mince pies, teas and coffees served. Locally grown and homemade produce, cakes, books, toys, Christmas items, activities for children. Not to be missed – come and join us*

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**For further details without any obligation simply ring:  
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11/21

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## November Nature Correspondent

### **Morgan's Hill**

On a bright, crisp day in November a chalky track besides Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Nature Reserve at Morgan's Hill rises up to inspiring views of Cherhill Down and the plains of north Wiltshire. A Roman road runs along its northern edge and the fifth century Wansdyke defines its southern border – built to defend the northern territory of Wessex. You may look across to a string of cattle or a flock of Herdwick sheep, while above in a patch of blue sky a Kite and a “cronking” Raven are having a spat. The grazing animals are helping to control the grassland levels, but the Trust, in conjunction with the local farmer, have to manage this carefully, to avoid over-grazing. From time to time scrub clearance is required, and areas of invasive tor-grass need controlling, scraping back to the bare chalk so that different plants and invertebrates can colonise.



The reserve is a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its orchids, butterflies and for the general quality of its chalk grassland and wildflowers. Unusually all three of the UK's native conifer trees grow here – Scots pine, juniper and yew – possibly planted as way-markers to signpost the drovers' route. There are cowslips, primroses and violets in spring, and wild thyme, horseshoe vetch, rock

rose, round-headed rampion, marsh helleborine and autumn gentian as the season progresses. Eleven species of orchid occur, including Early Purple, Spotted, Fragrant, Twayblade, Bee and Pyramidal. Where there are flowers, butterflies follow. Along the Wansdyke you can find the Adonis, Chalkhill and Common Blues and further down the slopes you may spot the Marsh Fritillary – one of the UK's endangered species, the larvae of which feeds on devil's-bit scabious. Rarer still is the similar looking Metalmark the Duke of Burgundy, a favourite with butterfly lovers.

Birds found at the reserve include Red Kite, Kestrel, Buzzard, Yellowhammer and Skylark. There are migrants too: I disturbed a Ring Ouzel from a hawthorn bush in early spring, and Wheatears like the short turf on the adjacent golf course.

It is believed the hill was named after a local man, John Morgan, who in 1720 was hanged at this site for murdering his uncle. On a more pleasant note, as you leave the reserve, you may notice a stone with a memorial on it to Beatrice Gillam (1920-2016), revered local naturalist and one of the founders of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. More info from [www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org)

*Robin Nelson, Commissioned by Tower and Town, Marlborough*

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*“He’s one of our own” can sometimes be heard being chanted by football fans in support of a local hero, especially when mega millions of pounds are spent to bring in ‘foreign’ talent. Purton has produced quite a few people who may have moved away from the village but who have achieved notable successes at national and even international level in many different areas.*

*We’re starting this occasional column to celebrate a significant achievement by “One of Our Own.” The criteria can be broad – the individual reaching significant levels of success beyond our community only needs to have a close attachment to the village either through birth, upbringing or residence so that we can celebrate their achievements in Purton magazine. The achievements can be from any activities, and although sport is an obvious field, there must be so many other areas where people from Purton have made, or continue to make a significant difference.*



# *One of our own*

This new series is starting with Craig Miles, a professional cricketer who was born and raised in Purton. In late September this year, he played a leading role in helping Warwickshire County Cricket Club win the Bob Willis Trophy in the five-day final at Lord’s between the two top teams in the County Championship. The showpiece match against Lancashire came just a few days after Craig had helped Warwickshire win the County Championship for the eighth

time in their 140-year history. For the non-cricket aware reading this, winning the cricket County Championship is equivalent to winning the football Premier League. Professional cricketers are not paid anywhere near the levels of a Premiership footballer before anyone thinks the village has produced someone whose tax bill can settle the national debt!

In that game at “The Home of Cricket”, Craig took 5 wickets in Lancashire’s 1st

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innings, scored 30 runs not out when batting, before adding another wicket and a diving run out to his performance when The Red Rose County batted again. All in all, a match winning contribution across all disciplines of the game, the foundations of which were laid at Purton Cricket Club.

