

April 2022

Purton Magazine



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

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Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Tuesdays 2.00-7.00pm)</i>		
Museum	Marion Hobbs	770185
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Lindsey Hall	771890
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, <i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Pips Community Café	Duty volunteers	07498 526872
<i>(Tuesday-Friday 9am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm)</i>		
<i>www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/</i>		

Schools & Playgroups

Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
Pear Drops at Playclose	Sarah Grigg	950159
Pear Drops Pre-School (formerly Under 5s')	Sarah Grigg	978536
St Mary's Primary School	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: The view from Quarry
Farm on a spring evening
Credit: Heather Ponting-Bather

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From the Editors

April 2022
Volume 44 No.4
1st Published 1975

Many of the words in this issue of your magazine demonstrate the power that words can have, not only in relation to the war in Ukraine. The Poet Laureate Simon Armitage has published a new poem about the conflict entitled *Resistance* in which he writes “false news is news with the pity edited out. It’s war again.”

Even an 8-year-old schoolboy recognises the power of words in a poem as a consequence of Storm Eunice. Fraser’s teacher asked their class to write a poem about the weather that day using as many descriptive words as possible and we are delighted to publish it – see what you think on page 61. Even before reading printed words, children starting in the Reception class at St. Mary’s school are given wordless books so they can build up their own story, using their own vocabulary as a start to learning to read, see page 27.

Throughout the pandemic we were delighted to receive regular monthly articles from Purton Gardeners’ Guild about all gardening and outdoor matters rather than specifically reporting on meetings and matters in Purton. This month might be the last of those fascinating contributions for the moment with topical information about

bluebells on page 36 but we do look forward to further enlightenment in future, together with the regular meeting overviews.

“*April come she will*” is an appropriate title for our Nature Correspondent this month on page 33. It took a bit of digging to establish that is the title of a song written by Simon and Garfunkel from their second studio album *Sounds of Silence* recorded in 1966. With the recent rains, a little more of the lyrics are appropriate: “April come she will, when streams are ripe and swelled with rain; May, she will stay, resting in my arms again.”

Here in Purton we learn that there have been difficulties for some in getting their prescriptions from our branch of Lloyds chemists and contact details for complaints can be found on page 21.

Returning to the situation in Ukraine, the governments in the Baltic states of Latvia and Lithuania have pulled a neat trick with the power of words. Apparently both have changed the name of the street where the Russian embassies are to ‘*Independent Ukraine Street*’ in Riga and ‘*Ukrainian Heroes Street*’ in Vilnius so that the new addresses have to be used by embassy staff on all correspondence!

6

Purton Tennis Club teams entered in the Swindon & District League this season. See page 51

16th

April is open lambing afternoon at Rogers Farm, with set times. See page 38

120

Members of Purton Cricket Club already gearing up for the new season. See page 51

Purton Parish Council News



Annual Parish Meeting

Purton Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Monday 4th April at 7.30 pm in Purton Village Hall. All are welcome. As part of the meeting, we will be awarding the Community Volunteer Award. Please come along and support our unsung heroes. Nominations are: Sandra Horsnall, Hazel Woodbridge, Lucy Lewis, Barry Pitts, Mary and David Nettleton and Joe Gardner. Refreshments will be available after the meeting.

Community Help

Can you help locate the friends or family of Harold Melvyn Unitt? A headstone in Purton Cemetery has failed memorial testing, and temporary measures have been put in place for safety reasons. We are aware that someone has or is tending to the grave but they have not responded to our headstone notices. We have started the process of sinking headstones but wish to contact the family before this action is taken. If you know anyone who may be able to assist, we would appreciate your help. Thank you in advance.

Council Meetings – April 2022

Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 4th April 2022 at 7.30pm

Council Meeting
Monday 11th April 2022 @ 7pm

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre
Charity

Monday 28th April 2022 @7pm

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 is on a Wednesday at Purton Village Hall from 7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., and is for young people in Year 7 and above.

Community Engagement

- **Saturday 16th April 2022**
FREE Easter Egg Hunt/Quiz 12 noon until 2pm at the Purton Red House. (Prizes for all children who enter)
 - **Thursday 2nd June 2022**
Purton “Baked Off” baking competition. (Commemorative Jubilee gift for all those who enter)
 - **Friday 3rd June 2022**
FREE Jubilee Tea Party 12 noon to 3 p.m. in Purton Village Hall
- Please register to avoid disappointment (100 spaces)
- **Saturday 4th June 2022**
FREE Family Fun Day from 12 noon until late at the Purton Red House. Food outlets/Music all day/bar open

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.

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

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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 our meetings will be posted on our agenda, which can be located on our notice boards and website.

- PL/2021/11172 – 3 College Road, Purton SN5 4AR. The work proposed for this property is an extension of an existing semi detached house with an internal rearrangement. The extension will replace some existing parts of the house such as the large garage, current kitchen and a selection of existing windows and doors. The proposed works extends out by a single storey at the rear of the property and extends out where the current garage is located by 3 storeys as well as converting the loft space into a second floor.
- PL/2021/07769 – 27 High Street, Purton SN5 4BE. Proposed single storey rear extension, first floor rear extension, alterations, and detached garage with studio above.
- PL/2021/08007 - 27 High Street, Purton, SN5 4BE. Proposed single storey rear extension, first floor rear extension, alterations, and detached garage with studio above.
- PL/2021/08567 - 1 Packhorse, Purton, SN5 4HU. Retrospective change of use of agricultural land into domestic garden and erection of a garage/carport/log store.
- PL/2021/11253 - 77 High Street, Purton, SN5 4AB. Change of use from first floor residential to Class E (e) medical and health use as a veterinary surgery.

Trees At Pavenhill Shops

We have been monitoring the Silver Birch trees due to root exposure outside Number 1 Pavenhill Shops over the last 18 months. With permission of the landowner and following expert advice from a professional tree surgeon, we have now reviewed our options and, sadly, will be arranging for the trees to be removed. However, the area will be resurfaced and made safe and two heavy duty large planters containing new trees will replace those removed. We anticipate these works will be carried out this financial year as soon as we have found suitable experts who can carry out the job.

Hall Hire, Charity Buildings

In line with Government advice, all Covid restrictions relating to hire of Parish Council owned facilities have been lifted. We ask all hirers to consider their own measures to ensure the safety of those attending their event.

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.

Community Questionnaires

The Parish Council is in the process of asking the community for their thoughts on the parish they live in.

We will be issuing links for three questionnaires over a six week period to include:

- The Revision of the Purton Neighbourhood Plan
Monday 14th March
- Living in Purton
Monday 28th March 2022
- Purton Parish Council – Sole trustee of three charities
Monday 11th April 2022

These questionnaires will be available via a link on our website, Facebook page

and Twitter feed, with printed copies at various locations throughout the village as follows:

Purton Doctors Surgery
Purton Red House
Purton Library
PIPS Community Café
St Mary's Church
Shear Success Hairdressers
Purton Vets

The questionnaires will remain at all venues and online until the end of April.



IN COLLABORATION WITH SUCC, NALC, OVV, COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

PCC Philip Wilkinson Councillor update: New Police and Crime Plan launched

Since starting in this role, my mission has always been to make Wiltshire a safer place to live, work and visit.

Now is the time for Wiltshire Police, and my office, to go back-to-basics and deliver exactly what our residents want: a quality, frontline, policing service which tackles the crimes which matter most to them.

Making Wiltshire Safer sets out the direction for policing focus and priorities until 2025 as well as showing you the funding I receive and how it will be spent during my first term in office.

Priority 1: A police service that meets the needs of its communities

I am prioritising:

- Increasing public confidence, trust and our policing engagement with communities
- Provide a quality of police service to all our communities
- Giving the Police the right tools for the job

Priority 2: Reduce violence and serious harm

I am prioritising:

- Violence reduction and domestic abuse
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Child Abuse and Child Exploitation
- County Lines and Serious Organised Crime and exploitation

Priority 3: Tackle crimes that matter most to local communities

I am prioritising:

- Anti-social Behaviour
- Road safety
- Rural crime and heritage crime
- Fraud, cyber crime and hate crime

Priority 4: Improve the experience of victims and deliver justice

- I am prioritising:
- Victim care and support
- Mental Health
- The criminal justice system
- Restorative Wiltshire
- Reduce re-offending

From the start, I was determined my police and crime plan – and the strategic policing blueprint for Wiltshire Police – would be informed by Wiltshire and Swindon’s residents, to deliver a service that you told me is important and that you deserve. This is what has happened.

I consulted widely with the people of Wiltshire and Swindon via Use Your Voice and opportunities for you to download copies of the draft plan and participate in public discussions on social media.

