

February 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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09/22

Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library <i>(Tuesdays 2.00-7.00pm)</i>	Librarians	770870
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 <i>(Tuesday-Friday 9am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm)</i>	Duty volunteers	07498 526872
www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/		

Schools & Playgroups

Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Pear Drops at Playclose	Sarah Grigg	950159
Pear Drops Pre-School <i>(formerly Under 5s')</i>	Sarah Grigg	978536
St Mary's Primary School	Office	770239

Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary www.stmaryspurton.org.uk

For information about services, see the diary pages in the centre of the magazine.

Vicar: Revd Ian email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk

Tweedie-Smith Tel: 770077 (773031 emergencies only)

Curate: Revd Judith Wells email: judithwells36@googlemail.com
Tel: 770627

Wardens Sandra Horsnall: 770157 Jane Smith: 772422

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

Methodist Churches

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

Minister: 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

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: Part of the new St
Mary's School memorial garden, see page
32 credit: Heather Ponting-Bather

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Design & Print

H&W PRINT
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From the Editors

February 2022

Volume 44 No.2

1st Published 1975

This editorial is being written on the third Monday in January that has become known as Blue Monday – apparently the most depressing day of the year. Research suggests that the name was first identified in American literature in the 1830s when Blue Monday referred to the hungover state of the labour workforce after a weekend spent drinking – maybe it was *every* Monday back then!

In the UK the explanation of Blue Monday only in January includes such ‘downers’ as post-Christmas and New Year holiday blues, abandoned New Year resolutions, credit card bills arriving and, of course, our winter weather with muddy footpaths and dark evenings. This year the impacts of Covid can be added to that list. Psychologist Cliff Arnall even concocted a fancy formula for Blue Monday in 2004 for a travel company trying to increase their bookings, although he has since said that it was essentially pseudoscience. Certainly the colour blue has become synonymous with feeling a bit depressed and the Samaritans are trying to change Blue Monday into Brew Monday. They want to remind everyone to reach out for a cup of tea and a catch-up with the people you care about. To help and support any reader of this magazine

feeling a little blue, on page 19 we have collected and collated information about Dr Anthony Clare’s *Seven Steps to Happiness*. They were derived from his famous In The Psychiatrist’s Chair series of radio and TV programmes where he gently uncovered layers of doubt and unhappiness among his celebrity guests.

The first two steps – to create a passion and become part of something bigger than yourself – can already be seen operating in our village. As usual we have reports of positive things happening in Purton and many highlight passions that others are already enjoying. Those articles often describe regular activities in our clubs and societies who welcome new members and by joining, people would be able to develop their own passion and become part of something bigger than themselves.

Volunteering also fits into that last group with some outdoor opportunities with young people (page 58) and to help restore the ancient wall at the top of Hoggs Lane (see page 21). Passionate galanthophiles will find a treat on page 28 and we reproduce reactions to the new magazine layout on page 50. However, any reader hankering after the ‘good old days’ had better read page 53.

4

‘A’s learnt by the Humble Ninja and taught to St Mary’s Primary School Children. See page 30

1251

Pairs of shoes collected by RWB & District Rotary Club and donated to Shoe Aid. See page 63

4500

Acres of privately-owned Savernake Forest is full of wonderful wildlife. See page 35

Purton Parish Council News

Community Volunteer Award

Thank you to all who nominated a community hero for our award scheme. The Parish Council will present to the winner at its Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday 4th April 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall – all welcome.

Council Meetings – February 2022

- Finance and General Purposes Meeting - Monday 7th February 2022
- Council Meeting - Monday 14th February 2022
- Purton War Memorial & Village Centre Charity - Monday 28th February 2022

Important covid restrictions – prebooked attendance only through the office. Masks must be worn at all times in our facility. Agendas are posted on our notice boards (Purton Village Hall and Pavenhill Shops) and our website: www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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 07715681950 or email danielleb@therisetrust.org. The Youth Club takes place on Wednesdays at Purton Village Hall from 7.00pm to 8.30pm, and is for young people in Year 7 and above.

Councillor Vacancies

We currently have four Councillor vacancies to suit a 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.

Projects 2022-23

The main projects for the forthcoming year are as follows:

- Enhancement of our current Speed Indicator Devices to add three more
- Entrance/signage gates to our parish (donation from a resident)
- Continue to support youth provision through Youth Club and community activities
- Highways – speed restriction on Manor Hill from 60 to 30
- Moulden View double yellow lines to aid safe children access to bus pick up to our local schools
- New pathway through St Mary's Churchyard
- Community engagement questionnaire (charities/highways/play parks/cemetery)
- Junior football pitch enhancements at the Village Centre
- Carbon Neutral Policy and actions for our community
- Replacement flower containers throughout the village
- Merger of the three charities to gain greater flexibility/management/resource
- The Dingle – regeneration after ash dieback disease
- Revisit and revision of the Purton Neighbourhood Plan



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01/23



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.

You may be eligible for a home improvement loan to keep your home warm, safe, and suitable for your needs.

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.

To book a no-obligation assessment, or for more information, visit www.lendology.org.uk or call 01823 461099.

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Tel: Gary Sealey 07966 054276

Disposal Of Land – Reids Piece

Purton Parish Council owns a section of land previously occupied by the youth club on Reids Piece. The land and the building have been unused since 2013 and have been written into the neighbourhood plan as potential development land should this become a viable option. The Parish Council is now at the stage where it wishes to sell this land, removing a covenant (which restricts use to recreation and community) and offer it as a viable option for essential smaller housing in Purton. The land is currently fenced and subject to vandalism and fly tipping on a regular basis. The Parish Council has requested an official valuation through the District Valuer and will engage with Wiltshire Council and legal representatives to sell this land. The land will be sold at market value. All funds (minus legal costs) will be used within Purton on a capital project, yet to be considered.

As a resident of Purton, if you wish to make comment, under the Disposal of Land, Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1972, please do so in writing to the Clerk of the Council, at the postal address or email given below or call the office on 01793 771066.

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 there, or through the Wiltshire Council portal, the link for which is also on our

website. Applications to be considered at each meeting will be posted on our agenda, which can be located on our notice boards and website.

Permission Granted Applications

- PL/2021/09278 – Longcroft, 6 Station Road, Purton. SN5 4AQ. Cut back Conifer trees.
- PL/2021/05713 – Land at Lower Farm, Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke. SN5 4LL. Certificate of lawfulness for the siting of a caravan and its occupation as an independent unit of residential accommodation.
- PL/2021/08821 – Rose Tree Cottage, 7 Locks Lane, The Common. Purton. SN5 4HD. Erection of dependant relative annexe on site of existing outbuilding; and removal of existing adjacent timber clad outbuilding (Renewal of planning approval 18/03799/FUL)
- PL/2021/06154 – Packhorse Farmhouse, Cricklade Road, Purton. SN5 4GW. Erection of greenhouse in rear garden.
- PL/2021/05418 – Barbers Cottage, Witts Lane, Purton. SN5 4ES. Retention of field shelters with hard standing, plus 1 further additional shelter with hardstanding all for agricultural purposes (Part Retrospective)
- PL/2021/06914 – Silver Threads Hall, High Street. Purton. SN5 4AE. Change of use of an existing community hall to allow for use of the hall as a community café during the day.
- PL/2021/07397 – The Bramleys, Orchard Gardens. Purton. SN5 4EJ. Single storey rear extension and front porch.

Refused Applications

- 20/11382/FUL – Land at Pavenhill, Purton. SN5 4DA. Demolition of 1 existing dwelling and erection of 25 market and affordable dwellings, with associated access works, car parking, public open space and landscaping.

Donation – Purton War Memorial And Village Centre



Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity has been kindly donated a new water softener system which will be installed along with a new boiler at the Millennium Hall site during January. A huge thank you to DW Dunn Ltd, a local company, for the kind donation to the charity.

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

Email: james.poole@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 01793 778347.

Hall Hire, Charity Buildings

We are still operating our hall hire in line with the latest Covid restrictions, meaning that there is a limit on numbers, masks to be worn and Covid 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

Full Council details can be found on our website:

www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Telephone number 01793 771066, email address: deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

We also have 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 and sign up today.



Your general waste collection day is

changing

Please note: this only affects your general waste, your recycling collection dates won't change!

Wiltshire Council

Your waste collection day will change from 28 February

From Monday 28 February, household waste collection days for nearly all Wiltshire properties will change.

This change will only affect your general household waste collections – there is no change to recycling or garden waste collections, which will still take place on their usual day.

You do not need to do anything at the moment.

To ensure you're informed about your new collection day, you will receive a personalised letter that explains how your collection day will change and what you need to do. You'll also have

a hanger label placed on your general household waste bin on your last collection under the old schedule that will give you more information.

Letters will start landing on doormats from 31 January and for the following two weeks, so if you don't get a letter straight away, don't worry.

Please do not contact us about the changes – all the information you need will be in your letter, and you do not need to do anything until you receive your letter.

Find out more about waste collections www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste

PADS Panto 2022 - Postponed

Sadly, due to all of the uncertainty over Covid, the incredibly hard decision has been made to postpone our 2022 Pantomime. We have to be mindful of the safety and well-being of all the cast,

backstage and helpers and of course the most important people, our audience. We hope you understand and look forward to performing 'MERLIN' in the future.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



200+ Club draw

Although membership is closed at the moment, for an annual cost of £15 you can join our 200 Club from 1 April. There are monthly prizes, the first prize is £100 and the second is £15. Judy, Practice Nurse, did the January draw and the £100 winner was Peter Hansen.



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

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Sheila Fowler, Secretary, Purton PPG*



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Purton & District Age Concern

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~~AGE CONCERN~~

Not The Start We Wanted

Here we go again, not knowing when and how we are going to cope with another rise in infections. I don't think any of us could have foreseen this, although we are now getting used to precautions and restrictions. We were so disappointed that we had to cancel our Christmas Eve carols, and I know from people I have spoken to that they felt the same, but still supported our decision, we just could not take the risk.

Having said that I hope that everybody had the best Christmas they could in the circumstances, and I must say a few thank-yous. I did mention the Purton Guides and the hampers they produced and I have had phone calls and cards from people who received them saying how thrilled they were with the contents. Also thanks to White Lodge care home which managed to produce 16 hampers and delivered them to my door, and special thanks to Tina and her team who worked so hard in difficult times to produce them, see page XX. We had excellent feedback from the recipients, so good job done.

We are very lucky to have such support from the village. It means a lot to us, and with a bit of luck, we can get some of our functions operating this year and enjoy seeing people getting together once again.

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.

Grateful Thanks

To our wonderful Joan Frost who has done so much for Purton Age Concern over many years, especially with her plant sales, and who raises hundreds of pounds every year at our Coffee Morning in Bentham. She and Brian are downsizing and moving to Cricklade, so we will be losing a valuable friend and asset. Good luck to both of you and thank you so much for your efforts over the many years of help you gave us.

