

January 2022

# Purton Magazine

An independent monthly publication of news, views, events  
and information from and for the Parish of Purton, Wiltshire.

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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>(Tuesdays 2.00-7.00pm)</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, <i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Pips Community Café	Duty volunteers	07498 526872
<i>(Tuesday-Friday 9am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm)</i>		
<a href="http://www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/">www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/</a>		

## **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	Office	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 email: [vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk)

Tweedie-Smith Tel: 770077 (773031 emergencies only)

Curate: Revd Judith Wells email: [judithwells36@googlemail.com](mailto:judithwells36@googlemail.com)

Tel: 770627

Wardens Sandra Horsnall: 770157 Jane Smith: 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: Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton

Revd Shirlyn Toppin 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 Tel: 852366

Lucas 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: Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church

Father Michael Robertson

*Services: Holy Days 7.00pm, Sundays 9.30am Mass.*

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# Purton Magazine

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Front cover image: Hellebores in the winter sunshine as mentioned by the Gardeners' Guild. Credit: Pixabay

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# From the Editors

February 2022  
Volume 44 No.2  
1st Published 1975

The magazine committee wish every reader, distributor and advertiser a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. With the New Year, your magazine comes with a new look front cover and a new typeface together with some layout changes inside, see page 38.

With the year end holiday time in mind, this edition contains several suggestions for interesting things to do.

To start with we have an exciting description of the wonderful wildlife to be found in the Cotswold Water Park, often known locally as 'The Lakes' with as many as 177 of the lakes being designated as SSSI's (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and all just six miles north of Purton. On page 45 we learn about the haven for wildfowl that includes an important breeding population of Great Crested Grebes and 20 species of dragonfly as well as wintering water birds. The limestone rivers and streams that run through the Water Park and into the River Thames support healthy fish populations as well as other wildlife families.

Should the weather not be conducive to outdoor explorations, our "Remembered Book" contribution this month is quite a tour de force. A retired Headmaster

and Classics teacher at Marlborough College finds that remembering *With Clive In India* only sets him off scouring his bookshelves. On page 32 a score and more of his favourite historical novels get the thumbs up; more than enough for anyone to fill these long dark evenings.

Not wishing to miss out on the Christmas festivities, the Purton Gardeners' Guild have again rescued readers with a seasonal quiz on page 43 that should keep any idle green fingers away from another chocolate for a little while at least.

The latest Omicron variant of the pandemic is threatening a bit of pandemonium in the coming months and we all hope that readers are able to steer clear of any infections, bolstered by booster injections. Transport to and from local vaccination centres is kindly being made available on page 14. We have the reassurance on page 23 that "if you're going to be ill, be ill in Purton" as a reader has written to thank many friends and neighbours for all the supportive help she received when isolating. We are so lucky to live in such a caring village and we can have every confidence that help is at hand, Outreach Purton has some suggestions on page 19.

---

**70**

Ancient trees and woodlands identified to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. See page 21

**177**

Cotswold Water Park lakes designated as sites of Special Scientific Interest. See page 45

**£11,011**

Raised from the 2021 Poppy Appeal by Purton & District Royal British Legion. See page 29

# Purton Parish Council News



## ***Happy New Year***

Purton Parish Councillors and Staff would like to wish you all a very healthy and Happy New Year.

With the latest Plan B COVID restrictions in place, the offices will be closed to the public, however, if you need our assistance, please do not hesitate to call or email. We aim to maintain all our current services.

## ***Volunteer Community Awards – Last chance to nominate***

Please consider those within our community who have inspired, cared and supported as a volunteer to make Purton a better place.

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

## ***Council Meetings – January 2022***

COVID restrictions – please call the office to book your space if you wish to attend.

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)

- Monday 10th January 2022  
Full Council meeting

- Monday 24th January  
2022 Purton Institute  
and Village Hall  
Charity meeting
- Monday 24th January 2022  
Purton Charities Finance Budget  
meetings

## ***Purton Youth Club***

Purton Parish Council continues to support and fully fund the running of our very own Youth Club. All Purton resident children are welcome. For more information please call 07715 681950 or email [danielleb@therisetrust.org](mailto:danielleb@therisetrust.org). Wednesday at the Purton Village Hall 7.00 – 8.30pm.

## ***Councillor Vacancies***

We currently have five 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 posts.

## ***Planning Applications***

Planning applications received are discussed by the Council on the second Monday of each month. Purton Parish Council is a consultee only 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, the link to which can also be found on our website. Applications to

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

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## Gough Construction

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
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| Groundwork                         | ☆ Shingle drives & patios          |
| ☆ Brickwork                        | ☆ Conservatory foundations & walls |
| ☆ Conservatory foundations & walls | ☆ Trees felled & ground clearance  |
| ☆ Block paved driveways & patios   | ☆ Fencing & hedging                |
|                                    | ☆ Logs for sale                    |

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*Lending with Heart and Mind*

**Wiltshire Council fund a not-for-profit loan scheme for homeowners.\***

If you have lived in your home for over 5 years and:

- Are over 60; or
- Are in receipt of State Benefits; or
- Have children under 16 living with you.

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Lendology CIC work in partnership with Wiltshire Council to deliver the council subsidised loan scheme. Our knowledgeable team of advisers will guide you through the process of applying.

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be considered at our meetings will be posted on our agenda, which can be found on our notice boards and website.

### ***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 welcome. Please keep an eye out on the public notice boards and Purton Red House FaceBook site for more details on our monthly musical events. Please contact James Poole, Bar Manager, for all enquiries [james.poole@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:james.poole@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) 01793 778347.

### ***Hall Hire In Purton***

We are still operating our hall hire inline with the latest Covid restrictions, meaning that there is a limit on

numbers, masks must be worn and Covid cleaning must be carried out. Full details are available on request.

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.

## **PADS Panto 2022 - Merlin**

### ***Tickets For “Merlin The Pantomime”***

This year we are restricted on numbers due to Covid.

There will be 70 tickets only for each performance and these must be purchased beforehand.

Dates are Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th and Saturday 5th February at 7.30 pm, with a Saturday Matinee at 2.30 pm.

Tickets will be on sale from 1st January 2022 and may be purchased by emailing

[PADStickets@gmail.com](mailto:PADStickets@gmail.com), by telephone on 01793 771890 (please leave a message if no one answers as this is a personal number), or calling into Purton Village Hall on Sundays – 9th, 16th, 23rd January 10.00 am to 12.00 pm only. We will broadcast on social media etc if/when tickets run out. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Lindsey Hall*

## **Deadline for primary school applications**

If you have a child starting primary school or transferring from infant to junior school in September 2022, don't forget to apply for a school place before Saturday 15 January 2022.

If you get an application in before the deadline, you'll be able to log onto the online system on the national offer date of 19 April 2022, to view the outcome of your application.

# Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



## ***A message from our Chair***

Dear Patients and Friends of Purton and Green Gable Surgery

As the year grows to a close, on behalf of the Patient Participation Group I would like to thank you all for your wonderful support and generosity throughout the past year.

On behalf of the team I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a brighter New Year.

*Take care and stay safe,  
Marietta, PPG chair*

## ***200+ Club draw***

Maria, our health care assistant, did the draw this month and the winner of £100 was Richard Skett. Membership of the 200 Club is now closed until 1 April 2022.

## ***Donations for the PPG***

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)

Our best wishes for 2022

*Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade &  
surrounding communities*

*Sheila Fowler, Secretary, Purton PPG*

# England moves to Covid-19 Plan B

On Wednesday 8 December, the Prime Minister confirmed that England will move to Plan B, due to the rapid spread of the new COVID-19 variant Omicron. Early analysis by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) suggests rates could be doubling every 2.5 to 3 days. On Sunday 12 December the Prime Minister urged all adults to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

The aim of Plan B is to help to slow the spread of the variant and reduce the chances of the NHS coming under unsustainable pressure, while providing more time for people to receive their booster vaccination.

Booster vaccinations now available for all adults over 18 years old  
Wiltshire Council is supporting the national mission to ensure as many people as possible get their booster jab, to give them the best form of protection against COVID-19 variant Omicron. The Prime Minister has announced that all adults in England will be offered the COVID-19 booster vaccine before the end of the year, having brought the Government’s plan forward by a month due to the speed at which the Omicron variant is spreading.

From Wednesday 15 December, booster vaccines are available to all adults over

the age of 18, as long as three months have passed since a person's second jab. The vaccine programme is run locally by the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, working closely with partners including councils and the voluntary and community sector.