I listened to our key stakeholders and partners using Focus Group sessions, and heard what the Chief Constable and colleagues within the Force telling me what needed to be included, during several internal meetings, before publishing my Police and Crime Plan – approved by Wiltshire and Swindon’s Police and Crime Panel.

Our new police and crime plan is as

closely aligned with your concerns and aspirations as possible and this has been balanced with advice from the Chief Constable as well as national policing strategies.

My finalised police and crime plan was supported at the latest meeting of Wiltshire and Swindon’s Police and Crime panel as the cross-party councillors unanimously ratified the document.

I’m pleased thousands of you took this opportunity with many councillors, MPs, charities and third sector organisations engaging on our community’s behalf.

I listened to our key stakeholders and partners using Focus Group sessions, heard the operational policing advice from the Chief Constable, as well as considering national policing priorities and threat, harm and risk assessments.

Our new police and crime plan is as closely aligned with your concerns and aspirations as possible - and this has been balanced with advice from the Chief Constable, as well as from those national priorities.

It is now time for us to work together to ensure our delivery is impactful and makes the difference we all want to see – a safer Wiltshire for all.

Making Wiltshire Safer can be downloaded from the PCC’s website: Police and Crime Plan 2022 – 2025 (www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/police-and-crime-plan-2022-2025/)

Visit www.purtonmagazine.co.uk for previous issues of our village magazine, and our advertisers’ database for local businesses. We welcome submissions for publication in the May issue. Our copy deadline is the 10th April, please email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk



What's happening in Purton



<p>Saturday 16 April 12 noon-2.00pm At Purton Red House & Village Centre</p>	<p>Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Quiz Forms available on the day from the Red House</p>	<p>Free event Including and Easter Egg for all children who complete the quiz (parents and carers can help!)</p>
<p>Thursday 2 June 10.00am-3pm At Purton Village Hall</p>	<p>Purton's very own 'Baked Off' Bake your cake at home</p>	<p>Free event Set cataegories/age groups, prizes to be won and a raffle of all cakes in aid of Dementia Charity.</p>
<p>Friday 3 June 12 noon-3pm At Purton Village Hall</p>	<p>Platinum Jubilee Celebration Village Tea Party</p>	<p>Free event To include tea, sandwiches, cake and light entertainment for a more getle pace of celebration.</p>
<p>Saturday 4 June 12 noon-12 midnight At Purton Red House & Village Centre</p>	<p>Platinum Jubilee Celebration Family Day</p>	<p>Free event Food outlets, all day music, children's rides, bar open, sunshine ordered!</p>
<p>Saturday 3 December 6.00pm At Purton Red House & Village Centre</p>	<p>Illuminate Purton Lights Switch on Date TBC pending delivery of tree.</p>	<p>Switch on of our 30ft Christmas tree and associated village lights. Free warm drinks, food outlets, gift for children, bar open.</p>
<p>Saturday 17 December 1.00pm-3.00pm At Purton Red House & Village Centre</p>	<p>Children's Christmas Party With Razamatazz and a visit from Father Christmas</p>	<p>Free event With a gift for each child. Bar open for parents and carers.</p>
<p>Saturday 24 December At Purton Red House & Village Centre</p>	<p>Kick off Christmas family event</p>	<p>Free event Details TBC</p>

Please call the Parish Council Office, Station Road, for more details about entry, spaces and attendance.

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Outreach Purton *Community information from Wiltshire Council*

Thank you for the support shown to the people of Ukraine

We would like to say thank you to local communities, charities and organisations for rallying behind the people of Ukraine following the country's invasion by Russia.

If you would like to support the people of Ukraine, please consider donating to the Ukraine Disaster Emergency Committee Appeal, www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal which is providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water, shelter, healthcare and protection.

Also, there are a number of options locally and nationally for you to provide support to benefit those directly affected by the ongoing conflict. We've set up a Ukraine support page on our website, www.wiltshire.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine Although not an exhaustive list, we will look to keep it updated as much as possible.

Recycling collections resume

Hills Municipal Collections and GMB Union have confirmed they have reached an agreement, which means the waste collection strike has now concluded with immediate effect, and our recycling collections will resume.

Our contractor Hills Municipal Collections has confirmed those workers on strike returned to work on Friday 18 March. Therefore, our kerbside recycling collections resume as normal from Monday 21 March.

Please put your blue lidded bins and black boxes out on your scheduled day from Monday 21 March. Due to the recent

disruption there may still be slight delays to the collection due to the higher volumes of materials we expect, so if your recycling containers aren't emptied on your scheduled day please leave them out, and they will be collected as soon as possible.

You will still be able to leave additional recycling that has mounted up during the disruption; please leave any additional recycling materials in non-black bags or containers (such as plastic crates) next to the recycling bins and the crews will collect them.

Household and garden waste collections will continue as normal so please put those bins out on your normal scheduled day. If those are not collected as scheduled they will be collected as soon as possible.

In summary, the key things you need to know:

- Recycling collection services resume from Monday 21 March
- Please put out your black box and blue lidded bin on your scheduled day from 21 March
- If recycling bins are not emptied on your scheduled day please leave them out, and they will be collected as soon as possible
- Any additional recycling materials stockpiled during the disruption will be collected. Please put those items in non-black bags or containers (such as a plastic crate) next to your recycling bins
- Household and garden waste collections continue as normal so please put those bins out on your

normal collection day. There could still be slight delays so please leave your bins out until collected

- If you're unsure on when your collection day is visit: <https://ilforms.wiltshire.gov.uk/WasteCollectionDays/index>
- If you have any queries please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/faq-hills-municipal-collections-industrial-action

Free holiday activity and food programme

Wiltshire Council will be delivering the Government's Holiday Activity and Food programme across the county during the Easter holidays. Funded by the Department of Education, the programme provides children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals with free activity and food provision during school holiday periods. The programme is being delivered in partnership with Learn By Design, Occasional Kitchen and Purely Nutrition in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire's programme, branded FUEL, includes the delivery of ten face-to-face holiday activity camps, which will take place in areas of the county where there is the greatest need for the programme. The camps will provide the opportunity for children to take part in a range of enriching activities, including robotics workshops, team games, football speed cage, reaction wall, dance, talent shows, and arts and crafts workshops, to name but a few.

The children will receive a nutritious lunch each day they attend, and the programme will include fun nutritional sessions on healthy eating and food workshops. One family who attended a

FUEL camp last year said, "Thank you so much for providing these sessions, it has made a huge difference to us. My daughter had a great time, she loved all the activities, made lots of friends and said the staff were really nice." During 2021, the FUEL holiday camps benefited over 4,700 families and over 31,000 meals were provided.

The ten camps will take place in Amesbury, Calne, Chippenham, Devizes, Melksham, Royal Wootton Bassett, Salisbury, Trowbridge, Warminster and Westbury. Each camp will run for four hours a day from 10 am to 2 pm, over four days, commencing on Tuesday 19 April 2022.

There will also be two FUEL Easter camps for children with a disability which will take place at Springfield Community Campus in Corsham and at Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing centre in Salisbury. All eligible children will be able to attend free of charge.

Eligible families should speak to their school to sign up to the programme ahead of registration closing at 5pm on Monday 4 April 2022. For further information about the Holiday Activity and Food Programme in Wiltshire please email fuelprogramme@wiltshire.gov.uk

Is there anything I can do to save money on my energy bills?

We now know the energy price cap will rise by around £700 in April. For the average household on a default tariff (11 million households), this will be an increase of around £60 per month. Inflation is also at a 30-year high, making other everyday costs more expensive. At Wiltshire Citizens Advice, we understand that this is a worrying time for many and we are here to support you.

Why are my energy bills going up?

The main reason why energy bills are rising is because global gas prices are at record levels – this means it's more expensive for energy suppliers (the people we pay our bills to) to buy the gas and electricity we use every day. Inevitably, these costs get passed on to us – the consumers – in the form of higher bills.

Your bills will only be affected by the price cap increase if you're on a Standard Variable Tariff. If you're on a Fixed Rate Tariff, your bills will stay the same until your contract ends. If you're unsure what type of contract you're on, check your bill or call your supplier to find out

Is there anything I can do to save money on energy?

There are some simple things you can do to save some money on your energy bills. They won't cover all the extra costs, but they can make a difference:

- Check your thermostat, lower it where you can.
- Keep the heat in, check your home for any gaps in the doors, windows and floors.
- Turn off anything you're not using.
- Watch your water usage.
- Switch off standby.
- Use your washing machine on a 30-degree cycle instead of higher temperatures.
- Avoid the tumble dryer.
- Top up the insulation.

For more ideas on how to save visit <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/campaign/how-to-save-money-on-your-energy-bills/>

What support can I get?