We will need to replace her so will need somebody to cover her patch which is Collins Lane, Cricklade Road, Packhorse and The Pry. Also Molly Mitchard is retiring so we will need somebody to cover the Greenhill area. Our grateful thanks to Molly for serving us for many years. Please give this some thought as it is important for us to have Street Wardens in all areas.

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.

Useful Contacts

If you have a problem or need to speak to anyone on 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 letting nobody enter your home then you will need to replace your smoke alarm yourself as they won't leave

one on the doorway. If they are called to replace one, then they have to do it. Please be aware.

Pheonix – This is a free transport service on your bus pass. You need to ring 01249 890794 to book with them. Remember if we don't use it, we lose it!

Website – Visit our dedicated website – www.purtonageconcern.com – to find all the details you need about our contacts, events, news and links to other websites in the area. We also have Facebook and Twitter accounts 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

Outreach Purton Community information from Wiltshire Council

Prime Minister confirms return to Plan A restrictions

England fully returns to Plan A from Thursday 27 January. The government is no longer asking people to work from home if they can. You should speak to your employers about arrangements for returning to the office.

Venues and events will no longer be required by law to use the NHS Covid Pass. The NHS Covid Pass can still be used on a voluntary basis as was previously the case in Plan A.

Face coverings will no longer be required by law in any setting. Public health guidance will remain in place, suggesting individuals should continue

to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet. You can help to keep you and your loved ones safe by:

- Washing your hands regularly for 20 seconds with warm water and soap
- Receiving your first, second and booster COVID-19 vaccine by booking an appointment online, or finding a local walk-in vaccination clinic where you can just turn up on the day
- If meeting others indoors, ensure fresh air is circulating, even opening a window for 10 minutes every hour can make a big difference.

Change to self-isolation guidance

A reminder that people with COVID-19 in England can now end their self-isolation after five full days, as long as they test negative on day five and day six.

The decision has been made after careful consideration of modelling from the UK Health Security Agency and to support essential public services and workforces over the rest of the winter period.

It is crucial that if you're isolating with COVID-19 that you wait until you have received two negative rapid lateral flow tests on two consecutive days to reduce the chance of still being infectious.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day five of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. If you are positive on day five, then a negative test is required on day six and day seven to release from isolation.

It is essential that two negative rapid lateral flow tests are taken on consecutive days and reported before you return to your job or education, if leaving self-isolation earlier than the full 10-day period.

Discover your history with the launch of updated Wiltshire Community History website

The Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre has launched an updated, more intuitive version of its Wiltshire Community History website. With a more modern feel, the site gives users the opportunity to gain a greater understanding and connection to the place where they or their ancestors lived.

Containing information on 260 civil parishes in the Wiltshire Council area and the 'lost' village of Imber, the

website will provide information for those interested in local and family history.

Users can visit the website free of charge to find information such as maps, population figures, newspaper and printed map coverage, listed buildings, local authors and registration districts, as well as a series of FAQs for each community.

Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of Wiltshire Council, who also leads on Heritage, said: "The launch of this new website is really exciting for any budding historians with an interest in Wiltshire or for anyone just looking to research their family history and background.

There are more than 6,000 images on the site, including photographs dating from as far back as the 1850s right through to today. Nearly 10,000 pages of bibliographies, journal articles and older books on Wiltshire have also been scanned into the site, which is a huge undertaking for the team, but will be worthwhile for people accessing them."

All of the articles have been written for Wiltshire Community History using both secondary and archival sources by staff, volunteers and students. The original material is also held at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre in Chippenham.

The website is a work in progress, with additional material being added all the time. For further information or advice please contact the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre at archives@wiltshire.gov.uk

Anyone interested in carrying out their own research can visit the new website at <https://apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityhistory>

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A Psychiatrist's Recipe for Happiness

Many recent Christmas and New Year celebrations have been clouded by covid often without some people even being infected. As 2022 stretches ahead full of uncertainty, what can we expect? Even the predictions of the astrologists can just leave the reader to draw their own conclusions as to their likely health and happiness in the coming months.

In the national print and broadcast media recently there have been a few articles reflecting the advice of the famous psychiatrist Dr Anthony Clare. He came to the public's attention with such a simple set up for his 'In the Psychiatrist's Chair' programmes where he just chatted to well known people with his soft Irish accent. Yet the gently probing quality and persistence of his questioning soon had his guest uncovering layers of their doubt and unhappiness.

Although he died in 2007, Dr Clare did develop seven steps to guide people towards staying sane and achieving more sustainable levels of happiness in their own lives, even in the most testing of circumstances. Slightly differently worded versions can be found on the internet and several have been combined and collated here for Purton Magazine readers.

1. **Cultivate a passion.** Many models of happiness include having something that you really enjoy doing. It sounds obvious but it provides something solid to fallback and rely on, especially during the inevitable troughs. Dr Clare used to say that people can easily become

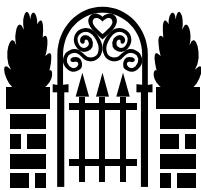
lost without a passion to sustain them.

2. **Be part of something bigger than yourself.** It helps to have a sense that you are an individual, unique and that you matter – and that comes from being connected to a bigger group. Perhaps this is why so many people find volunteering so rewarding, often in areas completely removed from their regular social groups and employment where they can develop new skills and friendships.
3. **Avoid introspection.** Sometimes this is described as 'break the mirror' and 'stop thinking about yourself.' Carl Jung, the founder of analytical psychology, noted that his least happy patients were always the most self-absorbed and the happiest were those most interested in other people and the world around them. It has also been described as look up and out, not down and in.
4. **Accept change.** Change is important and eventually inevitable, yet so many people find change difficult as it often requires moving outside a settled comfort zone. Particularly when things are going well, people are uncomfortable with any change that rocks their boat, yet that can be ultimately beneficial. Variety and flexibility are positive aspects, especially as the unexpected often comes with a little challenge.
5. **Live in the moment.** As we always live in the present, hankering for what's gone is simply pointless. On

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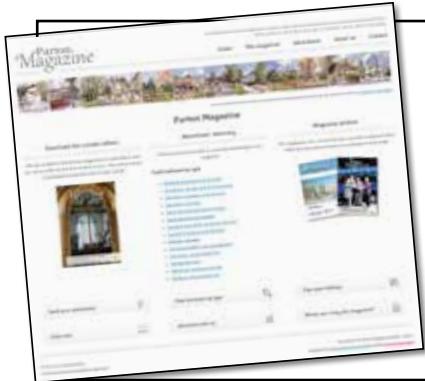
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Do you have friends or family who lived in the village but have moved away?

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- the other hand, living for the future is also a mistake, especially as no one knows how long covid will last and no one really knows what the future holds. As the here and now is all we've got, Dr Clare simply suggests that we make the most of it, one day at a time and do what makes you happy.
- 6. Audit your happiness.** This is to encourage monitoring how much of each day is spent doing things that make you happy and if more than half of your day is spent doing things that make you unhappy, then change it. Dr Clare has been reported as advising making two lists, one with things you enjoy

doing and that give satisfaction with the other plainly listing things you don't enjoy doing. If that second list is longer than the first, it is in your own hands to change.

- 7. If you want to be happy, be happy.** If feeling negative, the advice is to start thinking differently, to put on a happy face and act positive – that in itself can trigger a change in how you feel and how others around you feel.

We hope these seven steps might help readers to find more happiness and become ever more confident in these uncertain times when more of us can support each other in our community.

Our Village Gem - Hoggs Lane

I have always felt very fortunate when in 1985 Richard and I came to live in the old Primitive Chapel, standing as it does at the head of one of the prettiest lanes in the village, if not the prettiest. Meandering down the hill towards the divided byways at the bottom leading to Vastern Hill and a continuation as Hoggs Lane heading north, it is peaceful with an abundance of wildlife both plant and animal and extensive views across to the Cotswolds. As the years have passed so the lane itself has changed with brambles and ivy overtaking many of the once visible features and small trees sprouting up and then dying, due mostly to lack of soil or being overtaken by the Ivy. On speaking to my neighbours and those using the lane for many years, it would appear that 70 or so years ago there were just a few trees with mainly only a fence down either side of the lane, but over the years seedlings have taken root and provided a rather haphazard hedge filled in by ever spreading bramble. It was a shame that it had not been taken in hand and 'laid in traditional style' so there would have been substance for a proper hedgerow and future growth could have been neatly trimmed.



A section of an Ordnance Survey map from 1960 showing Hoggs Lane. The map can be found in the Purton Museum archives.

In the last few months the mass of growth had to be cut back, it was a very drastic result on the right side, combined with the removal of part of a field maple that had split. For many, the result was quite distressing, as the modern machinery had shredded many of the stems of elderberry leaving a rather jagged residue. However there is a good side, as it revealed an original stone wall which must have been laid many years ago perhaps early in the last century when the erecting of boundary stone walls was a cheap and reliable defence against stock in a field. Previously just a few stones were visible but now we have quite a lot of lovely walls, although now covered in thick, dead ivy stems and bits of bramble.

Over the last few weeks, I have pulled out some of these stems, but realise it will be quite a commitment to really improve and expose the gem lying behind. I therefore wondered whether those who walk the lane regularly would like to join me in a project to tidy up the section down as far as the stone stile as I think that is where the wall appears to run out. Someone might have an old photograph of the lane years ago when the wall was more visible and complete. I understand that there will be a 'weight limit' put on the lane which hopefully will prevent over large lorries and vans causing even more damage to the earth banks, but in the meantime please come and help even if for just half an hour!

If you would like to join me, please either just knock at the side door, phone 770862 or send me an email at wilts.trotonlanes@gmail.com – I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks, Hazel Woodbridge, Hafawey House



Exposed wall in Hoggs Lane, discovered under ivy and brambles.

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.

■ Guiding Gifts

What wonderful people we have living in this village!

Thank you to Purton Girl Guides for the lovely surprise we had receiving our parcels from you – it was a very kind gesture to remember all the people who live alone. It brought us much pleasure, especially in these times of doom and gloom when life has become so difficult. Again, many thanks.

Joyce Ball

I would like to thank the Purton Girl Guides for the lovely Christmas box of goodies given to me. A very kind thought and very much appreciated. Wishing you all a happy new year, thank you.

Marjorie Shailes

■ Confusing road sign

The road sign that lights up '30' when I am doing 22 mph is very confusing.

Am I the only one that thinks it's back to front and should show '30' if you are doing more than 30 mph? (or better still show the actual speed you are doing!)

Name supplied

■ Vasterne Close illuminations

Many thanks to all those who generously made a donation to our Christmas lights display, this year in aid of the Prospect Hospice. The sum of £116.37 was raised, thank you all again. We wish you a happy and healthy 2022

Sue & Barry Pitts

Purton Methodist Church

At the time of writing this, our Church remains closed until the situation with COVID improves. Meanwhile any organisations hiring our building are very welcome to continue using it.

It was very disappointing not to be able to have our planned concert and services

at Christmas, but we hope to have a concert of "Songs and Simnel Cake!" on Saturday 23rd of April. It's a long time away, so let's hope for better times to come.

We continue to be in touch with one another as committed Christians.