### ***How can I get my booster vaccination?***

There are several ways to get your booster jab.

- Book online or call 119: The best way to get your vaccination at a time and place that suits you is to book ahead. You can book a vaccination appointment online at: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)
- Wait to be contacted by the NHS or your GP: You can wait to be contacted by a local NHS service such as a GP surgery and book an appointment with them.
- Visit a walk-in vaccination site to get vaccinated without needing an appointment, however you may face long queues and need to travel a further distance.
- People who work for an NHS trust or a care home will usually get their booster dose through their employer.

### ***Who is eligible for a booster vaccine?***

A booster dose of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine helps improve the protection you have from your first two doses of the vaccine.

It helps give you longer-term protection against getting seriously ill from COVID-19.

You can get a booster dose if you had a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least three months ago and:

- you are aged 18 or over
- you are aged 16 or over with a health condition that puts you at high risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19
- you are a frontline health or social care worker.
- you live or work in a care home
- you are aged 16 or over and are a main carer for someone at high risk from COVID-19
- you are aged 16 or over and live with someone who has a weakened immune system (such as someone who has HIV, has had a transplant or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis).
- People who are pregnant and in one of the eligible groups can also get a booster dose.

### ***It's busy – please keep trying, be patient and kind***

System leaders are asking local people to be patient while they get everything in place, as the NHS continues to deliver the largest vaccination programme in the country's history.

There continues to be very high demand for boosters as the number of eligible people increases. Although some people have had difficulties booking their booster appointments, NHS staff are working extremely hard to support local communities and increase availability so please be patient. Please show them the respect and kindness they deserve. Vaccination centres are very busy. If a local venue isn't showing on the system, it may be full – please check again later as appointments are being added all the time.

### ***Have any questions or are unsure whether to get vaccinated?***

If you haven't yet taken up the opportunity for a vaccination, whether a first dose, second dose or booster jab, it's not too late.

If you're unsure or have any questions, please do find out more information on the NHS website: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/) or speak to a healthcare practitioner. COVID-19 and flu vaccinations will help boost your immunity and also protect those around you this winter and festive season.

### ***Please keep playing your part***

Please also continue to follow these measures to help keep you and your loved ones safe:

- wash hands regularly
- wear face coverings where required
- take regular lateral flow tests, particularly if planning to meet groups of people outside your household
- take a lateral flow test for seven days if you've been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and you're not displaying any symptoms
- self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test when displaying any COVID-19 symptoms
- if meeting people indoors, ensure fresh air is circulating.

## **Purton United Charities**

The distribution of funds will take place on Saturday 5th February 2022 at Purton Silver Threads Hall from 2 pm to 3 pm. This is, of course, subject to any changes in Government advice relating to Coronavirus.

Qualifications to receive the Charity are:

- Only one payment per household.
- Applicants must be aged 65 or over on the payment date.

- Applicants must have been resident in the parish for a minimum of one full year on the payment date.

If you are unable to attend on the day due to illness, disability or any concerns relating to Coronavirus you may apply in writing, by 5th February 2022, to P.U.C. c/o 5 College Road, Purton, SN5 4AR.

## **Royal Wootton Bassett Flower Club**

I know it's about a club a few miles down the road, but there are members who live in Purton, and last month members from the club came and demonstrated at our local W.I.

This article is to tell everyone about the flower decorations at Lydiard Mansion, a magnificent venue, which was carried out by members of the club and were

spectacular, well worth a visit. This is not the first time they have done this. If anyone is interested in joining a flower club, it is a very enjoyable two hours once a month.

If you would like to know more about it you can get in touch with me, Barb on 01793 770818. If I am not in, just leave a message.

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# Purton & District Age Concern

Purton and District  
**AGE CONCERN**

## ***Could it be possible for 2022 to be a good year?***

One of the problems with writing a piece for the magazine a month in advance at this difficult time is not knowing how things are going to turn out? We have seen the emergence of a new strain of this dreadful virus spreading through countries around the world and wait to see how it affects us. Thank goodness for the vaccines we are being offered and thank goodness for the amazing people that produce them and the teams that distribute them to all of us. All of the sensible people anyway!

Christmas time still feels very strange to us at Purton and District Age Concern as we would have had to organise three parties, the raffle and the market normally before Christmas even starts, we feel like we are twiddling our thumbs again this year. We have already cancelled the Burns Night in January, just in case.

Hopefully we can start some of our events in 2022 and if we don't go through another lockdown then our 3B's event could be the first, so look out for the notices for some time in March.

## ***Booster Jabs***

If anybody is having difficulties getting to and from the vaccination centres around the area for their booster jabs, then please contact our Hazel Woodbridge on 770862 and she will arrange transport.

## ***Purton Guides***

I had a call before Christmas from a lady who works with the Purton Guides and she brought 16 lovely presentation boxes, with a small Christmas cake, chocolate, biscuits and Jaffa cakes for us to distribute around the village, so for those who did receive them, I hope that you enjoyed the contents, and a big thank you to the Purton Guides for their hard work and presentation skills. Is there a badge for that I wonder?

## ***Help Required***

We are still looking for more people to join our committee, and with the thought of being able to put on some of our events in the new year we need to be at full strength to enable that to happen. So if you feel you could spare time to help us to continue what we do 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. We would like to welcome Gayle Walker and Susan Relfe who have joined us as Street Wardens, and a big thank you to Richard Walker (no relation) who has decided to step down as a street warden, a position he has held for several years.

## ***Useful Contacts***

If you have a problem or need to speak to anyone about prescriptions, food shopping or any other topic then the contact numbers you should use, after you have talked to your street warden, are Peter Berry from Age Concern on

778119, Heather Ponting-Bather from Purton Outreach on 772954 or Debbie Lawrence, Clerk of the Parish Council, on 771066. Remember that Purton is a very special village and there is always somebody that can help and will help.

### ***If You Need It!***

Bobby Van – If you need the Bobby Van for replacement batteries or if the smoke alarms are not working properly then call them on 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 a Facebook and Twitter account which can be found at Facebook: purtonageconcern and Twitter: @Purton\_AC.

Please visit our social media sites and let us know what you think.

We still have a couple of 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*

## *Church Floodlighting*

- 
- Jan 1 St Mary's Church will be floodlit on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day to welcome in 2022. We wish you all a very happy, healthy, safe and caring New Year.
- Jan 7 St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Dale Herbert**. Loved and sadly missed by Mum, Dad and family.
- Jan 8 St Mary's will be floodlit for **Bob Wightman MBE**, on the 110th anniversary of his birth and in celebration of his life. Dearly loved and sadly missed by Roderick, Mark and Ben and all the Wightman family.
- Jan 20 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **John Cook** on the 10th anniversary of his passing. Very much loved and missed by Sue, Emma, Lucy, Jonathan and their families.

*For January, floodlighting bookings will start at 5.00pm and the lights will stay on until 10.00pm. Details for other months will be published in the next magazine.*

*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. Please contact Libbie for further details on 771018.*

# Pips' move to Silver Threads confirmed

Pips and Silver Threads are delighted to have finally received the necessary planning permission to allow Pips Café to move from Purton Club to the Silver Threads Hall. Pips will re-open again after Christmas, in early January in its existing location at the back of Purton Club, Covid permitting, but on Monday 17 January we will move our facilities to the Silver Threads kitchen ready to open there the following morning, Tuesday 18 January.

Pips would like to thank Purton Club for the use of their Function Room over the last three years or so which has enabled us to establish a flourishing community café. Both Pips and the Silver Threads see many benefits for these two organisations, both completely run by volunteers, operating from the same facility.

We both remain determined that an affordable, hot two course meal will be

## Purton & District Age Concern Minibus

Over the last few months, we have been running an additional journey to Cirencester in the middle of the month. These trips have been quite popular, so I am intending to continue them into 2022. The next dates will be Friday January 21st, Friday February 18th and Friday March 18th, subject to weather conditions and any Covid restrictions. Pick up from your home at 9ish and we return from Cirencester around 12.



served in the Silver Threads, with the Age Concern bringing less mobile Purtonians, for this hot lunch. The exact details of what will be offered is not yet decided and will depend on the number of volunteers to help us run it. Pips would also like to increase its opening times to include Mondays. Both these require us to recruit more volunteers who are keen to support community life. If you think you might be able to help in some way, please get in touch.

We look forward to welcoming all our customers in our new home, and also look forward to many more villagers giving us a try in our new more central position. Happy New Year!