If you're struggling to afford your energy bills, you might be able to get support from the government or your energy supplier. The first step is to call your supplier and ask them if they offer any grants to help with your energy bills.

- **Warm Home Discount Scheme:** You might be able to get £140 off your electricity bill or a £140 voucher for your prepayment meter.
- **Winter Fuel Payment:** The Winter Fuel Payment is an annual one-off payment to help you pay for heating during the winter.
- **Cold Weather Payments:** Cold Weather Payments are one-off payments to help you pay for extra heating costs when it's very cold.
- **Grants to help pay off your energy debts:** If you're in debt to your energy supplier, you might be able to get a grant to help pay it off.
- **Local energy grants:** If you can't afford to top up your prepayment meter you might be able to get a fuel voucher.
- **Extra help from your supplier:** You might be able to get extra help and support from your energy supplier by signing up to the Priority Services Register.
- **Energy Bills Rebate:** The government has also announced a package of support to help households with rising energy bills in response to this latest energy cap price rise.
- **Local Social Welfare Support:** Wiltshire Council has a local welfare provision scheme that provides critical short-term help

12/22

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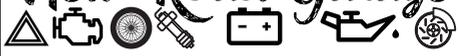
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and assistance with limited one-off household goods.

For more details of grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills, visit: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/grants-and-benefits-to-help-you-pay-your-energy-bills

Call us on freephone 0800 144 8848 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) or email us for support and advice www.citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk/contact-us

Heather Ponting-Bather, Outreach Purton & Wiltshire Together Community Champion helpline 772954

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



Wearing of face masks in the Surgery

When attending the Surgery there is a requirement to wear a face mask – NHS England requires staff, patients and visitors to GP Surgeries to wear a mask/face covering in healthcare settings. The consistent application of Infection, Prevention and Control measures, alongside the roll out of the vaccine programme and staff and patient testing, remains the most effective defence against the entry and spread of COVID-19 in healthcare settings.

200 Club draw

Membership will soon be open again, so please consider joining. The annual cost is £15, Standing Order preferred. Monthly prizes, first prize is £100, second is £15. The £100 winner of the February draw was Linda Arnold. The March draw was done by Dawn, one of our Receptionists, and the £100 winner was Frances Blissett.



Our Chair, Marietta Crockford, writes ...

Dear Patients and Friends of Purton and Green Gable Surgery

We are very pleased with the success of our 200 club and would like to thank you for your support in this fundraising to help towards providing items of equipment the NHS does not provide. We hope very much that you will continue to support us in the next 'season'.

From late April we will be contacting members to ensure they are happy about the arrangements for the new 'season' starting in September and we will be opening the doors for new members to sign up.

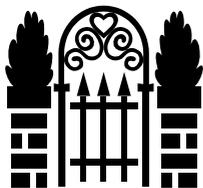
Many thanks, Marietta Crockford, PPG Chair

Lloyds Pharmacy

Please remember to reorder your repeat prescriptions in good time before you are likely to run out. The Surgery has been receiving a substantial

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12/22

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

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

www.purtonmagazine.co.uk



number of telephone calls regarding the difficulty patients have had in getting their medication because of the ongoing problems experienced by Lloyds Pharmacy. The Surgery has no control over this and once your prescription has been sent to the pharmacy it is the responsibility of the pharmacy so please call them directly (01793 770294) and they can advise you. If you wish to complain then do so direct to Lloyds' management, contact details are: NHS England Pharmacy, NHS England PO Box 16738, Redditch B97 9PT England.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net
Managing Director for Lloyds Pharmacy: Cormac Tobin, email: cormac.tobin@lloydspharmacy.co.uk
<https://lloydspharmacy.com/pages/contact-us>

Repeat Prescription Services

Pharmacy2U offers a repeat prescription delivery service. If you register with this company you will have to communicate your repeat prescription requirements to them directly, and they will contact the surgery who will send the prescription to them electronically. Once they have received this, your medicines will be dispensed and sent to you in the post from their base in Leeds. Pharmacy2U say that you should allow seven days from your request to the delivery of your medicines. The vagaries of the postal system could, of course, add to this time particularly over Bank Holidays. You would also need to be available to receive the parcel. Patients should also know that once a prescription has been dispatched from the surgery to this

company it cannot be re-issued.

Whilst this service could be useful for those who are not very mobile, the current system operated by the surgery, which electronically sends your prescription to your chosen local pharmacy, is efficient and requires less notice and turnaround and if you aren't able to get out then many pharmacies offer a delivery service.

Of course, every patient has the right to have their prescriptions dispensed at the pharmacy of their choice.

Purchase of Equipment

Two consulting rooms are still using the old consulting couches. We have previously purchased adjustable couches for all the other consulting rooms and we will shortly be purchasing two for these rooms.

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

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

Purton & District Age Concern

Purton and District
AGE CONCERN

We're Back!

Yes, the Mystery Coach Trips are back, with lunch and a drive down the country lanes, prices are the same as before; £15 for Purton pensioners and £17 for non-pensioners. The first one will be on Wednesday 11th May. We will pick up at all the usual places in the village. Book and pay Peter on 778119 or through your street warden.

I am putting together dates for Mystery Coach Trips and our annual trip to Weston in August, along with shopping trips and, of course, our Coffee Morning in Bentham which has been confirmed as the 16th July. Please keep reading these notes in future editions of the magazine for information on all our functions. We are hoping to get back to normal as soon as possible.

The Tai-Chi classes have started again at the Millennium Hall on Thursdays 1.30 - 2.30 p.m. The first session was very well attended so come along and enjoy the benefits of this gentle exercise. New members will have to fill in a health form at the first lesson. Cost is £5.00 per session. Masks will still have to be worn at these sessions.

Lloyds Chemist

There have been a lot of problems at this pharmacy in the village regarding prescriptions, especially in regard to closures due to pharmaceutical staff not being able to attend, which means the shop itself cannot be opened. This seems to be an ongoing problem which results in customers not getting

their prescription medication when it is scheduled. Lots of complaints have been made, and some of it directed towards our doctors' surgery. This has nothing to do with them as they just forward prescriptions electronically to the pharmacy; this is purely a problem with Lloyds. I would encourage anybody with a complaint to deal directly with Lloyds, as this is the only way we can put pressure on them to sort themselves out.

The managing director is Cormac Tobin and his email address is: cormac.tobin@lloydspharmacy.co.uk or you can complain through england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net

Please don't put pressure on our doctors' surgery. Or of course use another pharmacy if you are able to, there are plenty around.

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 not letting anybody enter your home, then you will need to replace your smoke alarm yourself as they won't leave one on the doorway. If they are called to replace one, then they have to do it. Please be aware.

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

Website - Visit our dedicated website www.purtonageconcern.com to find all

the details you need about our contacts, events, news and links to other websites in the area. We also have a Facebook and Twitter account which can be found at Facebook: [purtonageconcern](https://www.facebook.com/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, crutches and walking sticks available, so if you think you might need any of these at any time then ring me on 778119.

Peter Berry, Chairman

Pips Community Cafe

New Pips Lunch Club

This got off to a good start on Thursday March 3rd with all spaces booked and a roast lunch of chicken, stuffing, bread sauce etc, followed by fruit crumble and custard.

We have a willing team of volunteer cooks but need more volunteers to help serve and clear away on Thursdays between 11:50 a.m. and 1.45 pm. This need not be every week; an offer of once a month would also be a great help.

We hope to provide a further lunch club day on a Tuesday but, at present, only have one person volunteering to cook on this day. In order to get a Tuesday lunch club off the ground we would need more volunteer helpers



Any offers of help, on Thursdays to start immediately or Tuesdays to start once sufficient help recruited would be gratefully accepted. Please contact Chris Seals on 07884 212196.

Purton Methodist Church

On 23rd April at 3 pm we are planning a concert comprising an assortment of songs with audience participation – including patriotic songs as this is St George's Day. Tea, coffee and simnel

cake will be served at this event. Tickets, £5, can be obtained from Sylvia Freemantle (770686) and Jenny Barnes (770339). Money raised will be donated to the Ukrainian Appeal Fund.

12/22

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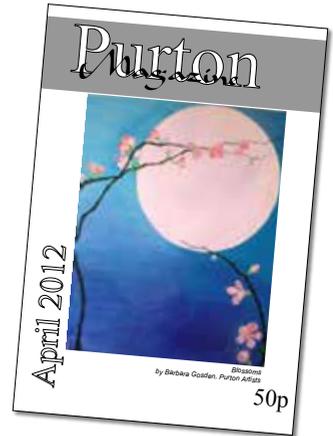
Ten Years Ago...