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Ten Years Ago...

The big event to record in Purton Magazine for February 2011 was the opening of the new building for St. Mary's School. The article was profusely illustrated as a foretaste for the formal "Grand Opening" in March. Let us now hope that our children can enjoy an uninterrupted term's work; it seems that they did ten years ago.

Tax avoidance might be considered by the rest of us to be a modern phenomenon of the wealthy, but Purton Museum offered an article on a cheese room door. In 1696 a tax was introduced on windows, about 10p for each one. But those in rooms used for dairying were exempt hence the proliferation of "cheese

rooms". The door pictured came from the house of Anne Hyde, the mother of two queens, Mary II and Anne. However the author was circumspect – even though the room "had sizable windows with views across the Cotswolds" – he was sure that it was the genuine article.

At its January meeting, After 8 held a quiz on events the previous year. It was reproduced in the February magazine but I am ashamed to say that, ten years on, I cannot answer any of the questions. How quickly memories fade. In return, I offer just one question: What event noted in the diary pages in 2012 cannot take place in 2022? Answer on page 36.



Ps & Qs highlighted aspects of the Highway Code that we should all pay attention to. But they overlooked a happening which was reported in an obituary. One Purtonian, out of fuel, was siphoning some petrol from another's car. He spilt some on the ground and then dropped his cigarette end in it. The result was that the donor's car was burnt to a cinder. I wonder if he replaced it with an electric one.

Purton Profferings

Wool and knitting needles

Please don't buy any knitting needles without checking with me first. I have been given a box with hundreds of pairs! Just give me a call if knitting needles... and some balls and scraps of wool... would come in handy. Call Libbie: 771018



Betty Dix turned 100 on 9th February but couldn't celebrate with her family and friends as planned. However, her neighbours asked the community for help via social media and made it a birthday to remember! See page 16. £1

Betty Dix 1921-2022

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Betty Dix who featured on the cover of our March 2021 issue celebrating her 100th birthday. Betty wasn't able to have the party she would have liked as we were in lockdown but the community came to the rescue and Betty received hundreds of cards from well wishers.

Betty's family would like to thank all the residents and children for their kind words and thoughts at this sad time. "You all made a great contribution to mum's 100th birthday celebration last year with all the cards and decorations which made it a great day, and one we will always remember. She has left us after a long and happy life, just short of reaching 101yrs on 9th Feb.

Once again thank you one and all, Val Dix & all Betty's family."

Nana Bet will be greatly missed by her grandchildren and great grandchildren, who have very fond memories of her.

Betty will be very sadly missed by all her neighbours and friends at Norbury Court, many of whom have known her for over 20yrs since she moved here.

She was such a nice, kind lady, had a great sense of humour and loved life!

Betty's smile will be with us forever. She was just lovely. She will be especially missed by Ann, Rose, Bernice and Lesley.



Purton Historical Society



Future Meetings

Held at Purton Methodist Church

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 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

Purton Cricket Club, in the first fifty years, was dominated by the upper classes who played their matches on the current ground. Most early matches were played against Lansdown Cricket Club founded in 1825. Joe will talk about some of these characters and examples of matches against Lansdown.

*Janet and Tony Neate
email: tjneate57@gmail.com*

Subscriptions For 2022

Membership subscriptions for 2022 are now due, at the same rate, £15, as last year. They can be paid in cash, or by cheque made payable to “Purton Historical Society”, and sent to Jim Mosley at 1 Jewels Ash, Purton, SN5 4DW. Alternatively, payment by bank transfer is possible; the account details are:

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

New members are very welcome; please include a note of your postal and email addresses with your payment, or, if paying by bank transfer, please email Jim Mosley at j.mosley1@btinternet.com with that information.

Jim Mosley, PHS Treasurer

Museum News

Purton Museum has copies of the Purton Magazine dating back to its inception in 1975. They are an incredible source of information and make a fascinating read. However, our collection has a few gaps. Can you help? call Lucy Lewis 772466.

Year Missing months

2005	All
2006	All
2007	All
2008	Jan & Feb
2009	All
2010	All
2011	All
2012	Jan, Mar, Apr & Dec
2013	Jan, Feb, June & Dec
2015	Apr, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov & Dec
2016	Jan to Sept

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Seven days into the new year and I'm looking out onto yet another dreary, wet day but there amid the undergrowth is a welcome sign; the tips of the first snowdrops emerging through the soil. It's considered to be one of the first flowers to bloom in the spring, generally before or coinciding with the vernal equinox at the end of March, and so somewhat early this year, but nonetheless a promise of things to come and a welcome boost to the morale.

Apart from being a harbinger of spring, what do we know of the species I wondered?

Well, originally believed to be a wildflower native to Britain, it's actually native to Europe and the Middle East and was brought to Britain by the Romans. It's a perennial and part of the Amaryllis family.

It was Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist who named the snowdrop *Galanthus Nivalis*, "milk flower of the snow", in 1753.

The snowdrop is not without its share of myths and legends. A Moldovan legend describes a fight between Lady Spring and the Winter Witch. The story goes that at a point in the battle, Lady Spring cuts her finger. The drops of blood melted the snow and a snowdrop flower



grew. The pure white flower was a sign of Lady Spring's victory over the Winter Witch.

There is a German folktale that shows a gentler side to the snowdrop. At the beginning of time, Snow searched for a colour to borrow. The elements admired flowers and their colours. When Snow asked and pleaded for one of the colours of the flowers, the flowers turned away, denying Snow a colour. They felt that

Snow was too cold and unpleasant. The snowdrop however felt sorry for Snow and offered it its colour.

Snow accepted the gift and became white from that point on. To show

its gratitude, Snow allowed snowdrops to bloom at the end of winter with its protection, and so they have existed side by side ever since. So far this year no protection from Snow for the snowdrops has been called for! Long may this continue.

There are many meanings and symbols associated with snowdrops.

In Victorian England if you saw a snowdrop it was a sign of death and bad luck. It was also considered bad luck to pick them and place them indoors. One of the reasons it was considered bad luck is because they were often found in

many cemeteries and around grave sites.

Nowadays the snowdrop is associated more with purity, innocence and sympathy and, flowering as it does at the end of winter and the beginning of spring, it also symbolises hope.

It seems that there can be as many as 350 varieties! Who would have thought?

They are best planted in early autumn, when they are only available for a short period of time as they are sold as 'in the green' or undried bulbs, and therefore do not store well. As they can very easily dry out they won't be happy being left to sit about for weeks waiting to be planted. Ideally they need to be planted immediately after buying.

They don't often multiply from seed in a garden but will multiply by offsets, new bulbs that grow attached to the mother bulb. After a couple of years the clumps of bulbs can become quite dense.

As the flowers fade and whilst the leaves are still green and vigorous the clumps can be dug up, the bulbs separated and replanted as required. A small task for later this year perhaps.

So there you have it. The much awaited snowdrop – a welcome sight to herald the start of the gardening year.

For those of you who like to appreciate snowdrops en masse, I think the following places in and around Swindon may just fit the bill. Enjoy.

Lydiard Park

Lydiard Park plants brand new snowdrops in the land opposite the walled garden every single year, so you're always guaranteed more snowdrops than you could ever imagine! You will also find snowdrops in the graveyard of St Mary's Church in Lydiard

Tregozze and dotted around the park, especially in the wooded areas.

Lacock Abbey

Although Lacock Abbey is a thirty-minute drive outside Swindon, the historic abbey grounds flourish into a carpet of snowdrops in the transition from winter to spring and make a beautiful scene. Follow the woodland paths through the snowdrops and don't forget to have a mooch around the Abbey itself!

Lucknam Park

Lucknam Park lies on the edge of the Cotswolds, just 6 miles from Chippenham. Although within the 500-acre grounds sits the stunning, 5-star hotel Lucknam Park Hotel & Spa, you don't have to be a resident to see their beautiful spread of snowdrops in areas of the park.

Badbury Hill

Although Badbury Hill is more famously known for its bluebells which flower in late spring, they also sprout a few snowdrops from year to year. Badbury Hill offers a peaceful, countryside and woodland walk with various routes (both short and long walks) marked out for you. You can find snowdrops in the main woodland area next to the car park.

Welford Park

Welford Park, near Newbury, is famous for its colossal show of snowdrops, and is definitely the best for miles around. The full snowdrop walk around the Beech Woods takes around 30-40 minutes and there are also paths along the River Lambourn.

Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)

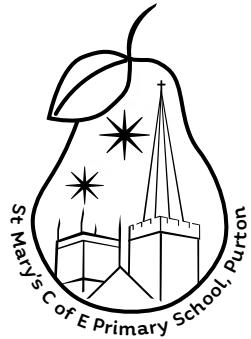
St Mary's Primary School

We are so delighted to have the children back in school. They were excited to return and have settled back well after the holiday.

Sanctuary Areas and School Values

Every classroom at St Mary's has a sanctuary area, where the children can find calm when they need it. Each term's values are shown there too, to enable time for reflection. There is also a sanctuary area outside my office.

We started our new term reminding everyone about how to live by our School Values. This term our Worship Themes are "Hope & Humility". During Collective Worship I read the story about Humble Ninja. In the story, Humble Ninja learns how important it is to follow the Four 'A's:



- Avoid Bragging,
- Ask for feedback
- Appreciate others
- Apologise when you've made a mistake

I was so pleased in our Friday Collective Worship, as the children were able to talk about how they have put the Four 'A's into practice. Have you noticed them doing any of the Four 'A's at home? I am sure they'll be able to tell you all about Humble Ninja.

You can find out more about our themes, including accessing our activity sheets here: www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk/our-school/worship-themes

The Gingerbread Man Run

On Sunday 2nd January, James (Year 6) completed the Gingerbread Man Run – 5 muddy miles across fields to try and catch the Gingerbread Man! Mrs Clarke and Mrs Fudge were there too! The medals are actual gingerbread men! The event raised over £3,000 for Brighter Futures. #shining brightly

When is Christmas?

Did you know Russia, Ukraine, Serbia, Belarus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia, Moldova and Montenegro celebrate Christmas in January? EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) do! They've enjoyed the tradition of receiving presents of fruit and enjoyed tucking into their favourites today!





The Memorial Garden

Our memorial garden for Sarah and Daniel is filling with colour – not only from the winter flowers and the green shoots starting to appear from the spring bulbs, but also from the beautiful tiles made by Jenny Harvey.

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

Wiltshire residents respond to call for old computers

Two Hundred pieces of technology have been saved from landfill following a charitable awareness drive across the county.

Donate Your Digital Day on Friday, January 7th 2022, was created by Wiltshire Digital Drive (WDD) with the aim of encouraging people to donate any tech they had replaced over the festive period such as laptops, tablets and desktops.

Drop off points across the county saw a combined number of 1,000 devices donated from Wiltshire residents which included Kingfisher PLC, the home improvement company whose retail banner B&Q is based in Southampton, contacting the non-profit organisation to pledge over 800 laptops to the cause.