*Mary & Dave Nettleton*

See page 3 for Silver Threads and Pips Contact details



Just also to remind everyone that we will do surgery appointments but please try and avoid Fridays as we currently only have one bus on the road.

Please call me telephone 770862 to book or email me at [pac2bookings@gmail.com](mailto:pac2bookings@gmail.com) to get up to date information.

Take care and stay safe and a Happy Christmas from the minibus crews

*Hazel Woodbridge, Minibus Co-ordinator*

*Tel: 770862*

12/22

Community Spaces for Hire

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# Outreach Purton *Community information from Wiltshire Council*

## ***Worried on a night out?***

### ***Ask for Angela***

With the festive season here, we'd like to remind you of the Ask for Angela scheme, which helps to keep people safe on a night out and protects anyone who is feeling vulnerable or unsafe while on a date or with someone they have met. The Ask for Angela scheme is an initiative that helps people who are on a date or who have met someone at a venue and feel unsafe get help from bar staff. This scheme has been implemented across Swindon and Wiltshire in conjunction with Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council. The scheme aims to reduce sexual violence and vulnerability by providing customers with a non-descript phrase they can use to get the attention of staff members who can help separate them from the company of someone with whom they feel unsafe due to that person's actions, words or behaviour. Anyone who feels unsafe in such a situation can get help from bar staff by simply asking to speak to "Angela". Staff will then assist the person in leaving the venue discreetly and getting home or to a place of safety. This could mean taking the distressed person out of sight, calling for a taxi and making sure they get home okay or even asking the person causing distress to leave the venue if appropriate.

Always call the police if the situation becomes hostile, threatening or there is cause for concern about the victim's safety.

Do you work in a venue that might want to participate? You can find posters

and more information at our Ask for Angela webpage: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1113/Ask-for-Angela](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1113/Ask-for-Angela)

### ***Platinum Jubilee celebrations***

2022 will mark the year that Her Majesty the Queen becomes the first British Monarch to have served for 70 years, having acceded to the throne on 6 February 1952.

Throughout 2022 this Platinum Jubilee will be celebrated across the country, The Commonwealth and the globe as communities collectively come together to mark this truly historic occasion.

An extended bank holiday takes place from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June to give people an opportunity to celebrate the milestone, with a number of national events and reflections planned to mark Her Majesty's 70-year reign.

Some of the many national celebration events include:

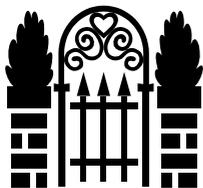
- The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour)
- Platinum Jubilee Pageant
- Platinum Party at the Palace
- The Cazoo Derby at Epsom Downs
- Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral

You can find out more about the celebrations on the Platinum Jubilee website (<https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/>). The site includes an interactive map so you can easily find out about the events and special activities taking place and where they are happening. If you organise an event you may wish to register it with Platinum Jubilee (<https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/>).

We can't say what impact COVID-19 will

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

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

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be having in June 2022, or the measures that will be in place, but it's very likely the virus will still be part of our day-to-day lives.

In line with current Government guidance, in England it is advised you should take a rapid lateral flow test: if you will be in a high risk situation that day before you visit people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they get COVID-19.

You are at higher risk of catching or passing on COVID-19 when: in crowded and enclosed spaces there is limited fresh air

This will help reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 spreading at the event. It should be made clear to people who are planning on attending that should they be experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms they should not attend the event, and should self-isolate and book a PCR test.

Please keep informed of all the latest national guidance GOV.UK: Coronavirus (COVID-19) ([www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support)).

We keep our local COVID-19 page ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-coronavirus](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-coronavirus)) to keep up to date.

### ***National Lottery Platinum Jubilee Fund***

If you're planning to celebrate the Jubilee with your friends, family and community, here at Wiltshire Council we want to ensure you have all the information you need to make it as simple as possible for you to arrange. You will find a host of useful information and guidance on the website to help you.

The information relates to community parties. Small private community parties and fetes do not normally require a licence. These parties and fetes are where groups of residents, or a community organisation, organises an event for the benefit of their neighbours or a local school.

### ***The Queen's Green Canopy***

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee."

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees from November, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green Canopy will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

Trees are available free to schools and community groups – [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/)  
Get involved – The Queen's Green Canopy ([queensgreencanopy.org](http://queensgreencanopy.org))

### ***Move with Bath: Bath Rugby Club and Wiltshire Council free weight loss and fitness programme for men***

Our Healthy Us programme has teamed up with Bath Rugby to offer a free two-week weight loss and fitness programme for men.

There are sessions running in Royal Wootton Bassett, starting in early 2022. Bath Rugby and Bath Rugby Foundation have teamed up to deliver three 12-week fitness programmes, hosted at grassroots clubs throughout Wiltshire. Funded by Wiltshire Council, this programme is designed for men across Wiltshire who are 18 years and older.

This health & wellbeing programme focuses on tactics that individuals can adopt to make positive changes throughout their life, with all individuals receiving expert coaching and advice.

The content for the programme has been designed to support men living with excess weight and obesity to lose weight and maintain healthier and happier lifestyles.

Only adult males (18 years and older) with BMI of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher will be able to take part in this programme, criteria set by Wiltshire Council. At the point of registration, you will have to confirm your height, weight and a registered BMI of more than 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. As this programme is public-funded, we will also require additional information regarding your age, gender, ethnicity and medical information that could impact participation.

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

## **Grateful thanks to Runvember supporters**

Please can I take this opportunity to thank SO many Purtonians for supporting me during Runvember. The idea is that I agreed to run... or walk, cycle or swim... a certain distance every day in November, and, at the same time, draw attention to the needs of those who are homeless in Swindon. During the month, if people asked me what I was doing, I would explain that I want to think about homeless people and rough sleepers and the charities that support them.

Many people have given me items for the charities... The Harbour Trust, The Food Collective (Foodbank) and Threshold Hostel.

So, by the end of the month I was able to hand over three huge bags of goods, including blankets and towels, washing items and tins of food. I was also able to hand in a lot of money that had been donated.

The organiser of Runvember, HRH Alan Butler, is a living legend in the area and he was so delighted to receive all these items... from me and from the other 440 people who got involved. Purton is a very generous village: thank you SO much for your support.

*Libbie Sheppard*

# 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.

## **Grateful thanks**

Margaret and the May family would like to thank everyone who attended the memorial service for the late Mr Des May – a very much-loved husband, father and grandfather. Thank you for the donations received for Blind Veterans UK and the Royal British Legion. Our sincere thanks to the Revd Judith Wells for the beautiful service.

*Margaret May*

## **Choral concert supports church repair fund**

The Dodecantus concert was well attended in St. Mary's church on Saturday 4th December including people who came all the way from Cornwall. The audience was entertained with a French flavoured programme of Christmas choral music that was completed with a handful of Christmas swing style pieces that included Rudolf, Winter Wonderland and Jingle Bells. The concert also raised £300 for the St. Mary's West Tower Masonry Repair fund.

*Francis Sheppard*

## **Festive feast at Pips**

Purton Silver Threads had a lovely get together on Tuesday at Pips cafe. Pips deserve a big thank you for the tasty

sandwiches, beautiful scones and wonderful cakes. We all had a cracker to pull and a Christmas card. It was lovely seeing friends from Silver Threads and to catch-up on all the news. A merry Christmas to you all, from the Silver Threads committee. With hopes that 2022 will be a good year at last.

*Carole Glead*

## **Help!**

Is there a retired radio repair man living in or around Purton who would help me to repair my "Quad valve amps"? I will quite happily go to their house or they can come to me. I have looked it up on Google to see how to do it, it seems very complex, but not to the person with the knowledge. If you would like a challenge ring 770818 and ask for Chris. Thanks

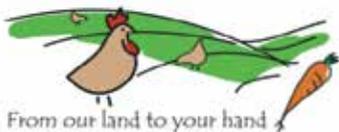
## **Friends in isolation**

If you've got to be ill, then be ill in Purton! While I was in isolation after a positive PCR test friends and neighbours were picking up shopping, taking out my rubbish and running errands to the post office – as well as leaving flowers and chocolates!

Thank you everyone for your support and kindness.

*Bernice*

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11/22

# Ten Years Ago...

Sadly, the editorial in Purton Magazine for January 2012 concerned itself with the various problems caused by unsupervised dogs. I won't go into them here but note that, at the same time, the Guide Dogs (always impeccably behaved) collected over £100 at a Christmas stall and a sponsored dog walk for the Nowzad charity for Afghan dogs raised over £1,000.