In April 2012 Purton was making preparations for the Diamond Jubilee. Already over £1,000 had been raised. The money was specifically for fireworks but the celebrations were to include face-painting, penalty-kicking and cups of tea. And now we are starting all over again!

Ps & Qs moved into the realms of politics, noting that the neighbourhood boundaries as defined by the new Localism Act did not align with our traditional parish boundaries. When they googled for a definition of a neighbourhood, they received 25 million hits. Well, I've just tried it and

there are now over 100 million. So we still don't know. More seriously, though, they noted that "borders, established more or less arbitrarily, can generate serious disillusion, frustration and injustice". How tragic that we are seeing the effects of this in Eastern Europe.

The Tennis Club celebrated its centenary in 2012. The original subscription was set at 3 shillings. In the past it had to move home twice, first because the land at the cricket field was dug up for a tank trap and later for road-widening. Since then it has grown and grown – and so has



the subscription!

The A-Z of Purton at last reached the letter Z. The Yacht Club's constitution states that it doesn't have a constitution – how very un-British – but it means that there are no subscriptions to pay. The last entry was for the then sole zebra crossing, leaving us with a vision of Purtonians going first one way and then the other.

Sale of small china items and crockery

Do you have any small china items, ornaments etc and crockery now looking for a new home? We are holding a sale in Pips café, at Silver Threads, on Friday April 29th from 10.30am. The money raised will go towards St Mary's Church funds.

If you wish to donate any items we ask you to bring them to Silver Threads from

10am onwards, labelled with your name and contact details, as we shall need you to take them away again at 3pm if they have not been sold. We can collect items from you in advance if that would be helpful.

Please contact Jane Smith (772422) or Libbie (771018) for further details.

Purton Historical Society



Future Meetings at Purton Methodist Church, Play Close

Thursday, 28th April 2022 at 7.30 pm RAF Blakehill Farm – Vince Povey

Discover the history of the former RAF Blakehill Farm with Volunteer Site Warden and Historian Vincent Povey as he lectures on the site's WW2 and cold war history, describing what is left of its lost infrastructure and its peacetime use now as an important national nature reserve.

Thursday, 19th May 2022 at 7.30 pm A Story of Researching Family History – Julia Hunt

Julia writes: "My grandfather, Howard Ludlow, often talked about his ancestors. I was young and, of course, believed everything he told me. Later, around 1978, I had the chance to do a 'family history' course. This was my opportunity to build on what he had related. Did I have my eyes opened! Since then, I have traced family far and wide, been up blind alleys, seen a boom in family history research and made so many unexpected discoveries. If you are not careful, it can take over your life!"

Visitors welcome – fee £3.00

Saturday 18th June 2022 at 11.00 am RAF Blakehill Farm Site Visit

Vince Povey is our speaker in April and, following on from this presentation, a site visit has been arranged. This will be an exclusive chance for Purton Historical Society to tour the former RAF Blakehill Farm. Arrangements are as follows:

The tour starts at the main car park in the nature reserve.

Cost is £10 per person, including tea and coffee supplied at the end of the walk. Money to be donated to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Toilets are available.

The walk will take at least three hours on flat ground, mostly tarmac. If livestock permits there will also be a visit to the cold war Royal Observer Corp bunker which is very uneven, but this will be decided on the day. The tour will take in all the former features on the eastern side of the airfield and will be led by Vince, using aerial photographs and plans. There are one or two surprises too.

To book a place or for further information contact: Marion Hobbs
Tel: 01793 770185 email: roy.marion@btinternet.com

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

Museum News

Purton Museum re-opens on Saturday 2nd April with a new exhibition on Education at St Mary's School. The museum will open on Saturdays only from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

As a one-off experiment, the museum will open on Tuesday 3rd May from 3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. This is to see if there is a response for a weekday opening.

St George's Day

To celebrate St George's Day on Saturday 23rd April, four flags that were recently gifted by St Mary's Church will be on display. The flags represent the uniformed branches of Purton Girl Guides, Scouts and Wolf Cubs and are

a wonderful addition to the museum's collection of artefacts. A Community Grant was kindly awarded by Purton Parish Council to purchase specialist

storage materials needed to preserve the flags.

Lucy Lewis, Museum Archivist

St Mary's Primary School

A fond farewell

We were sorry to say goodbye to the lovely Emma Wheeler on 11 March, who so many of you will have had the pleasure to deal with in our reception and administrative team. Emma has recently been appointed to work for Cricklade Town Council. I would like to thank Emma for everything she has done over many years at the school supporting children, parents and staff, and I know I speak for everyone when I say how much we will miss her at St Mary's.

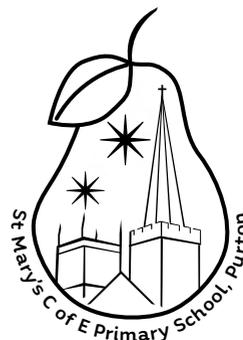
We wish her all the very best for the future and I have no doubt we will still see her around the village. She has also promised to pop into school to see us whenever she gets the chance!

Why Reading Matters

'Children do not just 'become' readers, however, and reading engagement is not possible if children struggle with the basic mechanics of reading. Fluency and enjoyment are the result of careful teaching and frequent practice.'

(The Reading Framework, DfE July 2021)

Reading is one of the most important skills a child will ever learn and at St Mary's C of E Primary School, reading is woven throughout every element of our curriculum. We encourage all children to read regularly both in school and at home (and we now use a digital reading record for our pupils, so there is a seamless connection between adults supporting reading at home and school). At St. Mary's, we believe that both 'quality-first' teaching and strong links with home will enable children to become successful readers and therefore have better chances later in life.



The Importance of reading

When children begin school in Reception at St Mary's the first books they take home will be 'wordless' books. To become a fluent and skilled reader, children need to be able to talk and be well-practised in being spoken to. With a wordless book, a child can use the vocabulary bank that they have built up to talk about the pictures and in time, make up their own story line to accompany the illustrations.

Reading for pleasure

Reading for pleasure is vital in developing a life-long love of reading. This involves children becoming fully engaged with reading. At St. Mary's, every child has two reading books: one book is pitched at an appropriate level for them to be able to fluently read 95% independently, and the other is often derived from our 50 Best Books list which features heavily in every classroom and bookcase throughout the school.

Each academic year the children have this list of 50 quality books to read, or to have read to them. These include a variety of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Every classroom has the current booklist on display in their classrooms and the children have the opportunity to recommend books to their friends and write reviews for books they have read.

Can you help support this vital skill?

If you would like to support reading in the school, we would welcome any donations to help fund more copies of the '50 Best Books' across the school. We specifically like to ensure some of our more disadvantaged children have copies of a selection of books to keep at home.

If you feel able to support us with any size of donation, we can guarantee your money will be used to achieve one thing: to put more books into the hands of more children – and what better gift to give than the gift of reading!

To make a donation, or find out more, you can contact the school by emailing admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk or phoning 01793 770239.

Naomi Clarke, Headteacher





A very Happy Easter to everyone from Purton Churches. He is Risen!

“Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia”, is an Easter hymn of triumph lifting our spirit to new heights, and rekindling faith in Jesus Christ. Charles Wesley knew the significance of writing a hymn that is profoundly theological and celebratory in its content. It celebrates the resurrection of our saviour Jesus Christ; it celebrates his victory over death; it celebrates the glorious hope believers have in God’s promises. The language though emotive and passionate offers us a living memory ‘anamnesis’ and not merely the ability to ‘reminisce’. For in ‘anamnesis’ we are recalling a cosmic event that astounded earth and resounded in heaven.

However, we rejoice that “Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia” and we continue to live in the power of the resurrection. Kate Gray reminds us to:

Celebrate - death’s not the end
Jesus Christ - alive today
Celebrate - death overcome
Jesus Christ brings us to life
Celebrate - Hope abounds
Jesus Christ defies the powers
Celebrate! Peace and Shalom
Jesus Christ means abundant life

Celebrate – today, tomorrow, always!

Revd Shirlyn Toppin (Methodist Minister)

If you or any of your family or friends need our prayers please contact:

Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith 01793 770077

email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk

or Revd Judith Wells 01793 770627 for St Mary’s Church.

Or Revd Shirlyn Toppin 01793 853197 for Purton Methodist Church

Please see our special Easter Services on the diary pages.

Our normal Sunday pattern is as follows:

8.00 am Holy Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays) at St Mary’s Church

10.30 am Contemporary Service - Church for All (1st 3rd & 5th Sundays)

And Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays) at St Mary’s Church

10.30 am Service at Purton Methodist Church

4.00 pm Messy Church (Monthly) at St Mary’s Church

For more Information see our website www.stmaryspurton.org.uk or Facebook - St. Mary’s Church, Purton, Wiltshire.