These devices are now set to be refurbished and handed back out to schools, organisations and charities free of charge to support pupils and service users to access the opportunities that technology affords us.

Holbrook Primary School in Trowbridge is one of the organisations supported by WDD. Rosie Nunn, Deputy Head Teacher, said: "It is hard to express the impact Wiltshire Digital Drive has had at Holbrook Primary School. They helped us to provide devices to our most vulnerable children at the earliest possible opportunity in the first lockdown and have continued to support us in ensuring every Holbrook pupil has access to an appropriate device at home.

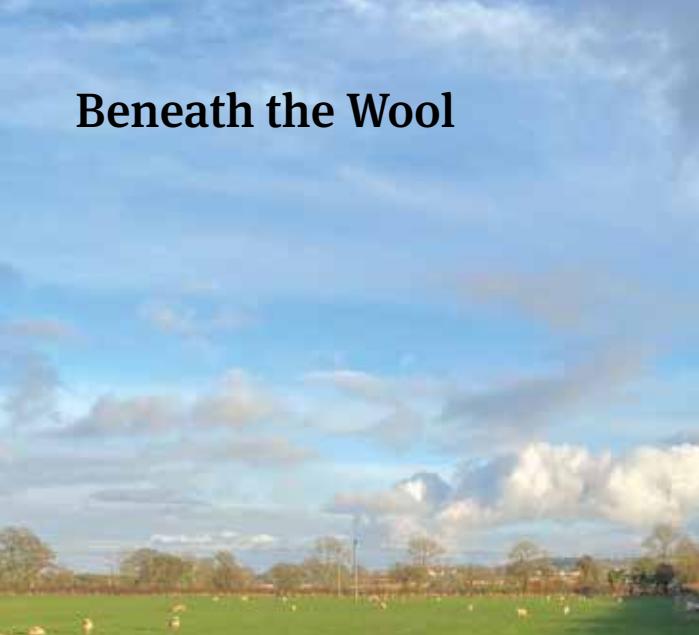
"During periods of remote learning, our teachers were able to provide high quality online learning for children feeling confident that every child could access it. As a result, we found we had very good engagement with remote learning from Holbrook families which has had huge, long-lasting benefits for children on their return to school."

Tom Wooler, Head Office and Retail Support Manager at Kingfisher, said: "At Kingfisher, we are always looking for ways that we can give back to the communities we serve. Having access to a computer opens up boundless opportunities and it is becoming more and more important for everyday life. We are thrilled to have been able to support Wiltshire Digital Drive and Naturally Social to provide laptops for those who otherwise wouldn't have access to them while extending the life of IT hardware and reducing what may have otherwise ended up in landfill."

Wiltshire Digital Drive ensures every piece of technology donated is tested and securely wiped. If a machine isn't feasible to upgrade, it will remove all reusable parts and recycle the rest, so nothing goes to waste. In 2021 WDD's campaign has meant 6.2 tons of unused technology has been saved from landfill; the equivalent of 54,956 kgs of CO₂e embodied Greenhouse gas emissions.

Anyone who would like to know more about the project can visit www.wiltshiredigitaldrive.org

Beneath the Wool



Happy New Year everyone! Rogers Farm is wading in thick mud as many of you may already know if you have been walking the footpaths of Purton. January is always one of the hardest months on the farm. Mornings are dark and nights are dark, so the sheep always feel neglected as they are checked by torch light. Not many know, but I also work as a contractor on a neighbouring farm in Purton, as this was the only way I could start up my own farm from scratch. To keep everything afloat, I contract work in order to help make ends meet, but as a result my own farm has to be sorted early doors and late at night, leaving only the weekends to catch up on all jobs that need doing. Sometimes this leaves me feeling that I'm never really getting to enjoy the rewards of all the hard work. As a farmer your drive is your animals, so January always sits heavy on a farmer especially, when you only see your animals in the dark. It leaves both the animal and farmer feeling flat, something not helped by only having six days off in 2021!

That said, Rogers Farm is looking forward to scanning of the ewes. By the time you read this, Bob Blandon will have been down and we will know how many new lambs we are expecting this year. We also have new plans for the feathered flock on the farm and we

are hoping to improve the way customers can purchase our lamb and eggs. We've also got fingers and trotters crossed in the hope that we can have a lambing open day this year, depending on the covid situation.

One of the struggles that the farm has faced again this time of year is avian flu. It's a virus brought in by migrating wild birds. Domestic poultry contract bird flu from coming into contact with infected wild birds, who share the feed and leave their droppings behind. So as a result, our chickens have been in a 'flockdown'. This year we have housed them in the shed however, the chickens are on a daily mission of the 'great coop escape'. We also have experienced an early easter egg hunt in the haystack that they have decided to burrow in.

*Michael Woodward,
Rogers Farm, Purton*

February Nature Correspondent

Savernake Forest

There are many natural features that make the Marlborough environs attractive to lovers of the great outdoors: the River Kennet, the Kennet and Avon canal, the local Downs with their ancient monuments and White Horses and - right on its doorstep - Savernake Forest.

Standing on a cretaceous chalk plateau between Marlborough and Great Bedwyn, an area of approximately 4,500 acres, it is privately owned by the Earl of Cardigan and his son Viscount Savernake and administered by trustees. Since 1939 the timber of the forest has been managed by Forestry England on a 999-year lease. The private status of Savernake, Britain's only privately-owned forest, is maintained by closing it to the public one day in the year.

During my first visits in the early 1980s I discovered "Eight Walks" in the heart of the Forest. Taking the various tracks to the right and left I was soon seeing and hearing Redstart, Wood Warbler and Tree Pipit, while Woodcock and Nightjar appeared at dusk in the summer months. Forty years on and we have all but lost most of these special breeding species, but there is still plenty to be seen and enjoyed.

February is a good month in which to hear the loud "tch Witt tch Witt" calls of the Nuthatch, the high, wispy song of the diminutive Treecreeper and the drumming of Greater and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, the latter now a national rarity. Winter visitors often include Redpolls and Siskins, Bramblings and the elusive Hawfinch.

Quiet and patient observation, preferably before people and their dogs arrive, is the best way to unlock some of the forest's secrets: there are Fallow, Roe and Muntjac Deer as well as Badger and Fox. Along some of



the rides in high summer, butterfly enthusiasts seek out Purple Hairstreaks, Silver-washed Fritillaries, White Admirals and the magnificent Purple Emperor. Amongst 50 or so plant species are four types of Helleborine, a late-flowering species of orchid, including the Broad-leaved and Violet forms, which have even been spotted along the Grand Avenue.

Savernake has a number of so-called "monumental trees", including the King of Limbs and the Big Belly Oak (pictured left). The latter, visible as you drive from Marlborough to Burbage, is the great grandfather of them all, over 1000 years old, taking root around the time William the Conqueror defeated King Harold in 1066. Apparently Henry VIII was out hunting in Savernake in 1535 when he spied young Jane Seymour for the first time! What secrets those magnificent Oaks and Beeches must know!

Robin Nelson

Purton Village Diary - February 2022

1	Tu		New Chinese year of the tiger starts
4	F		The 2022 Winter Olympics start in Beijing, China
5	Sa		RBS Six Nations Rugby Tournament starts
6	Su	8.00am	Service at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Service at St Mary's Church
7	M		Charles Dickens Day, a celebration of one of our greatest writers on his birthday
8	Tu		Safer Internet Day A day to help raise awareness of online safety issues in your home, school, workplace or community, not just on Safer Internet Day, but all year round.
11	F		The International Day of Women & Girls in Science A UN Day to encourage women and girls to fully participate in science, and strive for equality of opportunity in the sciences.
12	Sa	9.00pm	Live music at The Red House, a mix of Ska, Mod and reggae
13	Su	10.30am	Service at St Mary's Church
14	M		St Valentine's Day
15	T		Wessex Male Choir open evening at RWB Rugby Club
16	W	7.30pm	Purton Evening WI meet at the Silver Threads Hall for a talk and display of local arts and crafts
17	Th		Random Acts of Kindness Day
20	Su	8.00am	Service at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Service at St Mary's Church
21	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet for a talk on 'Life through the eyes of a Wiltshire Moonraker'
24	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk about the SS Empire Windrush
27	Su	10.30am	Service at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church
			Fairtrade Fortnight starts. Fairtrade farmers, workers and campaigners up and down the country highlight the difference fair trade can make to lives and communities.

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)

Ten Years Ago answer: 2012 was a Leap Year!

Purton Village Diary

Every month

2nd Wednesday	(except Aug) 2.30pm Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church - temporarily suspended
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

Church Floodlighting



- Jan 28 St Mary's was floodlit in remembrance of **Susan Morley** on her birthday. Remembered with love by her family and friends
- Feb 20 The church will be floodlit to celebrate what would have been **Monica Kinnett's** 75th birthday. All our love. Pete, Mandy, Paul, Jenny, Jerilyn, and family.
- Feb 23 St Mary's will be floodlight for the 65th wedding anniversary of **John and May Griffin**. (Congratulations from all at St Mary's and Purton Magazine.)

For February, 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.

Purton Tennis Club



It's the time of year when the days are gradually getting longer and there's that feeling that spring is just around the corner.

Tennis is generally regarded as a summer sport, but with floodlights and indoor facilities, it is a game that can be played all year round. In fact, at Purton, we do play all year round.

Winter matches have been played during daylight hours at weekends and social tennis continues on Tuesday evenings with the help of the floodlights as well as the fact that we have hard court surfaces that stand up to the winter weather very well.

January is the time when our members renew their annual membership, which gives members unlimited use of the courts. It also means that members can play in teams and join in club sessions. It is not too late to take advantage of a whole year's worth of membership; our membership secretary Michelle Hay will be pleased to hear from you and can answer any questions you may have (thehays16@gmail.com). Alternatively take a look at our website and download

the membership form from there.

Purton Tennis Club also offers a family membership. This is excellent value for a family with children of school age especially as under 16s can attend Nicola's training sessions on Saturday mornings at no extra cost. These sessions are planned to start again in the spring.

If you haven't played tennis since school yourself and 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).

For anyone who would just like to try tennis, then you can have a taster session and join in at one of our club nights, or hire a court for an hour.

We are a friendly club that will always welcome new members. Please take a look at our website for more details, which should answer all your questions, but if not then please contact me at the address below.

Janet Saunders (secretary)
email: janetcsaunders@gmail.com

We Record...

Funeral at St Mary's Church

22 December 2021 A Service of Thanksgiving to God for the Life of Jason Andrew Le Guilcher (35).



Purton Placard

Purton Evening WI

Our next meeting is in The Silver Threads Hall on Wednesday 16th February at 7.30 pm. Come and see the Art and Craft work of Christine Gill and Marie Dempsey. Visitors are most welcome.

Live music at The Red House

Saturday 12th February,
starting at 9pm
Blondie & Ska
A great mix of Ska, Mod
and Reggae

**Groups are invited to submit
forthcoming events in,
for, and on behalf of the
community Email:
mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk**

Purton Peartree Pealers

We are searching for new handbell ringers to come and join the Peartree Pealers in Purton.