It is now ten years since the old St. Mary's school closed and old pupils were invited for a "last look round". Although

it was a sad occasion, "it was quite easy to see why a new school was needed". Meanwhile, the Bradon Forest Pom Dance squad had won the Swindon competition and were going on to the Nationals.

The A-Z of Purton reached the letter T and with it an article on turnpike roads. Our local ones were formalised towards the end of the 18th century and the article notes that the one running from Collins Lane and then along the High Street and Pavenhill came to form part of the stagecoach



route from Oxford to Bath. I have a copy of a 1675 map showing a similar route, along with an alternative to the north of the village, presumably using the still extant trackway. So why has a through route, used for perhaps hundreds of years, fallen into disuse?

## Yuletide Lydiard Archives

Throughout the centuries, Lydiard House and Park has celebrated the Yuletide season in its own unique way, and left a charming and poignant collection of memories to remind us of Christmases past. We have enjoyed working with our Archive partners in bringing together a Yuletide Collection, browsing through the digital records to curate a vibrant representation of the people of Lydiard Park and the parish of Lydiard Tregoze. From the lords of the manor, to the people who worked on the estate; from the American servicemen during WWII, to the locals who enjoyed a traditional Boxing Day walk in the

Park, memories abound of Yuletide at Lydiard.

We found shopping lists from the 1600s and whimsical Christmas Cards sketched by Lord Bolingbroke in the 1960s. We discovered what Christmas Day was like on Elliot Woolford's farm, reading his diaries written a hundred years ago. We added to our collection with Christmas bell peals from St. Mary's Church, and a Christmas Eve ghost story featuring the Golden Cavalier. [www.thelydiardarchives.org.uk/collection/yuletide](http://www.thelydiardarchives.org.uk/collection/yuletide)

Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy and healthy Yuletide.

# Purton Historical Society



Purton Historical Society resumed meetings in person during September and we were very encouraged by attendance numbers. We averaged 38 people, which included visitors, over the September, October and November meetings.

Our three autumn meetings covered a variety of local historical interests. From the wool trade in the Cotswolds and Witney Blanket Hall, to Coleshill's importance during WW2 and finally Bradon Forest, going back to the Ice Age which included very interesting maps and charts. We learnt that global warming is nothing new but our presenter added that it is the current speed of change that is the concern. Our members are looking forward to a visit to Coleshill later in 2022 and also another walk along a section of the Bradon boundary.

We were delighted to have our Christmas party in a well decorated Silver Threads Hall. The festive quiz caused amusement and we experienced our first taste of a delicious Christmas buffet for this year. The entertainment had us in peals of laughter and what a joy it was to hear everybody singing "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas" at the end. We look to the future with enthusiasm and hope.

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

*Marion Hobbs*

*email: [roy.marion@btinternet.com](mailto:roy.marion@btinternet.com)*

*[www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com)*

## ***Future Meetings***

Venue – Purton Methodist Church, Play Close

**Thursday, 27th January 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Abolition of the Slave Trade – Martin Collison**

**Thursday, 24th February 2022 at 7.30pm**

**The SS Empire Windrush Through History – Paul Booy**

The SS Empire Windrush was one of the most famous post war ships. People who have heard of her, associate her with the carrying of large numbers of immigrants from the West Indies to Great Britain. She has given her name to the "Windrush generation". However, she had a very interesting history before that. At least one of her voyages was extremely sinister and her end was tragic.

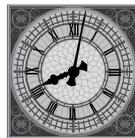
**Thursday, 24th March 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Annual General Meeting followed by**

**Purton Cricket Club – The First 50 Years – Joe Gardner**

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

## After 8



### ***We had our Christmas Sing-a-long in the Chapel***

It seemed very different from meeting in people's houses, but we were very grateful to be able to meet in the Methodist Chapel. It was lovely and warm with a beautifully lit Christmas Tree waiting to greet us.

Our numbers were very low 9 and a quarter. Sandra arrived with the Carol Sheets and left for an actual choir practice and was unable to return. I expect their singing was a lot better than ours with our range of croaky high and deep voices, but we enjoyed it and were able to be socially distanced.

We each brought our own Christmas food and drinks.

As we were in Chapel, we respected their ideals and didn't bring alcohol – but the lack of it was a great talking point! Drinks ranged from coffee, spiced tea, non-alcoholic wine (not a crowd pleaser), to water.

Santa had kindly left a sack of gifts for us (we recycle our unwanted gifts), some were appreciated, some not.

There was a range of candles and smellies and an unusual heavy metal thing; a nutcracker I deduced – a good talking point over the Christmas season.

Santa very kindly left a present in his

sack for Sandra who caught up with some of us as we were leaving. Her present was a Cotton Scented Diffuser (whatever that is).

We all enjoyed the evening.

We hope that everyone has, or had, a lovely Christmas, depending on when you read this.

*Avril Ainscough*

Our meeting on Tuesday 9th November 2021 was originally going to be a late Bonfire night BBQ, but it was decided that perhaps November is not the right time of the year for BBQs (well, not in this country).

So, two adjoining marquees were quickly erected and we gathered for a choice of meat or vegetarian casseroles with crusty french bread and butter, followed by Eton mess cookies. I cheekily tried both casseroles and I can say they were equally tasty.

The weather was very kind to us as it was a very mild night with just a gentle breeze. It was lovely to see so many of us together again and being able to catch up on news and hopeful plans.

We finished the evening off with toasted marshmallows over the fire in the chiminea and lighting sparklers.

*Yvonne*

## *Prayer for Purton*

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Pavenhill, Upper and Lower Pavenhill, Paven Close, Bunce Court, Gleed Close, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Cob Hill, Saxon Mill and Cowleaze*

# Purton Village Diary - January 2022

1	Sa		Tickets go on sale for the 2022 PADS Pantomime
2	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 Church
8	Sa	(& Sun)	Prospect Hospice volunteers collecting real Christmas trees
9	Su	10.30am	Morning worship at Purton Methodist Church & St Mary's
15	Sa		Deadline for Primary School applications
16	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning worship at Purton Methodist Church & St Mary's
17	M	2.00pm	St. Mary's Fellowship of Women meet for their AGM and party in the Methodist Church. Pips Community Cafe moves from Purton Club function room to Silver Threads Hall
18	Tu		Pips re-opens to the public at Silver Threads Hall
21	F	9.00am	Age Concern minibus to Cirencester
23	Su	10.30am	Morning worship at Purton Methodist Church & St Mary's
27	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk on the abolition of the slave trade.
30	Su	10.30am	Morning worship at Purton Methodist Church & St Mary's

Visit [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk) for previous issues of our village magazine, and our advertisers' database for local businesses. We welcome submissions for publication in the February issue. Our copy deadline is the 10th January, please email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

## Purton Football Club

Well as time goes by, the results do not get any better and with suspensions and injuries combined, it has become a bigger uphill task. Performances have definitely improved but it's those magic three points still eluding us, although the goals against column is not looking so grim. The attendance at Aidy Kember's funeral was exceptional with ex-players travelling from Yorkshire, Cornwall and London to attend to show just how popular a lad Aidy was. He will be sorely missed when our annual charity match

comes round again. Tickets for the Peter Shilton dinner are going well and at the time of writing this nearly sold out so if you are still thinking about it let me know on 01793 770597 and I will let you know about availability. I'm not sure when this magazine is being circulated but may I wish our readers a Happy Christmas and, importantly, a healthy 2022.



*Terry Crumbie,  
Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC*

# 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 Tuesday	Purton Probus meet in the Millennium Hall overlooking the Red House football ground at 10.00am.
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 Monday	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)

## The Royal British Legion 2021 Poppy Appeal

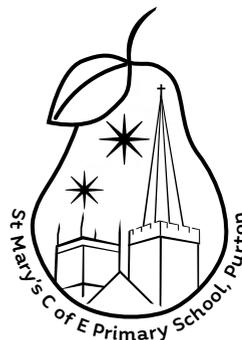
A total of £11011.20 has been sent from Purton and district to the 2021 Poppy Appeal, and we would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way. Special thanks to the staff and pupils of Bradon Forest, St Mary's and Ridgeway Farm schools and to the local businesses who supported the appeal so that poppies were widely available again this year.

Also we would like to thank our many volunteers who help to sell poppies at the West Swindon Centre.