Purton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



The Rainbows have happily settled into their new home at the Methodist church and are very grateful for their new location.

The girls have been working towards their Be Well theme award including patching each other up during first aid practice! The girls loved making fake wounds and then dressing them.

The two Brownie units joined forces for a weekend of activities online to celebrate World Thinking Day in February. Along with around 5,500 members from the south west region, they took part in Eat Your Way Around the World, with activities ranging from making banana microwave mug muffins and playing pasta bingo, to recreating the Burj Khalifa from foodstuffs packets and tins: 2.2 m was the highest tower with a little help from a tall family member.

Sticking with an international theme, 2nd Purton Brownies have been working on the Mexico Adventure Challenge badge. This has involved Mexican cultures, craft, games and of course food! They learnt some Spanish words and numbers, crafted 'God's eyes'

and also a Mexican flag from Hama beads, decorated a sugar skull mask, made edible sombreros and played lots of games including having fun with a pinata.

1st Purton Brownies also celebrated another nation's culture, albeit slightly closer to home, by having a Welsh-themed evening for St David's Day. They did a quiz, had a go at saying Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch, junk modelled dragons and tasted Welsh cakes.

Food is popular with all ages. As kitchen space is limited at the Millennium Hall, the Guides took advantage of the experience they gained in lockdown and used Zoom to make pancakes. They had varied success in their own kitchens with flipping their creations but all agreed they tasted great!

Links to register:

www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/

www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/

For other enquiries please contact us by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Dogridge, Orchard Gardens, Waterfield, Ringsbury Close, Restrop View, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Dewpont Close, The Farm and Moses Mead*

The other side of the gate

There's a monumental change on the farm this month: From the 1st March we stopped feeding any cereals to the milking cows. This is the next stage to becoming a 100% 'Pasture for Life Certified' grass-fed operation. The beef herd has been 100% grass-fed for years.

This will make the milk even more nutritious. Cereal inclusion in bovine diets affects the omega 6 to omega 3 ratio in both meat and milk.

We evolved on a balanced omega 6 and 3 ratio of 1:1. Modern diets can be as high as 40:1!

This has a major detrimental effect on our bodies. I won't go into detail as it's a huge topic, but urge you to look it up on the internet. Many sites explain the importance of the ratio.



Not all food is equal. This is a classic example of the 'perception of value' where supermarkets have taught their customers to value volume over quality. You need fewer quality fatty acids to feel satiated. Cheap food is cheap for a reason; it's not what we eat, it's what's been done to the food that we eat!

Anyone who has ever milked cows will understand the transition would not be easy! Even though we only fed a small amount per day, it was driver enough to get the cows excited. They would salivate and lick their muzzle before entering the parlour in anticipation of a tasty meal.

I was prepared to have a very rough week as they got used to the new system. I've put a molasses lick (sugar with minerals) into their feed hoppers hoping that a few licks would pacify them.



This proved to be a false hope. It only took four days for most of them to reject coming into the parlour. They stood like defiant children, looking at me like I'd subjected them to the most awful indignancies... We spent a long time looking at each other...

With the milking time almost doubled I needed to do something fast. They needed me to meet them halfway... Oh, nuts I thought! Grass nuts to be precise. Who'd have thought that more of the same would be all they needed! It took three days for them to trust me again. So, painful as it is, I put a few handfuls of cooked grass on top of the molasses lick and most are happy again. Shannon doesn't agree, but she'll be dry soon, so I'm not too worried that she is rebelling against the new regime.

We've had our first calf of the new season. Rex produced a compact British Blue bull calf. I needed to give it a pull (big head - ouch) but all was fine. I gave her some arnica for the bruising. She calved at 22:30, so not too late, but an early rise for me to make sure the calf had some colostrum.

The ground is still quite tender so the cows aren't out yet. They don't seem bothered and I'm not either. The fields have loads of grass (I could cut some for silage there is that much!), so when they do go out I will have to restrict them, but we have loads of silage, hay and straw left.

Lengthening days and higher pressure will get them out soon. Then my thoughts will go to silage and haymaking...

Jonathan Cook, Quarry Farm



April Nature Correspondent

“April Come She Will”

April comes just when we need her: sunshine, blue skies, the sounds and smells of spring, longer and warmer days. That’s the idea, but as like as not showers, cold winds and grey skies will contrive to spoil the fun. April’s potential thirty days may reduce to twenty decent ones and natural history enthusiasts begin to panic with so much to see and hear and record.

For birdwatchers it is a big month for recording our incoming summer visitors: the warblers, pipits, chats, flycatchers and wagtails, and those iconic aerial feeders the swallows and martins. Will we hear the plaintive call of the cuckoo and the exotic song of the nightingale in the usual spots? Will birds return on the usual dates, or will there be a population “crash” as happened in 1969 with common whitethroats, when two thirds of the British population failed to return. Swallows take about six weeks to make the journey from Africa, covering about 200 miles a day and roosting at night in favoured reed beds. We nervously await their return, but will there be fewer than last year resulting from casualties along the migratory route? Stone Curlews will have already arrived in March on traditional downland sites, but subsequent unseasonal weather can spell disaster as they start nesting. Meanwhile it is the breeding season for our much-loved garden birds: the robin, wren, song thrush and blackbird.

I can usually reckon to see Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies on sunny mornings and Orange Tips and lemon-coloured Brimstones complementing the Cowslips and emerging King Cups. The wild daffodils I see in West Woods in March will be fading, and I will need to catch up with the colony of lady’s smocks at the entrance to Savernake Forest and the early purple orchids at my local Nature Reserve: then there are violets and wood anemones peeking



Snake’s head Fritillary out amongst the tangled woodland vegetation.

In the final days of April, I have sometimes had a tip-off about badger or fox cubs emerging from their earths, and whatever negatives we can raise about these animals the sight of an undisturbed family playing in the half-light is delightful and one to be shared with our children and grandchildren. It’s the end of the month and somebody usually reminds me that on the Cricklade Meadows the Snake’s Head Fritillaries have been wonderful, but are now past their prime... alas, alack, April has ended!

Robin Nelson

Commissioned by Tower & Town, Marlborough

Purton Village Diary - April 2022

1	F		April Fools Day
		7.00pm	Purton Age Concern 3Bs Evening at the Village Hall
2	Sa	10.00am	Purton Museum reopens with an exhibition on St Mary's School
3	Su	9.30am	Bible chat breakfast for 5-16 year olds at St Mary's Church
4	M	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting at Purton Village Hall
9	Sa	9.00am	Purton Evening WI cake stall outside Purton Library
		9.00pm	Retro play live at the Red House
10	Su	10.30am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion at Purton Methodist Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Church for under 11s
11	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a devotional afternoon with Celia Tweedie-Smith
12	Tu	10.00am	Easter-themed coffee morning, Purton Bowls Clubhouse
		10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at the Millennium Hall for a talk on alternative energy
14	Th	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
15	F	10.00am	Good Friday Walk of Reflection and Witness (starting at Pavenhill shops)
		2.00pm	Hour at the Cross united service at St Mary's Church
16	Sa	12 noon	Easter egg hunt and quiz at the Red House
		2.00pm	Opening of the green at Purton Bowls Club
			Lambing open day at Rogers Farm
17	Su	8.00am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Easter celebration united family Communion at St Mary's Church
22	F	10.00am	(and 23rd) Jam sale at Pips community cafe raising funds for Prostate Cancer Research as part of Jo Gower's London Marathon fundraising
23	Sa		St George's Day
		3.00pm	Concert at Purton Methodist Church
24	Su	10.30am	Morning worship at Purton Methodist Church
26	Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at the Millennium Hall for a talk on portrait of Queen Elizabeth I
27	W	7.30pm	The Phoenix Players start a three night run at Swindon Arts Centre of their comedy play 'Ding Dong'
28	Th	10.30am	China sale at Pips Community cafe for St Mary's Church
		12.30pm	The Royal British Legion Purton Branch annual lunch at the Bolingbroke Arms Hotel
		7.00pm	Purton War Memorial & Village Centre Charity meeting at Purton Village Hall
		7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at the Methodist Church for a talk on RAF Blakehill Farm

Purton Village Diary

Every week

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

Every month

3rd Monday		St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church
3rd Monday		Royal British Legion meet at the Red House
2nd & 4th Tuesday	10.00am	Purton Probus meet in the Millennium Hall overlooking the Red House football ground. Purton Silver Threads meet at the Silver Threads Hall, suspended until further notice
2nd Wednesday	(except Aug) 2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Purton Methodist Church - temporarily suspended
3rd Wednesday	2-4pm	Purton Charity Knitting group meet at Pips Community Cafe 10.30am-Noon Parkinson's UK Cricklade Cafe at the Cricklade Club 7.30pm Purton Evening WI meet at the Silver Threads Hall
4th Thursday	(September to May) 7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at 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

DISCLAIMER

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Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



With the advent of spring, what better time to resume our regular monthly meetings, so to all our regular members, if you haven't already done it, it's time to pencil in Tuesday 26 April on the calendar. This will be our first meeting of 2022 and will take the form of the AGM, the first since 2020, followed by 'drink and nibbles', and an opportunity to have a say about the future of the club.