We meet on Monday evenings to practice.

Would you like to come and give it a try?

Call Libbie: 771018

Bradon Forest School



Daniel Collict Memorial

It was a bright, crisp morning on Thursday 9 December for the tree planting ceremony in memory of our colleague Daniel. We were honoured to welcome family, friends and former colleagues and students from both Bradon Forest and St Mary's Primary schools to pay their respects to our much loved ICT Technician.

Daniel's mum, Mrs Collict, said a few words about her beloved eldest son and included many kind messages from his friends and colleagues around the world.

Dave Cox, Head of ICT in The Athelstan Trust, said that Daniel's contributions will benefit students for years to come. Mrs Wilkinson read a lovely Native American poem.

Daniel's closest Bradon Forest colleague, Fred Dundas, described Daniel as his 'left hand man' and remembered how he was always willing to help anyone, sometimes "leaving the IT office with the phone still attached to his ear!"

Everyone described Daniel as kind, generous, knowledgeable and helpful with a great sense of humour.

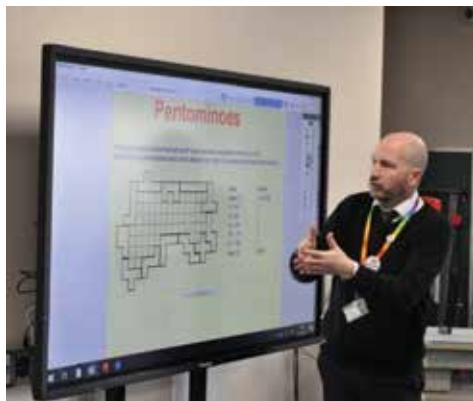
We have planted an oak tree in the Art Garden to commemorate Daniel and Mrs Collict explained why the oak tree is so important to their family. The oak is one of the most loved trees in the world, and with good reason. It's a symbol of strength, morale, bravery and knowledge. Oak is often associated with honour, nobility, and wisdom as well thanks to its size and longevity. A fitting memorial for Daniel. He will be missed.

Daniel Collict 1983 - 2021



Athelstan Trust Maths Challenge

We recently hosted an Athelstan Maths Challenge at Bradon Forest School for Year 7. Unfortunately, a shortage of minibus drivers and covid cases on the rise resulted in a competition between mixed teams of Bradon Forest School and Malmesbury School students rather than all five schools as had been hoped. With keen young mathematicians ready to rise to the challenge, famous mathematicians as team names were the order of the day and with Year 10 leaders supporting each team it made for a captivating atmosphere, complemented by the humorous compèring by Mr Widdop! “I would love to do more Maths like this!”



Each round tested the students' team-working and problem-solving skills, and the lead changed hands several times as the morning went on. The collaboration between students from each school was a real positive, each drawing on their different strengths to help their team.

Mrs Hooper helped to organise the event and said “It was brilliant to see how all the students threw themselves into solving the problems given to them. I

was particularly impressed with how they worked and how Bradon and Malmesbury students interacted and worked together. I’m looking forward to the next event.”

“I liked working with Malmesbury to figure out the maths challenges”.

Sarah McCombe who brought the students from Malmesbury School commented “I was incredibly impressed with their maturity and enthusiasm in collaborating with students from another Trust school. It was fantastic to see students utterly engrossed in some really interesting and challenging activities involving Maths in a myriad of ways.”

The next Maths challenge is for Year 9 in January, hosted by Malmesbury School, where hopefully we will see more Athelstan schools ready to compete for glory!

Collaboration 6!

Malmesbury School already has an established, well respected and high achieving sixth form. Two years ago we collaborated with them and initiated the first satellite sixth form model in the Trust. Historically, with Bradon Forest School providing a 11-16 provision, this model has empowered us to provide an education for our students into KS5. Students attend Malmesbury School for four days a week and then return to their home school for one day a week. This has been dubbed ‘the best of both worlds.’ Students can enjoy the benefits of attending a bigger, well established sixth form facility for four days and then return to their home school for one day a week – back to an environment that they are familiar with where they are well known. From the school’s point of

view we now offer a 11-18 education to prospective students and parents in our local community. Also, our staff have the fantastic opportunity of being able to deliver A Level lessons. Shifting the focus slightly from 11-16 to 11-18 means that any transition to whatever post 16 provider they choose will be smoother.

We currently have a number of students studying A Levels across Year 12 and 13. Teachers at both sites collaborate to ensure that the students who have chosen the Bradon Forest Sixth Form in conjunction with Malmesbury receive a first class offer. There are a wide variety of subjects that are currently studied by students who have chosen this cross Trust model, ranging from the Arts to Sciences.

Mr Dipple, Assistant Headteacher, is excited at the prospect of growing our sixth form in conjunction with Malmesbury. A key step in this journey was the A Level Taster Day that ran on 1 December involving 56 students who sampled a range of A Level subjects delivered by subject specialists at Malmesbury. One Bradon Forest parent commented that her daughter loved Malmesbury, it far exceeded her expectations. She found the staff really supportive, kind and encouraging. It was also positive to hear Malmesbury staff echoing these sentiments. Charlotte Morris (History A Level) said “I was literally buzzing after the history taster on Wednesday – what an awesome bunch of students!”.

It is certainly exciting times, as the collaboration across the Trust grows in relation to sixth form! If you have any questions, please get in touch with Mr Dipple.

A wide range of enrichment opportunities with the Excellence Programme

IT'S YOUR FUTURE

BRADON FOREST
6TH FORM



In conjunction with
Malmesbury Academy

In 2022, 55% of students will go to a Russell Group University

IT'S YOUR FUTURE

BRADON FOREST
6TH FORM



In conjunction with
Malmesbury Academy

Author Visits - Matt Oldfield

Matt Oldfield is the author of the Ultimate Football Heroes books, a series of biographies telling the life-stories of the biggest and best footballers in the world and their incredible journeys from childhood fan to super-star professional player. Written with his brother Tom they are a fast-paced, action-packed style of books featuring the greats of the game from Maradona to Messi, from Beckham to Kane and their incredible journeys from the playground to the pitch. To date, the Ultimate Football Heroes series has sold over 500,000 copies in the UK alone.

After Matt Oldfield's successful visit last year, he returned to school for a visit with students from Years 7, 8 and 9 who took part in a workshop on resilience, growth mindset and bouncing back after a setback. The students were



fully engaged and contributing to the sessions and came away with an enthusiasm and understanding for creating their own bounce back story from their own experiences. Matt sold signed books to students during break time; have a look for signed copies in the library when you next borrow one.

Here's what one student wrote about the

workshop: "When Matt came to express his passion for writing and football, I was moderately excited. It didn't seem appealing or intriguing as books about football and lives of people I've never heard off doesn't excite me. His books were football non-fiction and sometimes a lot of facts can be monotonous, but throughout the workshop it was very interesting to learn how challenging some careers are and how resilient and determined the footballers are. Matt then told us the process of writing books and taught us how to structure stories. He concentrated more on what we have as a passion or interest, like golf or dancing, and we wrote about that. He gave loads of support and advice and that helped a lot. Thank you, Matt Oldfield and Bradon Forest for this fantastic opportunity." Emily Marvell 8P1



Author Visits - Francesca Tyer

Elesha Warren, Year 11, reports: "On Thursday 9 December students got the opportunity to meet the published author, Francesca Tyer. Miss Tyer came in to meet us to talk about her experience as an author. Students were selected from each year group to participate in the creative writing

workshop which included ways in which to improve both descriptive and narrative writing.

We were taught how to use senses to let the reader know what's happening in the story without explicitly telling them. We took part in an activity in which we had to look at a picture and write down how the five senses would react if they were standing in that scene. This activity helped us understand the concept of 'show' and not 'tell', where authors deliberately don't tell the reader what is happening, but instead infer it through language and structure devices. As well as this, Francesca taught us the fundamental structure of a story, this includes the 'hook' of the story, also known as where the story starts, all the way through to the 'resolution' where everything is resolved. In the workshop the students got the opportunity to plan and write the opening to a story. The author helped us by teaching the importance of the opening line and how to set the scene for the plot. In small groups multiple stories were started and examples were read out to the entire group with Francesca giving positive feedback on all.

Overall, the experience really got us thinking and was a great opportunity for those who participated. Francesca Tyer's wonderful books are titled 'The Firestone' and 'The Seastone' and are part of a new series by the upcoming author called 'The Elemental Prophecy'. If you are a fan of 'Harry Potter', 'The Lord of the Rings' or 'His Dark Materials' I would highly recommend you give the talented authors books a read as they incorporate reality and fiction in a beautifully intertwining way. Francesca

Tyer's books are available on Amazon, Waterstones, WHSmith, The Bookseller and more. You can also purchase a signed copy from her website, francescatyer.com or authorsreach.co.uk.

Harvest Gifts Donated To Swindon Food Bank



All the Harvest donations for the Swindon Food Bank were collected by their lovely driver, Neil. Congratulations to Ringsbury house for amassing the most gifts.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance

This term Mrs Davies, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Loxton and her tutor group (9R2?) have been working hard to "brick up" all the crisp packets collected to deliver them for recycling to raise much needed funds for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Pictured are some of the members of Mrs Loxton's tutor group along with the final bags of crisps (we had already dropped off another two giant bags earlier in the term!). Thank you to all the Bradon Forest staff and students who saved their crisp packets over the last two years for us.

**PENS, MARKERS, HIGHLIGHTERS
FELT TIPS & CORRECTION FLUID**

ACCEPTABLE WASTE



Raising Funds For





We would also like to inform you that we are now collecting any stationery that has run out e.g. any brand of pen, felt tip, highlighter, marker, correction fluid pot, correction tape, mechanical pencil, and eraser pen, and, again, this is to raise funds for Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Humanities Trip to Stonehenge



The Humanities Department had a successful Year 7 trip to Stonehenge to learn about the historical, geographical and spiritual aspects of this amazing landmark.

U16 Girls' Football

Mrs Evans' reports: "Our U16 Girls' Football team gave an excellent performance in the English Schools' Cup, beating Melksham Oak 4-3. Player of the match was Lani Hunt. This means

we are through to the last 32 in the country! Good luck to everyone in the team for the next round when they will be playing St Peter's from Gloucester."

Swindon School Champs For Rugby Boys



Mr Hartley reports: "Congratulations to the Year 9 Boys' Rugby team who are now the U14 Swindon School champions, winning all of their matches – 7 out of 7!"

Bench Ball

Well done to our Year 8 Benchball team who won the tournament held at Nova Hreed on Tuesday 7 December. They won every game and then the final. Fabulous achievement.

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



The other side of the gate

The build up to Christmas is always a busy time for us. As well as the normal everyday work to do we have the added workload of organising the Christmas orders for pork and beef.

This year we sent off five pigs and two beef animals. The small abattoir we use at Stroud is at capacity and couldn't get us booked in for October. They went in early November instead. Those animals amount to a lot of meat coming back at the same time. Finding freezer space can be difficult!

The pigs alone accounted for over 500kg (yes they were very big - the abattoir told me off as they were too big) and the two beef animals about 600kgs.