Fast bowler Craig grew up in Reids Piece, the youngest son of Neil and Lesley Miles. He played his formative years for our village club and successes in his early years brought him to the attention of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club. Progressing through their academy system, he made his debut for them aged 16. That initial appearance made him their fourth youngest player ever.

At the end of the 2018 following seasons of regular success in all formats of the game. Craig had moved from Gloucestershire to Warwickshire. His initial two seasons with his new club were blighted by injury and the disruption caused by the global pandemic but this year regular game time has allowed many wickets to be taken.

Winning titles and being written into your team's history as a trophy winner is what every sportsman strives to achieve through hard work, dedication and a significant level of sacrifice. Purton's quick bowler has now been etched into cricket history. In his career to date, Craig has taken 323 first class wickets at an average of 26.62. It is reasonable to imagine that only a few magazine readers will have previously known of Craig's career or those recent end of season achievements but it again goes to show that lots of good comes out of Purton.

Readers, residents and relations are invited to submit an article perhaps with a photograph or two for publication about someone they know from Purton that highlights a rather special current or past achievement. This is just another angle for being able to have 'Pride in Purton' as well as being able to appreciate and share a success when she/he is still "One of Our Own" even if having moved away. Please contact the magazine (details on page 4) if you would like any further information.

## *In it for the long run*

Over the past few months you may have noticed a few local folk pounding Purton's pavements in pursuit of personal goals and wider running accolades. Here are some of their stories:

"I am super proud of my husband John, as together with his Mum and our sister-in-law (in Sweden) they set a 2021 virtual challenge to run 500km each over the year, and he only has something like 20km left which he aims to achieve by the end of October.

Before the challenge, John would get out for the odd spontaneous run (1-2 miles every few months), but through determination and hard work and by motivating each other via WhatsApp messages and videos he has done fantastically well; they

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all have. He has completed Lacock half marathon and Swindon virtual half marathon and on Tuesday this week came home thrilled that for the first time in almost a year he ran all the way up the Purton High Street without walking.

Running comes easy to some, but this team have all had to dig deep, and built up from two mile runs to 16 mile runs, and I couldn't be prouder.

This wasn't for charity, it was to address fitness and wellbeing after lockdown and together they are driven and motivated each other.

We are really hoping Covid plans do allow the Swedish family to travel over this Christmas, as not only are we excited to see them after two years, the TEAM have arranged their first run together - to round off their achievement. They have already promised to do a half marathon in Copenhagen or Malmö next year."

*Louise Palmer*

"I've run the London Marathon a few times. In 2019, everyone at St Mary's Church of England Primary School (where I work as Deputy Head) joined in with my training and fundraising for Click Sargent. I ran a fast time for my age that year (3 hours and 7 seconds) which meant I got an automatic 'Good For Age' entry for the next London Marathon. I have to say, those seven seconds played on my mind, and I was determined to run the next one in under three hours...

The 2020 Marathon was delayed as the pandemic raged and then my family were utterly devastated when my brother-in-law, band-mate, travel companion and close friend, Pete, became seriously ill from a brain tumour. He died – with utmost dignity and his family by his side - in August this year. Before he died, Pete told us that he wanted The Brain Tumour Charity to benefit in his memory, so it could continue its vital

work to help prevent more families suffering the devastating impact of this most awful disease. So, as I had already secured my London Marathon place, I decided to see how much I could raise for them in Pete's memory.

With my photo of Pete tucked safely in my pocket, the marathon was a most bitter sweet affair. More so than any previous times I'd run London, the shared pandemic experience made Sunday 3rd October feel like a race wrapped up in a festival. Carried on the most uplifting atmosphere, I managed to run a new personal best time of 2 hours, 54 minutes and 39 seconds. (I didn't need to think about those pesky 7 seconds anymore!)

Marathon day 2021 really did feel like it stood testament to life and hope and humanity. Moreover, friends, family, colleagues and the whole school community showed such immense generosity with my fundraising and we managed to raise over £1700 in just over a week for The Brain Tumour Charity's essential work."