For the last two years, with the pandemic curtailing our meetings, I've had free rein to choose a topic, gardening or nature related, on which to base the club's monthly report for the magazine.

As the club resumes its activities, the Gardeners' Guild entry for the Purton magazine will follow its original format, an overview of each meeting.

So until then, my 'free rein' continues and this month's offering centres around 'Hyacinthoides non-scripta... aka 'Bluebells'.

Although native to the Mediterranean region, over half the world's populations of bluebells can be found in the U.K.

Originally, they were thought to be hyacinths and then a form of giant scilla. Then they were renamed Endymion after the Greek god who was blessed with perpetual youthfulness through perpetual sleep. Today they belong to their own species, *Hyacinthoides*, and are commonly known as English or Spanish Bluebells.

Hyacinthoides non-scripta, the English

Bluebell, was introduced into the British Isles around 1580.

Hyacinthoides hispanica, the Spanish Bluebell, is native to the Iberian Peninsula.

The main visible difference between the varieties is that native bluebells are slightly smaller, have narrow leaves, drooping heads, a violet bell-shaped flower and a delicate but distinctive fragrance.

Spanish Bluebells are wider-leaved, stand erect and their flowers have less of a bell. They are a more 'hyacinth' blue, and lack the delicate perfume of our native species.

Spanish bluebells became popular with gardeners as they grow more vigorously and suit the more open aspect of gardens, whereas native bluebells thrive best in ancient woods where the ground has lain undisturbed for years.

They are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is against the law to intentionally pick, uproot or destroy bluebells.

It can take several years for a native bluebell seed to grow into a bulb & subsequently flower.

Bluebells can take years to recover after footfall damage. If a bluebell's leaves are crushed, they die back from lack of food, as the leaves cannot photosynthesise.

As ants help to spread bluebell seeds, you may find them popping up in your garden if you live near a bluebell wood.

Bees enjoy their pollen and nectar and

Knitted Flowers for Easter

are known to 'steal' it by biting a hole in the top of the flower. The chequered skipper butterfly also nectars on bluebells, as do several moth species.

There was a belief that bluebells were used in witches' potions. Others believed that anyone who wanders into a ring of bluebells will fall under fairy enchantment, or that anyone who hears the ringing of the flower's bell will be visited by a malicious fairy and die soon after.

On a more down to earth note, the bulb of a bluebell contains both muselage and inulin, used as a glue for fixing feathers to arrows and for bookbinding. The Elizabethans used the starch-like juice from the bluebell bulb to stiffen their fancy ruff collars.

Currently researchers are looking into the bluebell's highly effective animal and insect repellent properties and there's even the possibility that certain bluebell extracts could be used to combat HIV and cancer.

There are several woods, local to our area, where you may go in search of the annual carpet of blue.

They include:

- Badbury Clump near Highworth
- Croft Wood
- Savernake Forest
- Lydiard Park
- Somerford Common

Enjoy the spectacle.

Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)



Every year, in St Mary's Church, we have a very plain stark wooden cross, covered in nails and wire. It is a reminder of the death of Jesus on the cross. It is ugly and bare.

And then, on Easter Day we cover this cross with beautiful daffodils to show and celebrate that Jesus is risen.

This year however, as Easter is very late, the daffodils will already be over. So we have decided to cover the cross with bright yellow/cream/orange and white knitted or crocheted flowers, which will be put in place on Easter Day. If you would like to make any flowers – all sizes and shades of yellow and cream will be welcome – please let me know and I will collect them from you when they are ready, or just bring them to Pips café.

Thank you SO much, Libbie: 771018

Beneath the Wool

To start this month off we have got some good news – we are going to hold another one of our lambing open afternoons. We are going to run it on Saturday 16th April between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Unlike our last one, we are going to run it a little bit differently: Each group of people will have a set time when they are allowed in the lambing shed and, depending on how many people there are, this time may vary. This will limit the amount of stress that our ewes will have with strange people in their shed near their lambs. It also keeps people safer with regards to Covid. We are also going to try and arrange an activity for children to do on the way to the shed and when exiting the shed. There will be no parking at the farm so therefore people will need to walk. It will most likely be muddy so appropriate footwear is required. Dogs will not be permitted at the event.

On the 19th February we had Bob Blandan come to scan the ewes. For those of you who have watched



Clarkson's Farm, you may recognise Bob's name as he scanned the sheep on the programme. He scanned all of ours and the results are 18 Singles, 19 Twins and 2 Triplets this gives us an average of 158%... until we had a surprise which has given us an average of 162.5%. This is a really positive result as we have 19 shearlings lambing for the first time this year – Jules is proving to have earned his money!

On the 22nd February we had our first set of lambs, this ewe had a set of triplets, which has meant

Music for Good Concert

we have been doing plenty of feeding as she doesn't have enough milk for all three. Since then they have been growing really well and will hopefully be out in the field soon.

On the 5th March we were fortunate enough to have the Flying Scotsman come past the farm. The final job for this month was to vaccinate all the ewes before they have their lambs in the beginning of April.

*Michael Woodward,
Rogers Farm, Purton*

Two Spring Concerts are being held at St Bartholomew's Church, Royal Wootton Bassett on Saturday 2nd April 2022; A family-friendly/SEN concert from 2pm-3.30pm and a Formal Concert 7pm-9.00pm

Come and join us for a day of music featuring over 30 young pianists and singers, together with the voices of Cantanti and Cantantini choirs, The Crown Singers and Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist Church Choir.

Tickets £10 for Adults, free for under 16s.

Refreshments available.

All proceeds to be split between Swindon Music Trust and Unicef-Ukrainian Relief Fund

For more information and tickets contact:
lisawilliamsmusic@gmail.com

You may have seen local (and national) news reports about the landslip and severe subsidence of the B4069 at Lyneham Banks, between Lyneham and Dauntsey. The damage was caused during the recent stormy weather and the road is currently closed to all vehicles and pedestrians due to serious safety concerns.

The landslip has broken up the road surface and it is still moving, which makes the site extremely dangerous for people to access. It is completely



inaccessible and impassable for all motor vehicles and bicycles, while anyone who breaks through the fences to access the site on foot is putting themselves in danger of serious harm.

Wiltshire Council is continuing to assess the site, but is currently unable to carry out any work on the road as it is too dangerous to use any heavy machinery.

Purton Placard

Purton and District AGE concern

Come and join us at two events we have decided to arrange for the start of this year.

April 1st: the return of our 3B's evening at the Village Hall from 7pm – Bangers, Beans and Bingo. Meal served with jacket potato and a dessert. £8 per head (see notes for details) limited numbers.

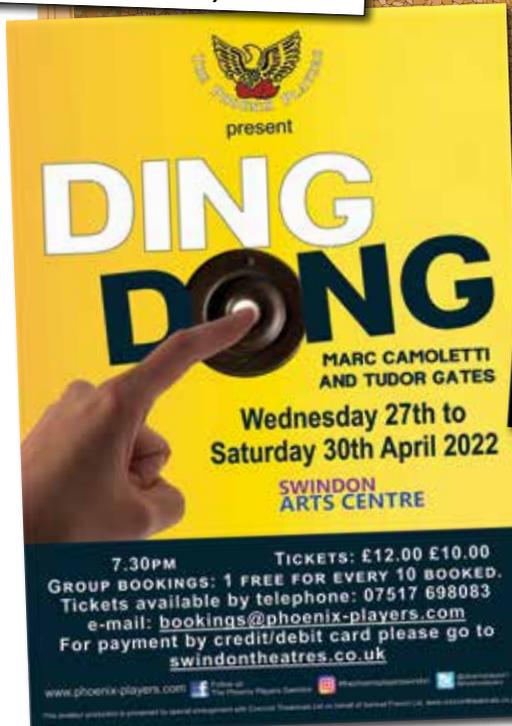
Also Mystery Coach Trip with lunch on May 11th for the pensioners, £15 each (see notes for details)

Purton Evening WI Cake Stall

9th April, outside
Purton Library
between 9 am
& 11 am.