It's been a very damp and mild winter so far. The higher temperatures are good for keeping the grass growing but I'm looking forward to some sub zero temperatures to harden the mud up!

We will be soon cleaning the cow housing out for the second time this winter.

This strawy muck will go to the fields at Restrop ready to be spread in the Autumn. It's a long climb to the top of the village so I'll be getting a contractor in to move it for me. Depending how soon spring comes, I'm hopeful it's the last time this winter we have to empty them.

I will be starting to measure the grass

growth on a weekly basis this week (first week of January). I'll be able to map the amount in each field and it will give me a good idea where the cows will go to graze first and how long they can stay in each field. I use a tool called a rising plate meter. Next month I'll explain more about the process.

In between Christmas and New Year we sadly had to put Zulu – our old lab

– to sleep. She was 10 and had developed a mammary tumour that was very aggressive. She was a great dog that accompanied me on many shoots in her younger days. Before she got too bad, I took her for a few hours on a shoot nearby. To see her light up when she knew where she was going was very pleasing. She wagged her tail continuously and thoroughly enjoyed retrieving a couple of birds.

She would always 'welcome' anyone on to the farm especially if they brought treats! On her last day, Len Page, a regular visitor, turned up in his old Austin 7. She always came to see Len as

he always had biscuits to give her. She heard his car and stumbled her way across the drive to see him. I'm glad she was still able to do that. I have very fond memories of her. I miss her not being next to me at the dinner table. She was awesome at catching scraps!

Jonathan Cook, Quarry Farm



A book I will always remember

What made this story thought provoking for me was how long it took (and is still taking) for equality.

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

The Underground Railroad

by Colson Whitehead

I have a habit of reading books at appropriate times and find it can really immerse you in a particular place or event. I read Captain Corelli's Mandolin by Louis de Bernières whilst holidaying in Kefalonia; I read Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks during the centenary of the end of the First World War and I read Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein during the 75th anniversary celebrations of VE Day.

I think we all remember the demonstrations in Bristol which resulted in the statue of slave trader Edward Colston being toppled into Bristol Harbour in June 2020 during the Black Lives Matter protests, the purportors of which have recently been acquitted of all charges. Sadly, racism directed towards England football players during the Euro 2020 tournament made the headlines in 2021.

During this time, I watched director Steve McQueen's documentary

'Uprising', detailing the events surrounding the New Cross fire in London in 1981, killing 13 young black people, the subsequent Black People's Day of Action (local people felt that the fire wasn't investigated fully by Police) and the Brixton Riots. Ironically many of those involved in these events were members of the Windrush Generation – commonwealth citizens, many from the Caribbean, encouraged to come to the UK to help with a labour shortage following WWII. Which of course has had its own share of controversy. (For further information see the Purton Historical Society February meeting.)

These hardworking people arrived in the UK in the hope of a better life; finding good jobs, improving their education and with aspirations of a positive future. However, racism and xenophobia were commonplace, with the right wing National Front having a strong following – memories were obviously short having experienced the horrors of WWII only

forty years previously. There were accusations of institutional racism in many areas of public life – including the Police, which only added fuel to the fire. The recent Windrush Scandal, the Black Lives Matter movement and the turbulent history of our connections with people of colour made me look back through our past to question where it all stems from. Why do so many dislike, mistrust and feel a superiority over people who are different?

Some have joined the ‘woke’ generation, a widely used term to mean being mindful of cultural and political history, especially racial and social justice. Woke culture has also been labelled a weapon of the extreme left. It can be a very fine line to tread if you want to avoid any kind of cultural appropriation.

Leaving the controversies aside, I decided to start with slavery, the subject of the recent Purton Historical Society meeting. Slaves were traded widely during the 1800s, with men, woman and children taken from their homes against their will, predominantly in Africa and the Caribbean, put on crowded ships in chains, and sold as property to wealthy white land owners to work on farms growing everything from sugar and cotton, to tobacco.

I first read about ‘The Underground Railroad’ – a network of safe routes from the southern states of America to the north, in a book about Harriet Tubman. The Railroad wasn’t an actual railway

but had conductors giving directions, stops where people could hide and safe houses run by station masters.

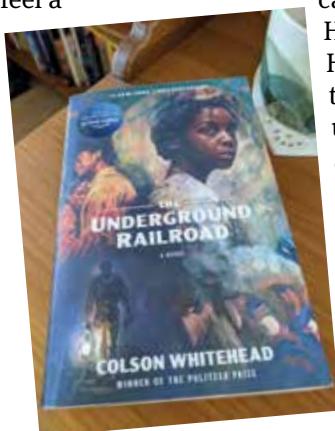
Harriet lived as a slave in Maryland, and in 1849 decided that despite the considerable risks, her freedom was worth it. She used the Underground Railroad network, operated by both freed slaves and white abolitionists, to travel at night and out of sight of slave catchers, to reach Canada.

Having reached freedom, Harriet made many return trips to help free others, undeterred by the Fugitive Slave Act of 1860, which meant there were harsh punishments for both the slaves and those who’d helped them. Slavery in the USA was finally abolished in 1863.

Although the Pulitzer prize-winning novel

The Underground Railroad is a fictional story, it’s based on historical facts and depicts the miserable existence of slaves living on a cotton plantation in Georgia. The main character Cora, a teenager approaching womanhood, knows her life is worth more than her current circumstances and hears about the railroad from fellow slave Caesar, who’s recently arrived from Virginia.

Together they plot their escape, mindful of the dangers but determined to reach freedom. Both Caesar and Cora are already under the scrutiny of the ‘overseers’, the men employed by the landowner to maintain discipline amongst the slaves, as they can both read and write.



In this story the Underground Railroad is an actual railway built underground, with the stops and station masters living in homes built above and access created via basements.

Once they leave the farm a slave catcher named Ridgeway is employed to track them down. Mr Ridgeway has a particular interest in Cora, as her mother, who'd escaped years before and who Cora feels abandoned her, had eluded him.

Cora and Caesar (with changed names) make it to South Carolina, which is trialling a programme where the government owns former slaves and employs them, providing medical care and housing. Thinking they've found a safe place to stay and live they make the town their home and their levels of literacy enable them to find good jobs. However, their situation proves too good to be true, the façade hides a government plot to perform secret medical experiments on black men and brainwash black women into being sterilised.

With this knowledge the pair decide to flee and become separated whilst trying to avoid capture from Mr Ridgeway who manages to locate them in the town. Cora's life becomes drawn into a series of anxious moves between station hiding places, which put both herself and those hiding her in grave danger of capture and punishment.

A series of fortuitous events (in relative terms), despite being captured by Ridgeway, mean Cora is able to find a farm in Indiana owned by a freed former slave and finds contentment there. She's continually haunted by her experiences and brutal treatment and finds it hard

to allow herself any kind of happiness. The farm is eventually raided and Cora is helped to escape. Her final destination is unknown as the book reaches conclusion but having read Cora's hard fought journey to find freedom, you're left with a feeling that she deserves a happily ever after.

After finishing the book I watched the Amazon series which visualised the horrendous cruel treatment that slaves were made to endure; the physical and mental punishment for trivial misdemeanours was unthinkable. Slaves were not allowed to marry and have children, the strongest men and most skilled women were forced together to 'breed' the next generation of workers, often under the watchful eye of their overseers. Truly degrading and humiliating.

What made this story thought provoking for me was how long it took (and is still taking) for equality. In the 1950s and 60s there was still racial segregation in the United States – we all know about Rosa Parks' brave stance in refusing to move seats on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama to allow a white man to sit down. The freedom granted to former slaves was short-lived and in subsequent years, under the Jim Crow Laws, African Americans were increasingly deprived of civil rights.

Despite years of campaigning by prominent civil right activists, such as Dr Martin Luther King and some progress being made, the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement proves that in 2022, 162 years after the abolition of slavery, many people of colour still feel the way Cora did.

Heather Ponting-Bather

New look magazine feedback

The magazine production team is delighted that our new style layout launched last month has attracted so much interest and we really are grateful to everyone who has written in (see right) as well as to all the others who have commented to committee members in person. As with all visual creativity, the end result is always judged by the eye of the individual with many different opinions arising – and that's just how it should be.

The purpose of this piece is simply to explain some of the creative thinking behind the changes for interested readers. The overriding objective is to increase the readability by making each page and each spread more comfortable visually. The national magazines rather more than the national newspapers help to provide some good examples of a grid layout system in operation. Indeed, there is an online masterclass on the subject for anyone sufficiently interested – please get in touch.

There is an added practical advantage of this grid system because it provides much greater flexibility with the layout for the designer. The two column treatment allows for more white space on the page helping the overall presentation and improving readability. It allows each article or item to be presented discretely more often, rather than having a few lines carried over to the next page as was the case with the old single column arrangement. The two column grid also enables more flexibility with photographs and illustrations that can be included within the text. In time – and especially with longer articles – the new grid system will allow for pull quotes to be added as they entice the reader into the story and add graphic interest at the same time. Colour magazines and supplements are good at that.

"I would like to congratulate Heather Ponting-Bather for the fresh new look that she has brought to Purton Magazine. Yes, it was time for a change, and that change is very fine. I send my continued good wishes to Purton and its Magazine."

Rick Dixon, Purton Magazine designer
2004-2017

Purton Magazine

"Congratulations on the 'new look' for the magazine. I really appreciated your entry explaining all the changes that have been made and I have to say that as a 'spectacle' wearer I've found the new font so clear to read and the general layout superb. Well done 10/10."

Margaret Goodall,
Purton & District
Gardeners' Guild

“Firstly can I say that our Purton Magazine is one of the best that I have ever come across, and I have always enjoyed reading it, finding it easy and flowing to read until now!

For more than 50 years I have read broadsheet newspapers which because of their width necessitates the use of columns, but I found the dividing of an A5 sheet into two made reading less enjoyable and breaks the flow of the article.

The letters page and small adverts are well suited to the style, but in my opinion not the rest. I know there are others who think the same, but who perhaps would be less willing to make their thoughts known.

The use of fonts can make or break an article and that I leave in your very capable hands, but please, please don’t change what is so enjoyable for the sake of a ‘new look’ layout.”

Hazel Woodbridge BEM

A change in look and feel also generates interest and by continuing to have eye-catching covers, it is hoped that even more local residents will pick up a copy at one of our local retail outlets and perhaps also become subscribers. They will find a varied and interesting mix of contributions that broadens our readership and spreads village news further amongst our local population and growing numbers of online readers.

We know that change can often be uncomfortable (see page 19) and we fully appreciate that the new style layout will not appeal to everyone. That said, we are extremely grateful that so many readers have noticed sufficiently to get in touch and we would love to hear from you, our readers, on this and any other topic connected with your magazine. Only through an ongoing dialogue will we be able to improve and deliver an even better publication for you, our readers.

“I like the new layout for the magazine, it’s certainly different from the previous one.”

Peter Berry, Age Concern Chairman

“I do like the new format for the magazine – looks good.”