*Shirley and Michael Lawrence,  
Poppy Appeal Organisers*

*Tel. 01793 771084 Email:  
[the\\_lawrences@btinternet.com](mailto:the_lawrences@btinternet.com)*

# St Mary's Primary School



## ***Ho, Ho, Ho (and some Hay, Hay, Hay!)***

Well, they say never work with animals or children, but we thought we'd just test that out! The children were challenged to earn over 10000 house points this term and they smashed it – they actually earned 16722 house points and are still counting!

As a reward, we organised some VERY special visitors to come into school. As you can see, our furry visitors spent the day happily munching out on the field, but our other visitor, who wore a big red coat, preferred the warmth of his grotto! Every class met the animals (two donkeys called Charlie and Dermot, two pygmy goats and a Shetland pony, called Flora) and then they all met Santa (and his elf!) who had a little present for each of them!



## ***Saint Nicholas Day***

Early years foundations classes celebrated Saint Nicholas Day or Sinterklass day as it is known in Spain



and Belgium. Mr Lenders visited us to teach us more. We wrote notes and left them in our wellies and St Nicholas came to visit and left us fruit, sweets and treats!

*Mrs Fudge and Mrs Hill*

They discussed the nativity story and helped to set up the church nativity display. They also made some wonderful nativity craft decorations and hung them on the Christmas tree in Church. You might spot them there, if you attend over the holidays!

*Naomi Clarke,  
Headteacher, St Mary's  
CofE Primary School*

### **Memorial tree for Daniel at Bradon Forest**

Mrs Clarke, Mr Payne and Mrs Farr, accompanied by three children, went to help plant a tree at Bradon Forest to celebrate the life of Daniel, our friend and ICT Technician. Del and Alfie helped with the planting and Daniel's dad put the memorial plaque, carved in oak, to mark the special occasion.

As well as the St Mary's representative, the planting was attended by Daniel's mum, dad, brothers and their families, as well as staff and children from Bradon Forest. Just as the St Mary's sanctuary garden will help us remember Daniel (and Sarah Browne too, of course), the Bradon oak tree will also #shinebrightly as a memorial of his life and his contribution to both schools.



### **Year 2 Visit to Church**

Year 2 spent a morning with Reverend Judith identifying signs and symbols of Christmas in church.



# *A book I will always remember*

***The importance of With  
Clive in India for me is  
that it started me off  
on my life-long love of  
historical novels***

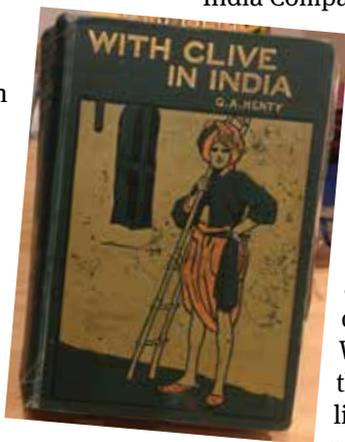
*Have you read a book that you will always remember, either recently or many years ago, serious or funny, fact or fiction? Each month we are publishing a review of a book that has meant a lot to a particular reader, especially the reason why it was so memorable. Purton Magazine readers are encouraged 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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## *With Clive in India*

by G A Henty

Page 345; that's where I'd got to at the end of my summer holidays in 1950, I can still remember. It wasn't that important that I should have remembered the page number as by then I must have read the book at least five times; those holidays, however, I hadn't started early enough as there were still 33 pages to go when I had to leave for boarding school. Recently, some 70 years later, I picked the book up again and, no longer being familiar with the story, I started at the beginning. Its title, I discovered, was not Clive in India, as my memory supposed, but *With Clive in India* and it is by G A Henty, one of about 100 mostly historical novels which he wrote early in the twentieth century.



I confess to being a bit disappointed with it this time. The hero, Charlie Marryat, was a Boys' Own character who went out to India in the eighteenth century to seek his fortune in the East India Company and became an officer

in Clive's army. He was one of 26 survivors of the Black Hole of Calcutta and marched with Clive to avenge it at the battle of Plassey. The historical bits are OK, but I don't rate the fiction. No sex, of course; all very proper in those days. The importance of *With Clive in India* for me is that it started me off on my life-long love of historical novels.

Proper historians are said to despise historical novels as fiction. One can understand why, but for me and, I suspect, for innumerable others, they

are an enjoyable shortcut to history. I could have studied the events and politics of the French Revolution by reading learned tomes by professors of 18th century French politics, but in my early days I read Scarlet Pimpernel thrillers by Baroness Orczy and later Charles Dickens' heart-rending *A Tale of Two Cities*. I could have augmented my meagre and often wrong notions about the Wars of the Roses (mostly gleaned from the prejudiced history plays of Shakespeare) by reading academic books about them, but how much quicker and more pleasurable it has been to read Conn Iggulden's tetralogy, *Stormbird*, *Trinity*, *Bloodline* and *Ravenspur!*

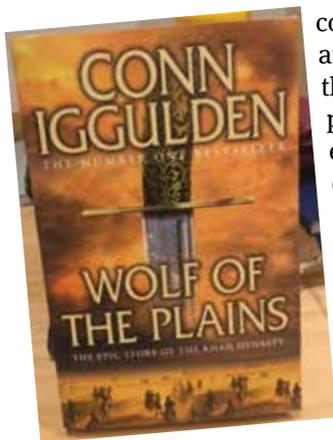
Yes, I know I have to trust him for his historical accuracy and interpretations, but his novels usually have an "afterword" in which he discusses some of the contentious issues. Besides, looking at it the other way round, I studied the late Roman Republic at university and accepted as gospel that it was extremely difficult for Cicero to be elected consul, because he was a *novus homo*, a middle class parvenu, not a member of one of the aristocratic families from which all consuls in the Roman Republic came. I did not, however, understand why it was so difficult for him until I read *Imperium*, the first of the three Robert Harris historical novels on that great orator. Having agreed to write this article for *Purton Magazine*, I thought I should look through my bookshelves to see which of the many dozens of historical novels I have read throughout my life I have seen fit not to send to Oxfam and therefore to recommend. Doing this, I have been impressed by how much

history, largely British, I must have gleaned from them. Most volumes, to be sure, have been about politics or war, but not all. Robert Harris' *Pompeii*, for instance, a thrilling account of what might have happened in that small Roman town when Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, is not, nor really is his *An Officer and a Spy* about the Dreyfus Case; nor is *The King Must Die*, Mary Renault's take on the early Theseus legend and how he slew the Minotaur; nor predominantly is *The Agony and the Ecstasy*, Irving Stone's thrilling novel about the life and work of Michelangelo, though you can't get away entirely from politics in *Renaissance Medici Florence*.

The other historical novels in my shelves are definitely centred on war or politics or both, starting with Homer's *Iliad*, Europe's oldest work of literature and, I would argue, her first historical novel. It is part myth, part historical, set in the ninth year of the Trojan war in circa 1000 BC, and oh the politics in the Greek camp, when King Agamemnon in a fit of pique confiscates Briseis, the girl of Achilles, the greatest Greek fighter. Robert Graves' two splendid novels about Rome's doolally fourth emperor, *I Claudius* and *Claudius the God* are there as is Manda Scott's tetralogy about Boudica, the Queen of the Iceni and her revolt against the Roman empire in 61 AD. How close she came to winning and how different this country's history might have been if she'd won. I kept the Robert the Bruce trilogy by Nigel Tranter both because it is a terrific read but also as I like to trace my descent back to the victor of Bannockburn.

There is one Jean Plaidy, her *Murder Most Royal*, from which I first learned of Henry's disposal of his second and

fifth wives, Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard, next on the shelf to the contemporary Hilary Mantel trilogy set in the same period about Thomas Cromwell, Henry's Chief Minister; the first two volumes, *Wolf Hall* and *Bring up the Bodies*, are brilliant before she falls into the modern biographer's trap, in my opinion, of being far too detailed in the third. Tolstoy's *War and Peace* is on my shelf too, a classic piece of literature but, set in the time of Napoleon's invasion of Russia, in 1812, surely it counts as a historical novel. You may think of Georgette Heyer as a writer of 18th and 19th century romances, but her *The Infamous Army* is a set-book, I am told, in the military history syllabus at Sandhurst as being still the best account



of the Battle of Waterloo. And now to the final recommendations from my shelves, the five books of Conn Iggulden's series, about the Khan dynasty's conquest of most of Asia and the establishment of the Mongol empire. His pentalogy starts with the early life of Genghis and ends with the ascent to power of Kubla. I did not mention my other great reading love, thrillers, but for my money the first volume of the Conqueror series, *Wolf of the Plains*, is not only a fine historical novel, but also

the most gripping thriller I've ever read. So, many thanks to Mr Henty for setting me off on the historical novel road with his *Clive*, but I wonder what he would have made of Conn Iggulden's *Genghis Wolf*!