Purton Bowls Club Easter Coffee Morning

Tuesday 12th April 10 am to 12 noon
Craft Items, Cakes, Books, Raffle & much more



present

DING DONG

MARC CAMOLETTI
AND TUDOR GATES

Wednesday 27th to
Saturday 30th April 2022

SWINDON
ARTS CENTRE

7.30PM TICKETS: £12.00 £10.00
GROUP BOOKINGS: 1 FREE FOR EVERY 10 BOOKED.
Tickets available by telephone: 07517 698083
e-mail: bookings@phoenix-players.com
For payment by credit/debit card please go to
swindontheatres.co.uk

www.phoenix-players.com

This website production is presented by special arrangement with Phoenix Theatres Ltd on behalf of Swindon Theatre Ltd. 00000000000000000000



Retro

Energetic rock 'n roll covers band

Saturday 9 April
9.00pm at the
Purton Red House

ELVIS
SPRINGSTEEN
QUEEN
JOHNNY CASH
ROLLING STONES
KINKS
BEATLES
CHUCK BERRY
EAGLES
DIRTY FEEGOOD
T-BEX
And many more...

www.retroband.co.uk

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



Cricklade Foodbank will be open in the

Jenner Hall

Bath Road, Cricklade SN6 6AX

**every Friday between
10.00am and 11.30am**

Help & Advice will be available

You can:

Call – 01666 826982 (we will call you back)

Email – cricklade@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Visit the website: malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

**We are looking for
volunteers to help at**

Purton Library

**If you enjoy meeting new people,
and love books and reading we'd
like to hear from you**

Contact Jane Hunt,
Library Service Volunteer Coordinator
Tel: 01225 713792
Email: jane.hunt@wiltshire.gov.uk



Learning for Life
**LONGLEAZE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

School Governors Wanted

The Governing Body of Longleaze Primary School is looking to appoint Co-opted Governors.

Governors play an important part in School life, and this is an opportunity for someone from the community to become involved with our school. Being a member of the governing body, does require time commitment. We hold eight meetings across the academic year. You are also required to attend training and undertake school visits relevant to your areas of responsibility. While being a member of the governing body is a voluntary role, you will be able to claim for travel expenses if needed.

At this time the Governing Body is seeking someone who is not a parent; with particular interest in Teaching and Learning or Human Resources but other skills are always welcome to complement those already involved. There is

no need for specific educational knowledge or background but the ability to offer a strategic view would be an advantage. Full training and support will be offered.

It is recognised that effective Governors can have a positive impact on both the school and local Community. If you are looking for a new and rewarding experience, we look forward to hearing from you.

To find out more, without obligation, contact Mrs Oakes, Head Teacher. Tel: 01793 849251 email: admin@longleaze.wilts.sch.uk More information about our wonderful School can be found on our website: www.longleaze.wilts.sch.uk

An enhanced DBS check will be required for the successful candidate. We are an equal opportunities employer.

Millennium Garden Rejuvenation Project update

I recently met Jenny Barnes, one of the initiators of the garden, who told me a little more about its origins. Apologies to Jenny and company if I have made any mistakes about the early history or names.

In 1998 an idea was generated to create a community green space in the centre of Purton. The plot was a derelict piece of housing association land at the entrance to The Peak. In 1998 an initial meeting was held, and Purton in Bloom was born. Tony

Price was Chair, Gordon Kirk Treasurer, and Jenny Barnes was Secretary, with meetings held at the Bowls Club. The housing association agreed to the project and work started. Keith Mobey drew up the plans, John Matthews also advised and helped, and there was a huge effort put in by Purton gardeners. I understand Purton in Bloom became Purton Open Gardens, initially raising money for the Millennium Garden, with POG becoming a fixture in Purton's social life. (I remember going to one of the first Open Weekends myself and being amazed at the industrial amounts of refreshments being produced by Sheila Price and the army in the Price's garage!)

Jenny has recently spoken to some of those involved over 20 years ago. They

all agree it was hard work but lots of fun, and they enjoyed meeting and chatting to



lots of people.

Over the years the band maintaining the plot inevitably dwindled, and the garden became overgrown and tired. Nick and Jackie Yerbury have kept it ticking over in recent times, persuading fellow

gardeners to help when possible, and that is how I got involved. Many Purtonians don't know it is there, or that it is a community garden. A small group has persisted with the upkeep, and recently Purton Parish Council and GreenSquare have both given grants towards refurbishment. It has been a real boost to the volunteers to receive backing from these organisations.

We have commissioned some pieces from The Shed - a sign for the entrance, a replacement for the rotting plant support and a planter which hopefully will house herbs to use in Purton cooking! The craftsmanship is wonderful, and we thank them for their support and encouragement. Special thanks to Steve Hares, Phil Howell & Albi Richardson.

There are many others who have contributed to the rejuvenation so far. For example: Keith Mills and team of Cotswold Tree Surgeons have donated woodchip to freshen up the central area and taken down a self-planted tree that was threatening the retaining wall. Steve at Artworking has kindly contributed the 'rejuvenation' sign; we have had bulbs and plants donated, and help with planting. Colin at Greatfield Nursery discounted the sleepers to make the new beds and Paddy Griffiths advises us and contributes manpower. GreenSquare have carried out repairs, contributed fresh pebbles and removed all the green waste and of course, grants from GreenSquare and Purton Parish Council have made the rejuvenation possible.

A huge acknowledgement to John and Jill Beattie who are giving their knowledge, time, encouragement and muscle - even turning out in the rain!

We would like to invite you to see how work is progressing. The rogue tree needs to be replaced, so on May 7th some of the original gardeners will be planting a new one which will also mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This is part of an informal Open Morning for people to drop in. Do pop over to Pips to buy coffee and cake to consume in the garden as you look around. (Bring your own mug if possible.) If the weather allows, Purton Voices will kindly provide some entertainment too.

And if you fancy joining in a working party in this community garden or contributing ideas for development, I will put out a date asking for help later in the summer.

What a lovely project to be involved in.

Thanks to everyone, Diana Meares

Royal British Legion Purton Branch

Purton Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding its annual lunch on Friday 29th April at 12.30 pm at the Bolingbroke Hotel. All branch members, families and friends are very welcome to join us.

Cost for two courses would be between £13 and £20, and three courses would be between £21 and £27, depending on your choices. The main course will be a choice of one meat dish, one fish or vegetarian.

Those wishing to join us, or for more information, should contact Rosemary Hicks on 770376, or Jean Belt on 770331.

Payments, by cheque or cash, should be made in advance.

Colin Pearson, Hon Sec.

*We
Record...*



Baptisms at St Mary's Church

20 February Fergus Lockie Harris
20 February David James Fry

Burial of Ashes at St Mary's Church

22 February Myrtle Margaretta Price (91)

Funeral at St Mary's Church

25 February Ann Tracey Ritchings (56)

A book I will always remember

My first introduction to the genre, which became known as 'Nordic Noir'... tales of brutal serial killers in brooding landscapes, of dark secrets, of endless forests and lakes in a land of snow and ice

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 memory 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 Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

by Steig Larsson

Leafing through the best sellers in my local bookstore back in 2009, I was intrigued by this book. It was the first book in the Millennium Trilogy. The author had died before any of the books were published.

This was also my first introduction to the genre, which became known as "Nordic Noir" and which spawned TV series like *The Bridge* and novels like *The Snowman* and *the Witch Hunter*. Tales of brutal serial killers in brooding landscapes, of dark secrets, of endless forests and lakes in a land of snow and ice.

The main plot is an investigation into the disappearance of Harriet, the 16 year niece of Henrik Vanger. Vanger is the head of a powerful Swedish

industrial dynasty and Harriet was one of his favourites. He is convinced that a member of his family has committed murder.



Enter Mikael Blomkvist, an investigative journalist at *Millennium Magazine*. He recently investigated a wealthy businessman, Hans-Erik Wennerstrom for fraud, published the story and lost the libel case – he now faces substantial bills. Vanger hires Blomkvist to solve the mystery, offering to pay his bills, save the magazine from financial ruin and hopefully clear his name.

Enter Lisbeth Salander, a social misfit. She dresses in the gothic style – her pale face against raven black hair, black clothes, black everything... and

of course a dragon tattoo. She is highly intelligent with a photographic memory and an expert computer hacker. Vangar hires the security firm she works for to run some background checks on Blomkvist.

This is really two stories within one. There is of course the mystery to solve and in that respect it's a detective novel. Running parallel is an insight into the life and character of Lisbeth Salander – where did she come from?... Who was her father? All will be revealed in the next novel in the trilogy, "The Girl Who Played with Fire".

Salander is under a social care order – she is having problems with her guardian who abuses her. She mistrusts the police... she prefers to mete out her own justice. Matters are concluded... violently.