Heather, Purton Methodist Church

“I like the new look magazine!”

Kate Robinson, Purton Farm Shop

“The January Purton Magazine is very attractive. Loved the cover and the new typeset. I also had no idea there was a whole science/art form of typography with its own demie-gods.”

Tony Williams, contributor from York

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Chris or Justyn on 01793 814888**

Notice to Employees

These following regulations were from a Burnley Cotton Mill office in 1852

1. Godliness, cleanliness and punctuality are the necessities of a good business.
2. This firm has reduced the hours of work and the clerical staff will now only have to be present between the hours of 7.00am and 6.00pm on weekdays.
3. Daily prayers will be held each morning in the main office. The clerical staff will be present.
4. Clothing must be of a sober nature. The clerical staff will not disport themselves in raiment of bright colours, nor will they wear hose unless in good repair.
5. Overshoes and top coats may not be worn in the office but neck scarves and headwear may be worn in inclement weather.
6. A stove is provided for the benefit of the clerical staff. Coal and wood must be kept in the locker. It is recommended that each member of the clerical staff bring 4 pounds of coal each day during the cold weather.
7. No member of the clerical staff may leave the room without permission from Mr. Rodgers. The calls of nature are permitted and clerical staff may use the garden below the second gate. This area must be kept in good order.
8. No talking is allowed during business hours.
9. The craving of tobacco, wines or spirits is a human weakness and, as such, is forbidden to all members of the clerical staff.
10. Now that the hours of business have been drastically reduced, the partaking of food is allowed between 11.30am and noon, but work will not, on any account cease.
11. Members of the clerical staff will provide their own pens. A new sharpener is available on application to Mr. Rodgers.
12. Mr. Rodgers will nominate a senior clerk to be responsible for the cleanliness of the main office, and the private office, and all boys and juniors will report to him 30 minutes before prayers and will remain after closing hours for similar work. Brushes, brooms, scrubbers and soap are provided by the owners.
13. The new increased weekly wages are as hereinunder detailed
 - a. Junior boys (up to 11 years) 1s.4d
 - b. Boys (to 14 years) 2s.1d
 - c. Juniors 4s.8d

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- d. Junior clerks 8s.7d
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The owners recognise the generosity of the new Labour Laws, but will expect a great rise in output of work to compensate for these new Utopian conditions.

Ed: This notice was discovered by Duttons of Blackburn and contributed to Purton Magazine by Joe Gardner.

21 shillings (1 guinea) in 1850 would be worth about £140 in today's money – and that for a week's work by a Senior Clerk. How good were the old days?

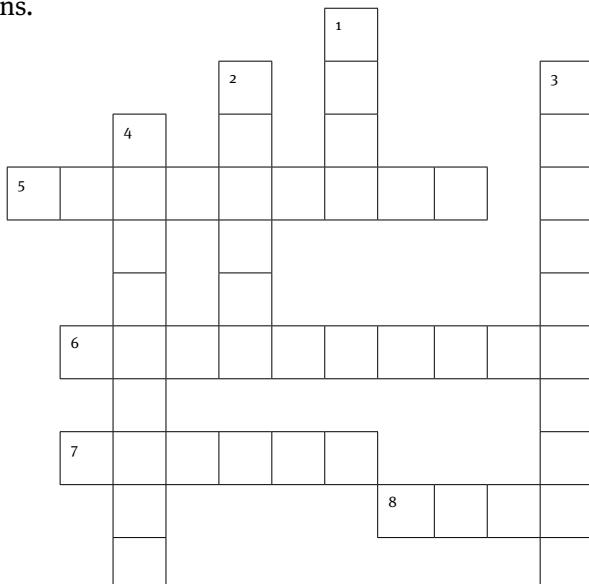
Mini crossword

Here is the next in our little series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun during these dark days. Again there are no prizes but the answers to January's puzzle are 1) Celebrate 2) Winter 3) Year 4) Freezing 5) Happy 6) New This month there are eight clues and readers will benefit from their village knowledge to spot the connections.

1. (down) Optimistic virtue (4)
2. (down) Stone craftsmen (6)
3. (down) and 8 across
Tolerant attitude (4,3,3 - 4)
4. (down) Dog bred for hunting and racing (9)
5. (across) Woodsmen (9)
6. (across) Phantom locomotive (5,5)
7. (across) Female monarchs (6)
8. (across) see 3 down

This is the next crossword created by Neil Miles, this time with a very local flavour. Answers will be in the March issue and if any reader would like to create their own mini crossword we would be delighted to include it in a future issue of your magazine. As before we have taken many of the words from recent Purton Magazines and especially from the advertisements but, of course, dictionaries provide many more options. We aim for the clues to have a spread of difficulty to attract readers initially with the easier clues.

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



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The Cricklade Band ... Here We Go Again!

We chose our slogan for the 2021 festive season because it felt like a pandemic re-run of 2020 – not just that but it was also a way of saying ‘we can do this, and we can keep doing it’.

We can only keep doing it though with the help of so many people – as always, huge thanks are due to everyone in the band for their efforts in attending as many of the events as they could from early December. It was all done once again with all the precautions of Covid-19 avoidance in place, it all seems second nature now!

As a community band we also thank the wider community for the part you played. You all supported us by coming out to see us, tagging along with us, applauding and cheering, filming and photographing us – it’s so rewarding for all of us musicians as we make our way through our carol books! Most importantly, you dropped donations into our buckets, sent us cheques and contributed by Crowdfunder, often anonymously. All this means that we have achieved our target of being able to afford the major forward expenses of 2022 with just a bit spare too. For a non-profit making organisation, where no-one gets paid and everyone volunteers their time and skills, it’s a weight off our minds to cover the overheads that remain, regardless of how active the band is allowed to be.

Other people that we’d like to thank for their help and support are Eric and Chris, Cricklade’s town criers, who were out and about with us. The arrival of bacon rolls on Christmas Morning is

always so welcome, especially when the ‘Wobble Doctor’ provides them with bacon supplied by Harold James – thank you! We’d also like to thank the editors of Cricklade Chronicle, Purton Magazine and Ashton Keynes and Leigh Newsletter for allowing us to publicise all that we do in a printed or electronic form. Social media is also incredibly important to us and we thank The Only Way Is Cricklade and Spotted In Purton By Purton for sharing our posts – you might like to know that a Facebook video of us playing ‘Hark The Herald Angels Sing’ on Cricklade’s town bridge has been viewed about 1400 times.

There have been many touching words of support and thanks posted on Facebook too, in response to the almost daily social media updates put up before and after each event. There’s a strong sense that you all like the way we’ve evolved to continue with our traditions.

Talking of which – Christmas Show! This was a Town Hall sell-out until Omicron spiked and caused us to rethink – and take the show alfresco! More thanks are due here to Cricklade Town Council and the Town Hall Management Committee for their hugely appreciated cooperation and help. We had an outside audience of about 150 people, fed and watered (ok, mulled wine and mince pie) by our band crew members while we played a non-stop set of favourite Christmas tunes – and then you all checked whether you’d won a raffle prize contributed by local shops and businesses, thank you – and thanks to them!

In a special bit of news, GWP Group, the packaging experts based in Cricklade, have always sponsored the band's performance at the Christmas Lights event – in a new initiative, GWP have now forged a year-round link with the band by becoming corporate supporters – welcome and thank you GWP.

As a final note, whole families were coming out into the streets as the band

made its way round – if you or your children found our music inspirational and you'd like to have a go, or pick up where you left off, then just check out our Facebook page, drop us an email – and just come and have a go!

For now, we're all so grateful to everyone who played their own part, helping us to '... here we go again!' – thank you!

Paul, and everyone in the band

Outdoor-loving volunteers sought to help local young people

The Youth Adventure Trust is a youth development charity providing a programme of outdoor and adventurous activities for vulnerable young people from Wiltshire and Swindon. As a volunteer you will be supporting young people aged 11 to 16 years old, helping them face challenges and build resilience, experience success, learn to go beyond their expectations and grow in confidence. The programme is built around three residential adventure camps and a series of day activities based locally in Wiltshire.

As a Programme Volunteer you will work with groups of young people alongside other volunteers, trained members of staff and activity instructors. You will have the opportunity to take part in the activities with the young people, ensuring that they get the most out of their time on our programme.

You will ensure the welfare and organisation of the young people, help them to get involved and overcome

issues, encourage and support their social relationships and help guide your team to work together.

Volunteer training takes place in February and June and we encourage all new volunteers to attend wherever possible.

Programme Volunteers need to be resilient, enthusiastic, hardworking and willing to get involved in a wide range of activities. You should be a responsible individual and positive role model.

You will need to represent the charity with professionalism and without prejudice.

Previous experience of working with young people or of outdoor activities would be beneficial, but is not essential.

No formal qualifications are required.

You must be aged 21 years or older.

You will need to undertake an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check.

You will be required to provide two references.

The Youth Adventure Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all volunteers to share this commitment.

If you are interested in this volunteering opportunity, please visit www.youthadventuretrust.org.uk/volunteer/ programme-volunteers or contact Jon Rich, Senior Volunteer Manager at jon@youthadventuretrust.org.uk or on 07469 886 523

The Wessex Open Evening

15 Feb at Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club

Each year we hold an open evening or two, so men can come along and see what's involved in singing with a choir like The Wessex. Having heard of our reputation for quality, they are often surprised to find that we don't take ourselves too seriously and spend quite a bit of time laughing at each other. That's not to say that we don't take our singing seriously though. We have worked hard over the last 20 years to gain an excellent reputation, and we aren't aiming to lose it anytime soon. The key to our success is that our guys love music – all music. You don't have to look far to discover the huge range listened to and performed by the guys. It includes Rhythm and Blues, , Prog Rock, Metal, Reggae and so on. Some have played in bands, others sing in smaller groups whilst others give music recitals – The Wessex is a collection of men whose hobby is music – not always restricted to just singing, but if you just want to sing, that's fine too. So you can get a sense of how we operate, we recently held an open evening which attracted around 12

prospective members – most of whom are still with us. Having heard of our reputation for quality singing they were really surprised on the night to find themselves singing the "Accountancy Shanty" by Monty Python and listening to a scandalously funny dismantling of each section. We are definitely not your traditional male choir!

Our members range in age from early 20s to, well, a wee bit older, and come from a variety of backgrounds and professions – accountants, military personnel, a paramedic, a prison warder, salesmen, project managers, IT people, a builder and so on. An interesting bunch! So you are very welcome to come along and just sit in on a rehearsal or two to get a feel for the atmosphere, what we sing, and of course the banter. There's no obligation. Also, don't worry if you can't read music or are unsure about your singing ability; many of our current members had similar doubts until they simply gave it a go and found a way to release their 'inner Buble/Jones/Sinatra'.

So if you want to sing in a high quality choir and have a laugh too, come along and dip your toe in the water. Give Nick a call on 01367 253256 or 07956 270 354.