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If you are able to help me help them even more, please visit my fundraising page here: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RussPayneLondon>

*Russ Payne*



“In April 1993 I watched British runner Eamonn Martin win the London Marathon and I thought to myself, one day I'm going to run that. It wasn't until I started running regularly aged 35 with a small group of ladies in Cricklade, that I thought back to that day, and wondered if, finally my dream might come true.

After joining Royal Wootton Bassett Hounds Running Club and five failed attempts in the public ballot, I entered the running club ballot for one of the five places given to us by RWB & District Rotary Club, to run for their charity, Chernobyl Children In Need ([www.ccin.org.uk/](http://www.ccin.org.uk/)).

On 3rd October I finally made it to the start line in London with my teammates wearing our gold and blue vests, along with 40,000+ other runners, and ran the race of my life for the team, my running club and for all the children still suffering from the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. I knocked 23 minutes off my personal best, set at Bournemouth Marathon in 2017 and finished in 5 hours, 10 minutes and 43 seconds.

If you'd like to support us please donate through our page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rwbhlm2022](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rwbhlm2022)

The Covid pandemic proved to be a good motivator for me and I found having a physical challenge to focus on really helped me get through the lockdowns and separation from family and friends. Since March 2020 I have cycled the Women's 100k, walked the length of the Ridgeway (see p51 in September's Purton Magazine), run a virtual 50k ultra marathon (the event should have taken us from Ringwood to Bournemouth via the New Forest, instead we went from Royal Wootton Bassett to Bushton, Foxham, Christian Malford, Sutton Benger, Upper Seagry, Startley, Great & Little Somerford, Dauntsey and back to RWB), completed a duathlon and triathlon, and finished the only marathon I only ever wanted to run, in London.

*Heather P-B*



“I finally did it! After 16 years of applying for a London Marathon place, I not only made it to the start line but also crossed the finish line with a smile all over my face. My target, other than finishing, was to run the whole way round which I nailed. I am not a fast runner but I am a steady runner and I do it for the love of it. I will never forget the music as I ran around the Cutty Sark, the view over Tower Bridge or the look of pride on the faces of my family as they followed me round the route. I will

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always wear my medal with pride as it shows if you want something enough you will keep trying until you get there. All the runners were shining brightly and Purton should be proud. I Still look at my medal and get all emotional when I remember the day. If you'd like to help me support the St John Ambulance, please visit my fundraising page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/eleanorsofftolondon](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/eleanorsofftolondon) All donations greatly appreciated!"

*Eleanor Amos*

## Purton Tennis Club

Purton Tennis Club has just started playing winter matches. We have entered three teams in the winter league this year and at the time of writing the B team have just had a very respectable draw at Aldbourne near Marlborough. The winter league will be run until the end of February with a break in December for Christmas. We have all weather courts at our Red House site which means that we can play throughout the winter months and the players can stay fit and continue to play.



November will see our AGM. It will take place on Wednesday 3rd November at the Red House Club, Function Room, starting at 7.30 p.m. prompt. All members and guests are welcome to attend and we are always looking for new faces with new ideas to join our committee. If you are interested, please get in touch, we will be very pleased to hear from you.

Likewise, if you are interested in joining the Tennis Club, or just hiring a court to play with friends, please visit the website or contact me at the address below.

*Janet Saunders (secretary) [janetcsaunders@gmail.com](mailto:janetcsaunders@gmail.com)*

## Purton Football Club

"The only way is up" is a song by Yazz and with recent results, maybe we should adopt that as our theme tune for the football club because things have not improved since my last report.

Unfortunately, due to my recent health problems, I have not seen many matches but, like they say in any sporting league, the table does not lie and rooted at the bottom is where we find ourselves and rightly so.

I have met Frank the manager a few times and I know he is working the players hard in training but explained he just cannot get the quality of players he requires at the moment to turn things around in the short term. May I repeat yet again that our supporters really are a credit to the club. They fully understand the situation and are still there, not only to support us, but to provide important revenue for the club by purchasing programmes, etc.