*James Flecker*

---

## The other side of the gate

It's been a very quiet month on the farm. The cows came in the first of November and they're happy eating their way through the silage – 4 bales a day. We follow our daily routines of milking, scraping the feeding and standing areas and putting straw in the beds. It's quite monotonous. Now we're fully mechanised, it doesn't take anywhere near as long and the cows are disturbed for less time. Luke can get most of the jobs done whilst I'm milking. I've had a few incidents where I've got to practice my homoeopathic skills. The first incident was Shortstuff. I think

with all his racing about, he managed to tear the soft tissue between his toes and allow infection in. It looks awful when you see a calf trying to walk on three legs. The pain is very real as there are lots of nerve endings in the foot.



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We grabbed him (luckily he's friendly) and brought him into the parlour. We submerged his foot in a strong mix of hibiscrub to clean the area, then I checked that there weren't any foreign objects with my fingertips. Once satisfied that it's just a tear I applied Stockholm tar with cotton wool and secured it with a bandage. I also gave him some Hypericum, which is great at soothing areas rich in nerve endings. It's been two weeks since we did that, and he's again doing laps with his friends at full speed. The other incident took a lot more working out. Fudge was still out in the fields and on the routine daily check, we found her acting quite strangely. She was doing a cycle of standing and lying and intermittently kicking her belly.

Those are classic colic signs. I decided to get her into the yard as she felt cold too.

Once in the yard, I put a jacket on her and took her temperature, which was 37.7°C. It was low so the jacket was a good idea. That was the day after we had those awful sleety showers and cold winds. Her poo was quite thin and watery. These are symptoms of what we call a 'chill'. I worked through other symptoms (like weather change and her breathing) in my remedy finder and decided the best thing for her was Colocynthis.

Her temperature was still a little low the next day, but on the way up. No other



treatment was needed and she's fully recovered. I took the jacket off 10 days later (on a day the temperature was over 10°C).

When Fudge came in we also brought in her calf Shrek too. He's been separated as he still has his man parts. Bringing him into the buildings created quite a commotion with the heifers. With only a gate separating them, the draw to be together was clearly a gate too far!

I'll include the picture of what I found 10 mins after he was 'reunited' with his female friends. He was unharmed by the exercise as were the gates and water trough.

*Jonathan Cook, Quarry Farm*

# Purton Magazine refresh for 2022

Purton Magazine has remained very much the same since its 2004 re-launch and when I took over the creative helm in 2017, I was reluctant to do anything dramatic which might upset the status quo too early in my tenure.

However, having played it safe for the past four and half years, the editorial team and I had a meeting on Zoom during lockdown and decided it was time for change. I wrote at length (apologies for that) about the subtle changes I'd made in January 2018, switching from Arial to Gill Sans for the magazine's body copy.

However, we felt it was time to make more significant changes, bringing Purton Magazine in line with other contemporary independent magazines. We may not be as cutting edge as some, but keeping our magazine interesting and engaging for our readers is always a priority.

You'll see from our cover that we have a new masthead using the nostalgic, handwritten flowing forms of Rouge Script, combined with a modern serif font; Meta Serif Pro.

As the Meta Serif family has extensive weights and variations, it's also used for our body copy and headings. Meta Pro, the sans serif relative, is used for captions and smaller blocks of text. Meta was designed in

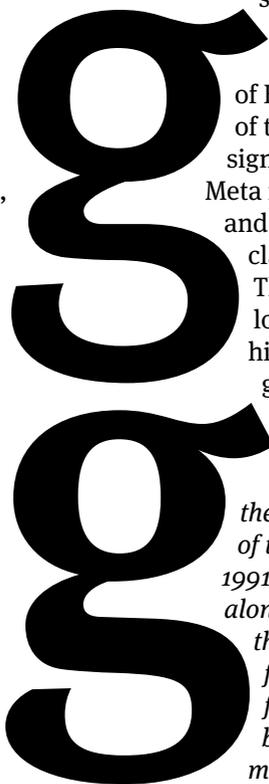
1991 by the German typographer Erik Spiekermann and it's early sans serif form was commissioned by the Deutsche Bundespost (The German Post Office). However, they backed out of the deal, preferring the Swiss font Frutiger, designed by Adrian Frutiger (who also designed Univers amongst others).

In a situation of 'waste not, want not', Meta was adopted by the Zurich public transport and the Berlin subway

systems for their maps and timetables in a tenuous link back to Eric Gill, a student of Edward Johnston, designer of the London Underground signage.

Meta is one of my favourite fonts and has extensive uses with its clarity, legibility and character. The open bowl and loop of the lower case 'g' is a particular highlight for me. In my 2001 graphic design degree dissertation I wrote:

*"The German typographer Erik Spiekermann is one of the most respected advocates of the digitisation of design. In 1991 he designed Meta, which, along with Rotis, became two of the most popular Mac-based fonts. These multi-purpose faces were suitable for both titles and body copy making them more humanistic and comfortable to read than the clinical Univers and Helvetica. Along with typefaces designed for corporate identities,*



The open bowl and loop of the lower case 'g' in the sans serif (above, top) and serif (above)

*Spiekermann collaborated with Neville Brody on the design of typefaces for PostScript printers and formed the company FontWorks.*

*Anyone with access to a computer could make typographic decisions (either good or bad), which would affect the final look of a piece of text. Even the most basic changes of point size, leading, bold or italic type was liberating for typographers and non-typographers alike. By the late 1990s it was estimated that in excess of one hundred million amateur typographers existed, in contrast to the relatively small design community that was present B.C. (Before Computerisation)."*

My interest and study of typography during my degree has left a lasting impression and when I first went freelance in the late 2000s I attended a

# Rouge Script

Meta Serif Pro book

Meta Serif Pro medium

*Meta Serif Pro book italic*

Meta Pro book

Through the changes we've made from Gill Sans to Meta for body copy, we've been able to reduce the font and leading size by half a point from 10.5pt on 12.5pt leading, to 10pt on 12 pt. (Leading is the space between lines of text). Meta is a more condensed font than Gill and so we're also able to fit more words per line without compromising legibility.

---

series of lectures by some of the typographic royalty I'd studied and written about in my dissertation; Neville Brody, Adrian Shaughnessy and the great Erik Spiekermann. As creative lead at Purton Magazine, I'm thrilled to be able to share my typographic passion with you all.

We are always keen to hear feedback from our readers and if you'd like to comment on our new magazine layout, please email me: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk).

## We Record...

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

21 November 2021 Edison Dearlove  
Ollie William Dodson  
Roman John William McCarthy

### **Memorial Service at St Mary's Church**

20 November 2021 Douglas Desmond Raikes May (Des) (86)



# 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 December's puzzle are 1) Tidings 2) Mistletoe 3) Nativity 4) Hogmanay 5) Advent 6) Scrooge

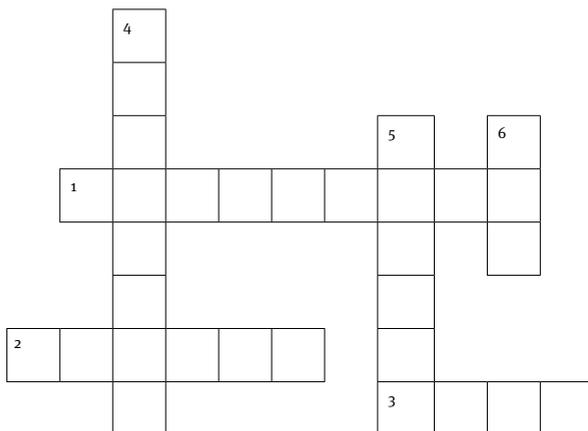
1. (across) Push the boat out (9)
2. (across) Coldest season (6)
3. (across) Twelve months (4)
4. (down) Water turning to ice (8)
5. (down) One of Snow White's companions (5)
6. (down) Unused (3)

This is the fifth crossword created by Neil Miles, again with a seasonal flavour.

Answers in the February 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. 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)



## Christmas waste and recycling services

Waste and recycling collection dates will not change over the Christmas and New Year period, as waste collection crews will be working as normal on the Bank Holiday Monday 27 December 2021, Tuesday 28 December 2021, and Monday 3 January 2022.