The season to be jolly at local care home



Barchester's White Lodge care home, in Braydon, got in the Christmas spirit by hosting a broad range of events over the festive period. Residents enjoyed a carol concert from Lockdown brass, a visit from the Reaper Rats, the annual Santa walk, our own Father Christmas delivering gifts to residents and even a snowball fight!

Residents were delighted the Reaper Rats bike group visited again this year with gift bags for all the residents. The kindness of the group is so appreciated. They work tirelessly raising funds to support Dementia UK and support care homes in the area by surprising residents with visits and gifts.

White Lodge is set in 10 acres of grounds and every year residents and staff dress up as Father Christmas and take stroll around the grounds. Carl Norris from the Maintenance Team has been a real sport transforming first into Father Christmas to deliver gifts for all the residents and then into a reindeer for a fun snowball fight!



General Manager, Ramona Gherendi said: "Christmas really is the most wonderful time of the year and this year we wanted to spoil our fantastic residents even more than normal so we've pulled out all the stops. It is

so lovely to see them all getting into the Christmas spirit, it's definitely my favourite time of year."

Jeanie Smith, resident at White Lodge said: "It has been wonderful to see everyone go to so much effort to get in spirit. I really enjoyed the Reaper Rats visit and we have had so much fun with so many different activities. Christmas day was also very special,

the food was delicious and it was such a great atmosphere."

Photo with the screen shows Jeanie quoted in the article and Nigel from Reaper Rats.

Our varied life enrichment programme keeps residents active and provides a daily choice of engaging physical, mental and spiritual activities tailored to residents' interests and abilities.

White Lodge Donate Christmas Hampers To Local Charity

Staff and residents at White Lodge care home have been selling Christmas decorations made by the residents to raise funds to make Christmas hampers to donate to a local charity. In addition there was a donation box in the home's foyer to drop off Christmas foods.

Residents have spent the past month making a range of items including Christmas wreaths, tree decorations and homemade candles in vintage tea cups and saucers, all which have been very popular. The residents have really enjoyed the projects and have joked about their production line!

Ramona Gherendi, General Manager at White Lodge care home said "Residents, their relatives and staff have all been so supportive by purchasing or donating items. It meant that we could donate a number of hampers to Purton Age Concern."

The hampers were carefully put together by residents and Tina Hughes, Senior Activity Coordinator and presented by Tina and Ramona to Peter Berry, Chairman of Purton and District Age Concern; see page 14. Peter and his team distributed these to older people in the local community in time for Christmas.

We're making our homes as safe as possible and will ensure that all new residents and staff are vaccinated before



moving in or working in our homes.
Please do give us a call on 01666 860381
if you are looking for care or need any
further help.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in:
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Swindon Croquet Club

The December inaugural Tinsel and Sausage Sizzle Tournament at Swindon Croquet Club was a roaring success. Members, resplendent in festive hats and outfits, enjoyed several games of Golf Croquet and were treated to (non-alcoholic) mulled wine, chocolates, mince pies and hot dogs.

Colin Bailey, David Acheson, Sandra Jerram and Martin Briggs progressed to the final with the pairing of Colin and David securing victory. As always, Chairman Clive Smith organised the event with a high level of efficiency and his wife Sharon did a superb job, preparing and serving all the



refreshments. Everyone expressed gratitude regarding their efforts.

The Club is always keen to recruit new members, limited play continues through the winter months so, if you are interested in giving the game a try, please email swindon.croquet@outlook.com as free trial sessions are available.

Royal Wootton Bassett & District Rotary Club

For the second year running, the Club President Elect for Royal Wootton Bassett & District Rotary Club, Linda Locke, put out an appeal to the residents of Royal Wootton Bassett and surrounding villages for new and nearly new toys after the success of an appeal made last year, to give to the Swindon Refuge.

With Christmas approaching folks were asked whether their children could sort through their toy boxes and pick out any they no longer wanted to make room for any gifts Santa might leave them on Christmas Day.

Linda is pictured here on two separate occasions in December, as the collection was again so successful that she managed to fill two van loads with the donations she received.

Thanks to all who supported us in this venture. No child at the refuge should be without a present or two at Christmas.

Royal Wootton Bassett & District Club Rotarian Allison Bucknell has been helping Lyneham resident John collect coats and warm winter clothing for the refugees who were airlifted by the Royal Air Force earlier this year.

Thanks to the generosity of the people in Royal Wootton Bassett and surrounding areas, a car load of coats was handed over on the 4th December and will be making their way to the refugees. Adult sized Winter coats are still needed to keep our locally accommodated Afghan refugees warm this Winter.

If you can help, please contact Cllr Allison Bucknell either by private message on Facebook or: [allison.](#)

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bucknell@wiltshire.gov.uk Collection can be arranged, or drop off at: 154 High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7AB. Club member Keith Griffin also put out an appeal for shoes which would be donated to Shoe Aid. 1,251 pairs of shoes were donated to the Club and

they were delivered to the Shoe Aid Depot in Nottingham. What an amazing result and these collections will make a huge difference to so many unfortunate people. A huge thank you to all who donated to these collections.

Linda Locke, President Elect

Prospect Hospice

Prestigious charity ball returns to Swindon in 2022

Prospect Hospice's popular Full Length and Fabulous charity ball, hosted by singer and entertainer Jonathan Wilkes, is making a welcome return in 2022.

After having to cancel its fundraising ball in 2020 to celebrate its 40th anniversary because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the charity has announced it will be going ahead on Saturday 14 May 2022 at the STEAM Museum, Swindon, at 7 p.m. and tickets are now on sale.

Sheryl Crouch, head of income at Prospect Hospice, said: "We're really looking forward to holding our charity ball in 2022 after a break of two years and we'd love our supporters to join us. It will be a James Bond themed ball with first-class entertainment, fine dining and a chance to win fabulous prizes in our auction and raffles, including a piece of diamond jewellery donated by Deacons jewellers in Old Town, Swindon."

Sheryl added: "We've had businesses and their employees, families and friends of patients cared for by the hospice attending our balls in the past, so if you're looking for a fantastic night out with colleagues, family or friends you really don't want to miss our Full Length and Fabulous Ball. You'll also

help make a real difference to the lives of local people needing our care."

Tickets for the ball are £80 per head or £800 for a table of ten. To book your place email SherylCrouch@prospect-hospice.net or call 01793 816159.

Virtual nurse recruitment open days

If you are an experienced nurse or newly qualified nurse and would like to work in end of life care, Prospect Hospice, Wroughton, is holding virtual open days.

The hospice, which is rated Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission, is recruiting for community nurses and inpatient nurses. The virtual open days will provide an opportunity to hear about the services at the hospice, hear from nursing and medical staff who work at the hospice and learn about the training and career progression opportunities available.

The virtual open days are on 4 and 5 February 2022. For more information visit www.prospect-hospice.net

If you're starting the year looking for a rewarding experience, one local charity has a range of opportunities for those looking for something new in 2022.

Prospect Hospice is looking for enthusiastic and friendly people to join their team of volunteers to donate their



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

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time to its charity shops in the Swindon, Marlborough and Pewsey areas.

The charity has a variety of roles available that will really make a difference to the running of these shops, helping to raise vital funds to enable it to support local people at the end of their lives, free of charge.

Volunteering in the shops also provides an excellent opportunity to meet new people and learn new skills.

Su Starkey, head of volunteering, learning and inclusion at Prospect Hospice, said the charity supports its volunteers with induction, training and regular contact with its volunteering team.

The charity has held the prestigious Investing in Volunteers award since 2016, which indicates it sets high standards for volunteer management and means that volunteers can be confident they will get a positive experience with the hospice.

Su said: "Our volunteers are vital to the work of Prospect Hospice; we couldn't do what we do without them. Because of our volunteers giving their time, our shops are able to open and raise vital income for the hospice to provide care for people in their community at the end of their lives.

"We have a wide range of people volunteering in our shops and they come to us for all sorts of reasons. Some want to learn new skills while others like the social side of volunteering. For some, it provides the opportunity to improve their English as a second language or provides a stepping stone on the way back into work after some time off.

"Whatever the reason, our volunteers also bring a benefit to the hospice,

over and above the work they carry out for us. Our volunteers are our greatest ambassadors, enabling us to engage directly with our local community, telling them about our work and the part they're playing in providing end of life care for those in their community."

Student Angus Sharp, of Old Town, Swindon, recently started volunteering at the charity's books and media shop in Commercial Road as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

He said: "I enjoy sorting, pricing and restocking the shelves. We get some wonderful books and records donated and I love putting them on the shelves, being picked up and taken away to their new home. It's a great way to get some experience and I love serving and helping the customers.

Volunteers can give as little as a few hours a week and a number of its shops are open seven days a week, giving people the flexibility to fit in with their other commitments.

The minimum age for volunteering in the shops is 14 (parental consent required for under 16s).

If you are looking for something new to do in 2022 then volunteering at a Prospect Hospice shop could be just what you're looking for. To find our more, enquire in your local shop, email volunteering@prospect-hospice.net or call the voluntary services team on 07884 261259.

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

Mad March Hare 2022

2022 is here and we are delighted to officially open registrations for the 15th Mad March Hare!

New Year, New Start, so kick off your 2022 by registering to join us.

The event has been virtual over the last two years but recognising the potential impact of Covid restrictions we are planning to hold the Mad March Hare event live on Sunday 20th March 2022, but we will also offer you the opportunity to take part virtually throughout the whole of March.

We continue with our pledge to support our chosen charity, Breast Cancer Now and once again we will be donating 100% of the proceeds from registrations. The work of the charity has continued despite the pandemic and sadly the impact of Breast Cancer has also continued so we ask all our faithful supporters to support us once again to make a difference for those living with Breast Cancer and vital research.

Registration is now open and we have had our first sign-ups of 2022: Daljinder Chalmers and her mum Gurmeet Virk. Daljinder Chalmers is a long-time supporter of Mad March Hare and here she shares with us why she is joining us once again.

Daljinder said, “This year I decided to take part in Mad March Hare with my mum. My reason for doing this is because the past two years have taught me how fragile life really is and although one minute you could be happy without a care in the world, the next you could be supporting a loved one, a friend or a

colleague with a cancer diagnosis.

“I have had family members pass away due to cancer but I have also seen close friends fight for their life and rise from the torturous treatment to find a new lease of life. Last year, a new colleague joined my team and a week later the team learnt that they had been diagnosed with breast cancer, it was then that I really realised that despite being there for them virtually, I really was helpless. I could offer words of encouragement and say everything will be ok but sometimes I felt those words just weren’t enough. It was then that I said to my mum that we should do something to help support the charity and to raise awareness too.

“So here we are, trainers on and ready to take on the challenge. Mum and I will be training and then doing our 10k challenge virtually in Warwickshire. I am also using this opportunity to raise awareness in my own Sikh community too.”

Event organiser Margaret Nicholson said, “We are grateful and send thanks to Daljinder and Gurmeet, we look forward to seeing them on the day, we are forever grateful to the Swindon community for its support over the years and hope they come together again this year to celebrate the live event once again.”

Registrations are live: <https://madmarchhare.org.uk/events/mad-march-hare-2022/>



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