Finally, the memorial bench for Pierce Bolger was installed on October 6th in the wooden bench area on the green used for outside drinks for the Purton Red House.

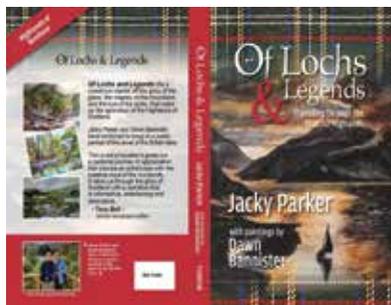
*Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC*





## Of Lochs and Legends by Jacky Parker

What drives a soul to harness thoughts, then seek a sure release  
Or capture feelings wafting round to set your mind at peace?  
Can ventures into foreign fields that teem with strangest tales  
Arouse a stirring of the will that searching then unveils?  
Will mountains soaring in their heights fill thoughts with raptured awe  
Will lochs that span a wilful land a crowd of tourists draw?  
The Highlands is this matchless land where heroes made their way  
Where legends drift into the hills and slowly float away.  
Where fairies and the kelpies dwell, where giants stand in strength  
Where Nessie and the Fachen lurk concealed in shadow's length.  
Where tragic lovers died on Mull beneath a tumbling rock  
Where Scathach taught her warriors all a lethal blow to block.  
Where Bruce gained inspiration from a dauntless little spider  
And Bannockburn proved downfall for a foreign base outsider.  
Where Deirdre and her lover fair were lured from Alba's dream  
And dying to a carnal world they found a life supreme.  
Where Glencoe with its beauty in a proud and rustic setting  
Where kinsfolk were betrayed at dawn, which none will be forgetting.  
Where Ben of mighty splendour soars vast tower in the skies  
Where mountaineers of valour will climb swift to gain a prize.



Dawn Bannister and I are both in our 80s but we have had a vision of sharing a wonderful adventure of lochs and legends – and if we can dream when we are old how much more can all our young friends experience the joys of dreams and achievements in their lifetime?

Our book is now finished and is available on Amazon in two formats. We would love you to read it or perhaps purchase it for a Christmas present for those who love legend and adventure.

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## RWB Academy opens new 6th Form building

Royal Wootton Bassett Academy, part of the RWBA Trust, celebrated officially opening its new 6th form building on Monday 11th October, just in time for the planned open evenings later that week.

After eight years of planning and having to negotiate through delays and tricky restrictions during the Pandemic, RWBA has officially opened its new 6th Form building in front of a group of invited guests including current students, members of staff and link 6th form governor, Rupal Patel, who was given the responsibility of cutting the ribbon.

Head of RWBA Anita Ellis was keen for Link 6th form Governor Rupal Patel to have the honour of officially opening the new building saying “It feels only right that Rupal cuts the ribbon, she offers a lot of support to our 6th formers and the leadership team and has generally been a fantastic advocate for us.”

The event was also a chance to award the new Sixth Form Representatives with their Badges of Honour. Head Students Michael Remond and Lee Davies-Hillier, the Senior Prefect Team, Prefects and Student Ambassadors all received their badges for the new school year from Headteacher Anita Ellis and Governor Rupal Patel to a round of applause.

Anita Ellis was keen to thank all those who have been involved with the building process over the last eight years: “A lot of people were involved from the beginning of this project that aren’t here today. Past Headteacher George Croxford, who is now our Trust CEO, and John Stewart our CFO when this project began. We must also thank Mrs Shelly Davies who took over the reins of this project during lockdown which was a phenomenal effort, along with Mrs Melanie Hopkins and many others to make sure this building happened.

Anita added, “With an ever increasing, very popular 6th Form offering over 40 different curricular courses and a wide range of opportunities for our young people, we desperately needed more teaching space as we’re an oversubscribed school.”

“It really is a privilege to be able to say that all these people’s efforts have culminated in a fantastic learning space for sixth formers now and sixth formers moving into the future.”