Garden waste collections will stop for two weeks over the festive period. The last collections will take place on Friday 24 December and restart on Monday 10 January 2022.

Household Recycling Centre (HRC)

opening times and dates will change over the Christmas and New Year period, so please check online before visiting.

HRCs that normally open on Fridays will be open on Christmas Eve, 24 December, from 10am but will close at 1pm.

All HRCs will be closed on Saturday 25 December, Sunday 26 December and Saturday 1 January 2022.

Other than on these dates, the centres will open as normal on their specified opening days.

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# Beneath the Wool

This month has been a rather busy one in parts and we'll start with an update on Jules. He's doing very well and has served all the ewes with his red chalk and he's now on his Blue chalk and he's only served two, so that hopefully means that most of the ewes will lamb in their first cycle (19 days). They left College Farm at the end of November and spent a few weeks at home while we got the fencing sorted at their winter grazing. The day came to move them to their winter grazing after the fencing was done, and they weren't having any of it and played up really badly. It took a week of training, but they are finally moved and enjoying their fresh grass. On the 16th November it was a bit of a sad day as we had to go to my Great Aunt Hon's Funeral in Nettleton near Castle Combe. Many of you may not know that my family came from Nettleton before they came farming at Purton. Both sides of my Woodward grandparents had farms in and around Nettleton and in the graveyard there a number of the Hayward side (grandmother's side) are buried there so this made this trip also quite a memorable one. We've been trying to get some lambs slaughtered and butchered to sell, but



we have been having problems getting them booked in especially due to the rush of Christmas. By the time you're reading this, you will probably have already eaten your Christmas lunch. As you reflect on your festive feast, it's worth taking a quick pause for thought to consider that all of the items you enjoyed have been grown or reared

by farmers, hopefully in the UK, and, even better, locally. Perhaps something to remember is that farmers across the country are making very small margins on these products, and with all the increased prices in fuel etc, those margins are even tighter. Farmers don't stop producing the high quality products you eat and enjoy, they just carry on the best they can to keep food on your plate. On Marshall Farm Trailers there's a slogan "Farm gate to dinner plate, good food comes to those who wait". We all certainly keep trying our best and speaking on behalf of all farmers, we hope your Christmas Lunch was as good as you expected. Merry Christmas and all the best for a safe and happy New Year from Rogers Farm. We'll be back with more rambles throughout 2022.

*Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton*

# Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Given the current uncertainty around the emergence of the new Coronavirus variant, the committee have decided to delay the start of the 2022 Gardeners' Guild programme until March, when hopefully spring will have sprung, and we'll all be raring to resume our regular meetings.

With that in mind, it's time for me to start the process of booking speakers again so watch this space for future topics.

Having finally put away our gardening tools for this year, thoughts have already turned to next year's planting and so it was fortuitous to receive a message from John Lawrence from 10 Church Path, who kindly advised that members of Gardeners' Guild are welcome to use the Suttons Seeds Group scheme again for 2022.

Advantages of the scheme include generous discounts for each participant: 50% on seed;

15% on plants (in various forms) and other horticultural products in the Suttons catalogue.

For each order there is a standard postal charge: £2.99 seed only, £4.99 plants/products, £6.99 seed and plants/products.

Each person using the scheme is treated individually and delivery is direct to one's door.

John advises that the scheme works well on-line, however for those who prefer to operate the system manually, he does have forms and catalogues available for our members.

If you're ordering online through the Suttons Seeds website ([www.suttons.co.uk](http://www.suttons.co.uk)), an offer code has to be applied before your 'basket' is converted to an order.

The offer code for John's group until the end of September is SUGS1157Z. This code is usable time and again. The discount is then calculated so one can see the actual cost without postage before the payment procedure takes place.

If you have any queries regarding the scheme please contact John on 01793 271658 and he will be happy to help you.

With little else to report on the gardening front, and as some of us will be receiving the January magazine before Christmas Day, I'm taking the opportunity to enclose a seasonal quiz, something to settle down to in a quiet moment amid the festivities or as the new year draws us in.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very happy, healthy 2022.

## **Seasonal Quiz**

1. How are Hellebore seeds spread?
2. When snow settles what effect does it have on the soil below?
3. What Christmas plant grows high up on the branches of a host tree?
4. Which Christmas houseplant is famed for its colourful bracts?
5. English Ivy (*Ilex aquifolium*) is dioecious. What does this mean?
6. Frost changes the taste of veg such as parsnips and sprouts. In what way?
7. What is the birth flower for December?

8. A red leafed vegetable is perfect for a winter salad, what is it?
9. The Women's Institute may have a link to which winter vegetable?
10. Which purple cauliflower retains its colour when cooked?
11. Who made Christmas trees popular in England?
12. What are the three main types of real Christmas tree?
13. Can you eat your Christmas tree?
14. Why does Norway gift a Christmas Tree to Britain each year?
15. How old is the average Christmas tree when cut?
16. According to the well-known folk carol, which tree wears the crown?
17. Who wrote In the Bleak Midwinter?
18. Who composed the Nutcracker Suite?
19. Where was Chris Rea going to spend Christmas?
20. Originally, who was it that went "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"?

Answers can be found on page 52

*Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)*

## Purton Profferings

I have several A4 lever arch files in good condition that are surplus to my needs plus a couple of ring binders. Please phone Hazel on 01793 770862. I am in Hoggs Lane if you are interested even if only one!

## Poetry Corner

### **Autumn**

With bitter winds the winter came, the  
trees were stripped and bare  
But nothing could destroy the joy of  
Autumn's honeyed flair  
And did the miles of country roads all  
drenched in golden store  
Enrich the fields and surging hills as  
never yet before?

And did the trees so proudly dressed in  
bronze and burning hue  
Release their raiment readily to gladden  
me and you?  
Leaves tumbled onto wayside banks in  
brazen rich profusion  
While playful winds stirred up their  
mounds in unrestrained confusion

The world was changed from summer  
green to raptures of delight  
As sunlight played with vibrant tones of  
russet colour bright  
The canopies of golden heights arched  
into pleasant spaces  
As shades of orange rust and brown the  
forest floor embraces

Kaleidoscope of nature in a whirling  
twist of time  
Your autumn stay was transient your  
beauty quite sublime  
And as you yield to winter's strength  
and melt into the earth  
We won't forget the spectacle of your  
flamboyant birth.

*Jacky Parker*

# January Nature Correspondent

## ***The Cotswold Water Park – A haven for wildfowl***

The Cotswold Water Park is the United Kingdom's largest marlstone lake system, straddling the Wiltshire–Gloucestershire border. There are some 180 lakes, spread over 42 square miles. The largest area of water in Wiltshire it is a significant area for wildlife, situated no more than six miles from Purton. 177 of these lakes are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for their importance to bird-life and aquatic plants. The lakes support an important breeding population of Great Crested Grebes and 20 species of dragonfly. The limestone rivers and streams that run through the Water Park into the River Thames support healthy fish populations, as well as Otter, Water Vole and Kingfisher.

Over the winter months it hosts internationally important numbers (20,000+) of wintering water birds and an equally impressive number of Gulls. Species such as Mallard, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Pochard, Red Crested Pochard, Moorhen and Coot are resident, breeding in variable numbers. But this duck population hugely increases in late autumn with the arrival of visitors from the north: Fenno-Scandia, Russia, Iceland and elsewhere. A flock of Wigeon call with a whistling “wee, whee-oo” and a short low musical

“krrit” from the shallow margins denotes the presence of a small flock of Teal, the smallest European duck. There are other surface-feeding or dabbling ducks: along with increased numbers of Mallard and Gadwall, Shovelers have arrived, sifting the surface with spoon-like bills, and Pintails, the males with chocolate brown heads, a white streak from breast to neck and, as the name suggests, pointed tails. Then there are the diving ducks: along with the Pochards and Tufted Ducks comes the scarcer Goldeneye, which

has a conspicuous white spot on its triangular-shaped black head.

Perhaps the most handsome of all these immigrants is the male Goosander with its long white body, glossy-green head

and black back. The breast is a pinkish white, the bill, which is red, is spike-like and has toothed edges, classifying the Goosander as a “saw-bill.” It's birds like these that lend colour and excitement to winter birdwatching.

January is the best month to observe this wintering wildfowl spectacle, obtaining a Water Park Map, following the various footpaths and remembering the wellies! A visit or two might get you hooked, and you can return in the Spring perhaps and at certain favoured spots hear the song of the Nightingale.