With an approximate intake of 380 students, the new building adds another six classrooms and a Student Support Room to the current 6th Form facilities. Please visit [www.rwba.org.uk](http://www.rwba.org.uk) to find out more about RWBA.



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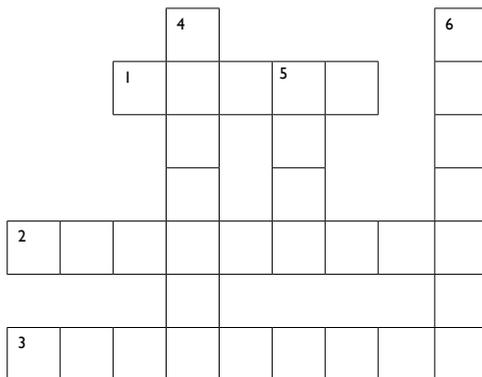
12/21

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## Mini crossword

Here is the next 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 October's puzzle are 1) Opal 2) Treats 3) Witches 4) Pumpkin 5) Trick 6) Leaves

1. (across) Remembrance symbol (5)
2. (across) Agreement to stop fighting (9)
3. (across) 2010 Katy Perry hit (8)
4. (down) Blaze (7)
5. (down) Theme of a play (4)
6. (down) Scotland's patron saint (6)



This is the third crossword created by Neil Miles. Answers in the December 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](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)

## *Hop to it fast to book your place at the Mad March Hare quiz!*

Come and get quizzical with other hare brains at the Mad March Hare Quiz Night. Mad March Hare returns on Sunday 20th March in 2022 and we are all looking forward to this popular community event, which sees walkers and runners of all abilities take part in a 5k or 10k route starting and finishing at Lydiard Park Academy all in aid of Breast Cancer Now.

We're kicking off preparations for next year's event with our very popular quiz which will take place at Swindon Town Football Club on Friday 19th November. Come along with your teams of up to eight or you can join one on the night! The first round gets underway at 7.30pm. Tickets are only £7.50 per person and include a ploughman's supper and a prize for the winning team. There will also be opportunities to take part in our grand raffle on the night! Last year's event was a sell-out, so log onto [www.madmarchhare.org.uk](http://www.madmarchhare.org.uk). For more information about the event, visit [www.madmarchhare.org.uk/quiz 2021](http://www.madmarchhare.org.uk/quiz 2021).

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## James Gray, MP visits White Lodge Care Home

James Gray MP for North Wiltshire has visited Barchester's White Lodge in Braydon to meet with staff and residents and have a tour of the home.

James Gray accompanied by his wife and Constituency Office Manager, Philippa Gray talked with residents as he walked around the home. Having been the local MP for nearly 25 years, James Gray commented that this was his first visit to White Lodge and like everyone was taken back by the extensive grounds and beautiful quiet location.

General Manager, Ramona Gherendi, said: "It was lovely to have James Gray visit White Lodge. The residents were delighted that he was able to visit, several had met him in the past as so many are from the local area. It was also nice to have the opportunity to show all that the home has to offer the residents. We also spoke about the commitment of the staff team and how fortunate we are to have long serving nurses" Resident, Therese, spoke to James Gray about the strong military connections in the area "I was a nurse in the RAF and Wiltshire has had so many people from all the services based here over the years. The county is very proud of these connections."



White Lodge Care Home is run by Barchester Healthcare, one of the UK's largest care providers, which is committed to delivering high-quality care across its care homes and hospitals. White Lodge provides nursing, residential and respite care.

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## Prospect Hospice

You could win £2,000 cash in time for Christmas when you play the Prospect Hospice raffle. Support Prospect Hospice and help raise vital funds to support care in the local community this Christmas by taking part in their raffle. Tickets are just £1 each and you could win £2,000 in time for Christmas! The cash prize is sponsored by Imagine Cruising.

To enter all you need to do is visit [www.prospect-hospice.net/raffle](http://www.prospect-hospice.net/raffle). 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 Monday 13 December 2021 and the draw will take place on Tuesday 14 December. For full terms and conditions, please visit [www.prospect-hospice.net/raffle](http://www.prospect-hospice.net/raffle).

### ***Take to the skies for Prospect Hospice***

Get your heart racing and your senses into overdrive by taking part in a skydive or a wing walk and raise money for Prospect Hospice.

For the skydive you will experience the adrenaline rush of free falling from 10,000 or even 15,000 feet at 125mph before your parachute opens enabling you to take in the beautiful views of the Wiltshire countryside.

If that's not enough, how about experiencing the ultimate thrill of walking the wing of a Boeing Stearman biplane? Experience a series of flypasts, zoom climbs, steep dives and banks as you fly through the air strapped to the wings of the plane.

The hospice's next parachute jump is on Sunday 20 March 2022 at Old Sarum Airfield, near Salisbury, while the wing walk is on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at Rendcomb Airfield, near Cirencester.

For more information or to register email the hospice at [fundraisingandevents@prospect-hospice.net](mailto:fundraisingandevents@prospect-hospice.net) or visit our website <https://www.prospect-hospice.net/fundraising-support-us/challenges/>

### ***Prospect Hospice rated 'Outstanding' by Care Quality Commission (CQC)***

Following a recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Prospect Hospice, Swindon, has received an overall rating of Outstanding.

In the report summary, the CQC recognised that staff provided outstanding care to patients, ensuring they were active partners in their care and that patients felt that they were truly cared for and supported by hospice staff. It was also highlighted that the hospice achieved Outstanding for being Well-Led and that leaders in the organisation had an inspiring shared purpose to deliver outstanding care and that staff were proud to work within the hospice team.

CQC inspectors look at a number of areas within the hospice operation and five areas are graded before these are combined to give an overall rating for the organisation. These areas are: Safe, Effective, Caring, Responsive and Well-Led.

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Following this inspection, the hospice received a good rating for three categories and was graded as Outstanding for Caring and Well-Led, with an overall rating of Outstanding.

Irene Watkins, chief executive at Prospect Hospice, said: “I’m delighted with this result but, more so, words cannot express just how pleased I am for our staff, volunteers and supporters that make hospice care in the community possible. As the end of life care specialist in Swindon and north east Wiltshire the Outstanding rating is a wonderful reflection of how we care and support our patients and those important to them.

“Our approach is always to put the person at the heart of their care and this is something the CQC highlighted.”

Prospect Hospice is a charity providing end-of-life care to people 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It serves a community of more than 300,000 people in Swindon and north east Wiltshire, including Royal Wootton Bassett, Cricklade, Marlborough and Pewsey.

## *Open Day At Julia’s House Children’s Hospice*

### **Tuesday 9 November**

Meet members of the Julia’s House team and take a tour of the purpose-built children’s hospice in Devizes on a special open day next month.

The free event on Tuesday 9 November will mark the first time that the charity has been able to open the hospice doors to the general public in this way since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each bookable one-hour session (<http://www.juliashouse.org/event/wiltshire-hospice-open-day>) will include a tour of the charity’s hospice building, where you can learn more about how your support makes a difference for seriously ill children and families in Wiltshire.

Julia’s House recently launched its Together We Care Appeal ([www.juliashouse.org/together-we-care](http://www.juliashouse.org/together-we-care)) to raise awareness of the respite care and support provided by the charity’s nurses and carers in the local community. The children’s hospice charity hopes that the appeal will help to raise the £1.5m needed to run the vital service each year across the county.

At next month’s open day event, visitors will have the chance to explore the hospice sensory room, activity room, accessible bathroom and end of life Pegasus suite. Supporters can also take a look around the vibrant hospice garden, which has been developed for play, relaxation and reflection.

Drinks and cake will be available, plus the opportunity to chat to members of the Julia’s House care and fundraising team.

Booking is essential, with one-hour tours available from 11am to 2pm. Find out more at the Julia’s House website: [www.juliashouse.org/event/wiltshire-hospice-open-day](http://www.juliashouse.org/event/wiltshire-hospice-open-day)

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