*Robin Nelson*



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# Purton Tennis Club



It's a new year and a good time to think of taking up a new challenge. Tennis is a fun sport that can be played by people of all ages and abilities, and also by people with disabilities. So, why not give tennis a go?

January is the time when our members renew their membership, so if you would like to join us, then now is the ideal time. Our membership secretary Michelle Hay will be pleased to hear from you and can answer any questions you may have ([thehays16@gmail.com](mailto:thehays16@gmail.com)). Should you feel that you need some coaching, our club coach, Jon Bastin has a wealth of experience and will take group or individual lessons ([jjbimages@gmail.com](mailto:jjbimages@gmail.com)).

Our courts at the Red House in Purton are all-weather and two of our courts have floodlights, so we can play tennis all year round. Social tennis will continue after the Christmas break,

as will the winter matches. However, members have unlimited access to the courts, so can play with their friends and families at any time they choose. For those who play regularly it really is good value becoming a member. If, however, you do not have the time to play regularly, we do have a pay and play facility which might interest you. Please get in touch if this is the case. Other news: In December at the Wiltshire Tennis AGM at Marlborough, a former player and former Chairman of Purton Tennis Club, Neil Allen, received two awards – for volunteer of the year and also The Life Time Achievement Award in recognition of his hard work and dedication to the sport over the years. Many Congratulations to Neil! Happy New Year everyone!

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

# Purton & District Darts League



At the halfway point of our Winter Season, we see the Phoenix A Team from Royal Wootton Bassett taking top spot in both the Doubles and Singles League. They are closely followed by Purton Club B and Red House B. Adam Woolford from Red House B and Jim MacDonald from Phoenix A are joint top of the Captains League so quite a battle going on there for top spot.

Our Christmas Darts competition on 16th December will already have taken

place by the time you read this article, and then we take a break before the second half of the season kicks off on Thursday 6th January 2022.

On behalf of the committee and everyone involved with Purton and District Darts, may I take this opportunity to hope you all had a Happy Christmas and to wish everyone a very Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

*Sue Giles, Secretary*

# Swindon home care provider achieves another Outstanding report despite pandemic challenges

Following a week-long inspection with seven inspectors scrutinising the business, First City Nursing Services, Swindon's lead provider for community care, is celebrating maintaining its Outstanding rating, the highest overall from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) – the regulatory body that inspects health and care services.

Only 4% of community care providers are awarded an Outstanding rating and First City is amongst the largest providers to have been awarded this rating, not once but now twice.

In the latest CQC report, First City's tireless work in providing safe and effective care to their customers, as well as ensuring staff are well trained, enthusiastic and motivated were all highlighted for praise. The report hailed the company for ensuring "People were supported to have maximum choice and control of their lives and staff supported them in the least restrictive way possible..." and that "people's independence was actively promoted improving people's well-being and reducing social isolation".

First City delivers a lead provider contract for the town, coordinating care for the whole community

and is responsible for working with the Swindon Borough Council, the NHS and other community support organisations to ensure people are supported. The CQC were particularly impressed with how First City had worked with partners despite the huge challenges faced across the town as a result of the pandemic.

Stephen Trowbridge MBE, Managing Director of First City Nursing Services said: "This rating is excellent news, not just for us and our wonderful team who have worked so hard to achieve this, even with the ongoing challenges with Covid and workforce pressures.

"It's true to say that the pandemic has made all of our lives harder over the last two years, however this Outstanding rating is testament to the endurance, strength, resilience and determination of our team. But this team, as many others in the same position as us across Swindon and wider afield, desperately need more people to sustain it and provide quality care to our communities, with an ever increasing demand for services."



First City Nursing Outstanding staff (l-r) Samip Gurung, Ruth Ndungu and Sonya Brewer

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Home care companies, such as First City, underpin the NHS by providing care in people's own homes, so that pressures on hospitals and the rest of the NHS can be relieved. However, like all areas of healthcare, the domiciliary care sector is currently feeling the pinch with more funding needed from central government and with the numerous vacancies needing to be filled across businesses. First City works closely with partners, including other community care organisations, to maintain a sustainable local care marketplace and to encourage people to enter any organisation within the care sector. First City Nursing is involved directly in the care of over 650 people across Swindon, plus thousands more indirectly, and so is uniquely positioned to see the challenges of the sector. However, as an independently owned family business, it can be flexible and adaptable to balance the needs of its workforce with the needs of the

community, working closely with other providers, the local council and other organisations to be able to make an impact where it will be felt most. Stephen added: *"There are plenty of opportunities out there for people looking for a way to give back through their job – both for those new to the industry and those thinking of returning. Not just at First City Nursing, but at the hundreds of struggling care companies across the region.*

*"A career in care offers flexibility and job satisfaction that often can't be found elsewhere, and if you've got even just a few hours of spare time a week and want to make a difference, I'd urge anyone to consider one of the roles currently available in the town."*

For more information on career opportunities at First City visit [www.jobsincare.org](http://www.jobsincare.org) or call 01793 313044, and for the wider care market, visit [www.careersincare.co.uk](http://www.careersincare.co.uk).

## Prospect Hospice

### ***A tree-mendous way to support Prospect Hospice***

If you're having a real Christmas tree this year and don't know how to dispose of it then Prospect Hospice will collect it in return for a donation.

This is Prospect Hospice's first Christmas tree collection and it has teamed up with the charity Just Helping to collect real Christmas trees from homes and businesses in Swindon and the surrounding area.

The collection will also benefit the environment as the Christmas trees will be recycled into chippings and be used locally.

Volunteers will be collecting and recycling the trees from the following areas:

SN1, SN2, SN3, SN4, SN5, SN6 6, SN6 7, SN25 1, SN25 2, SN25 3, SN25 4.

The trees will be collected between 8 and 9 January 2022. To arrange a collection please book at:

[www.charityxmastreecollection.com](http://www.charityxmastreecollection.com) before 12 noon on 4 January 2022.

Sheryl Crouch, head of income at Prospect Hospice, said: "We're really pleased to offer residents and businesses in our community the opportunity to have their real Christmas trees collected and recycled."

“If you’re celebrating Christmas with a real Christmas tree this year and wondering what you will do with it when the festive period is over, you can book a collection and our volunteers will collect it and get it recycled.

“All we ask in return is for a donation so we can care for patients in their last days, weeks and months and support their families.”

Up to ten per cent of monies raised through the scheme will be donated to other local charities. Imagine Cruising, based in Royal Wootton Bassett, is kindly supporting Prospect Hospice’s Christmas tree collection.

### ***Go back to the 80s at Prospect Hospice’s Starlight Walk***

Prospect Hospice’s Starlight Walk returns in 2022 and the theme is going back to the 80s!

Dig out your fluorescent leg warmers and crimp your hair for an evening of fun, friendship and fancy dress.

The 10km or 15km sponsored walk takes place in Swindon on Saturday 11 June 2022 starting and finishing at Swindon Town Football Club. Men and women are welcome.

There is an early bird fee of £12 if you book before 31 March 2022.

The Starlight Walk is the hospice’s flagship fundraising event. All the money raised by entry fees and sponsorship goes directly towards supporting the care the hospice provides to people in our community who are living with a terminal or life-limiting illness and supporting their families.

To find out more or to book your place visit the website [www.prospect-hospice.net/starlight](http://www.prospect-hospice.net/starlight) or email [fundraisingandevents@prospect-hospice.net](mailto:fundraisingandevents@prospect-hospice.net)



### ***Answers to Gardeners Guild Seasonal quiz (p43)***

1. By snails! The snails eat the oil covering the seed and carry the rest away in their slime, spreading it as they go.
2. Snow can stop soil from freezing. The soil beneath snow is typically 10 to 15°C warmer than on the surface.
3. Mistletoe.
4. Poinsettia.
5. Dioecious means that male and female flowers are on separate plants.
6. It makes them taste sweeter.
7. Narcissus.
8. Radicchio.
9. Jerusalem artichokes.
10. Cauliflower di Sicilia violetto.
11. Prince Albert.
12. Spruce, Pine and Noble Fir.
13. Best remove the lights and decorations first but, yes. Pine needles are edible and are high in vitamins A and C.
14. In recognition of Britain’s help to Norway during World War II.
15. 15 years.
16. The Holly (The Holly and the Ivy).
17. Christina Rossetti.
18. Tchaikovsky.
19. Home.
20. Brenda Lee in 1958.



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