Meanwhile Blomkvist starts his

investigation. He goes to the scene of the disappearance on the family island and the adjoining village. There was a children's parade on the day and he starts looking at photographs of this event. He comes across a secret code on Harriet's diaries, there are clues in the photographs, he interviews family members – some are harbouring dark secrets. He employs Salander as a research assistant. Together they solve the mystery – it's all about demented serial killers (it wouldn't be Nordic Noire otherwise!).

At 500+ pages, this is a gripping tale, extremely well written. The author has an eye for detail, there are many twists and turns... I couldn't put the book down and finished it in a few days.

Oh and what did happen to Harriet? Read the book to find out.

David Murray

Purton Bowls Club



As I write this the sun is shining, let's hope the good weather continues as the bowls season is just around the corner. Weather permitting we open on Easter Saturday and play right through until the middle of September. We offer both social and competitive bowling, so if you are looking for a sport to try then please contact us and we can arrange for you to come along and have a go. It's a sport that can be played by all the family, all you need is a flat pair of shoes, we can supply you with the woods. Come and try it for free!

Here are some dates for your diary:

Tuesday 12th April - An Easter themed coffee morning from 10 am until 12 noon in the clubhouse.

Saturday 16th April 2 pm - Opening of the green – Pop along for a chat and find out more about us.

Saturday 28th May the 'Big Bowls Weekend' - Come and have a go for free from 2 pm until 6 pm.

Saturday 4th June - As part of the Jubilee celebrations at the Village Centre the green will be open from 2 pm for anyone to have a go for free.

Alison Fail, Secretary Tel: 01793 770015



Elevate Revision Skills

Year 11 students have been learning new revision techniques this month during a special study skills workshop, hosted by Elevate (<https://uk.elevateeducation.com/home>).



strategies in the time they need it most.

- Maximising The Holidays – How to maintain work rate to make the most of the holidays and the final few weeks.

Elevate Education is an international provider of study skills workshops to senior school students, and has spent more than 17 years benchmarking the habits of the country's top students. This research has identified 17 areas where

the habits and study processes of the top students differ from middle and lower performing students. Elevate workshops introduce students to these 17 skills and show them how to adopt them.

Finishing Line

The end is in sight. The last thing we want now is students stressing and forgetting the skills they've been taught over the previous few years. This seminar is the conclusion of the programme, and is designed to reinvigorate students as they approach the end of Year 11 or 13. Students are provided with a clear road map for the final few months and practical strategies to manage the pressure and stress that comes with it!

Skills Covered:

- Exam Focused Study – How to refocus and re-engage with the highest yield work, in the little time left.
- Stress And Wellbeing – What students can do to avoid burn-out through stress management, mindfulness, and wellness

Beanology Returns

We were really excited to have another day working with Lizzie and Beanology (<https://beanology.co.uk/>). Four groups of Year 7 and 8 students took part in an hour-long session that looked at our roots and how to cope with change.



They created a tree that identified the roots of their support and then added leaves that allow them to find their “flow”. This could be playing football, rolling down a hill or drawing.

We are so happy to have the continued partnership with Beanology and can't wait for future sessions.

Careers Fair 2022

After a two year wait due to Covid, we were pleased to be able to run the whole

Badminton County Final

We are very proud to announce that our Key Stage 4 Girls' Badminton Team came third in the county after the finals competition was played on Wednesday 2 March at Tidworth.



Congratulations to Year 11 students Tia O'Keeffe, Lana Gray, Lucie Miles and Molly Poole.

World Book Day - MFL Style

Mrs Lister reports: On Thursday 3 March 2022 the MFL Department embraced World Book Day. Students were shown a series of well known book titles in French and German and they had to use their

linguistic knowledge to decipher them. We then worked on a popular short story to see how much we could understand, using both visual and linguistic clues. In French we explored “La Chenille qui fait des trous” (The Very Hungry Caterpillar) and in German we looked at “Der Maulwurf, der wissen wollte, wer ihm auf den Kopf gemacht hat” (The Story of the Little Mole who went in search of Whodunit).

Students were pleasantly surprised by how much they could understand and we discussed how beneficial it was to read in a foreign language to develop

school careers fair for our students. It was fantastic to see the gallery buzzing once again with many local experts inspiring and guiding our students in all things career and post-16 related.

The feedback we received from our visitors has been positive and encouraging. Our students should be very proud of how they conducted themselves, asking relevant questions and getting stuck in.

We would like to thank our visitors for taking the time to speak with our students and to all staff who played a part in making this event a success!





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05/22



decision to pick a final three. Mrs Loxton said she chose these three amazing entries due to their detailed design. Congratulations to Sophie G from 7R1, Maddison D from 7P1 and Stanley P from 7B2, who each received an Amazon voucher for their hard work.



linguistic and grammatical knowledge. My French class enjoyed looking at a selection of books I had brought in ranging from Peppa Pig in French to *Le garçon en Pyjamas Rayé* (The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas) to see how many keywords they could recognise. To complete our session, students, with a guided structure provided, wrote a review about their favourite book.

Year 7 Castle Competition

This term our Year 7 students were set an optional challenge homework to build a model castle. History teacher Mrs Loxton was impressed with all the entries received making it a difficult

The Addams Family - Whole School Production

The Music and Drama departments came together for this amazing whole school musical which brought the beloved quirky Addams Family from screen to stage!



The Addams Family is a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family. It features an original story and it's every father's nightmare: Wednesday

Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family – a man her parents have never met. And if that wasn't upsetting enough, Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before – keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change

for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents.

We are looking for new members to join our support staff.

Vacancies currently exist for cleaners. See our website for all current vacancies: <https://bradonforest.org.uk/vacancies/> Anyone interested can call the school for an application form on 01793 770570.

Purton Football Club

Unfortunately since my last column in the magazine positive results have still eluded us. With only a couple of games left by the time you read this, we are focusing on looking forward to next season when many things need to be addressed. The management and playing side will be our priority, as well as pitch maintenance and fundraising.



While mentioning fundraising, may I thank those who attended the Peter Shilton sporting dinner. It was a special night for PFC to have such a legend of the game visit us to talk about classic moments in his career. This included working under Brian Clough and, of course, the Maradona handball incident, during which Peter was quite animated! Although Maradona is no longer with us, Peter still has not forgiven him and rightly so!

Helmut and myself have personally thanked Peter since and he wanted to say how much he enjoyed it and was made most welcome by everyone he spoke to.

I have another dinner lined up for the autumn but will not disclose the name of the speaker yet until things are sorted out contract-wise, but I think it will be another sell out! Please get your names down as soon as I announce it, as I have to do it on a first come first served basis again due to restricted numbers in the Purton Red House.

A date for your diary is July 9th for our annual ex-players charity match in which this year we will be raising money for both PFC and Ady Kember's family after the sad loss of Ady, one of our former players and a popular club member.

Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC

Purton Tennis Club



With the summer approaching, we have had the courts cleaned and they are looking really good and ready for the new season. (Many thanks to our maintenance crew!) The summer league will be starting at the end of April. We have six teams entered into the Swindon and District league – two men's, two ladies' and two mixed teams. Practice nights are Mondays for the men and Tuesdays for the ladies.

Nicola will start her Saturday sessions for our junior members on Saturday 2th April. There is no extra charge for juniors taking part in these sessions.

We will be holding a fun handicap tournament for all members on Sunday 10th April, starting at 10.30. All members are invited to take part. Partners will be drawn on the day in order to make the pairings even, so everyone stands a chance to make it through to the final.

This is a fun tournament and spectators are welcome to come along, enjoy a cup of tea and enjoy watching the tennis.

Our coaches Jon and Sid continue to teach on our courts each week and Sid is also running a cardio session on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. Cardio is a fun way to get fit and improve your tennis at the same time.

If you are interested in taking up tennis, feel that you need some coaching, or want to dust off that racquet then please get in contact with our coaches or any member of the committee (details are on our website) we will be pleased to hear from you.

Jon Bastin (coach) jjbimages@gmail.com

Sid Falconer (coach) sjfalconer12975@hotmail.co.uk

Janet Saunders (secretary) janetcsaunders@gmail.com

Purton Cricket Club



The Purton Cricket Club section in the last issue focussed on the opportunities at the club for the younger members of the community. For those who are a little older, more experienced and ready for hard ball cricket, the Club offers a fantastic opportunity to enhance cricket skills and play regular matches. You will find weekly training sessions and matches in the Wiltshire Youth Cricket League. The club caters for Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 19 age groups. Age groups are led by qualified coaches many of whom are First Aid trained and all have been through the ECB safeguarding young people training.

We have very strong links with the Wiltshire Cricket organisation who regularly play age group county matches and training at the Club here in Purton. Indeed, quite a few of our own home-grown players

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have gone on to represent the County in various age groups. We even have an “old Purtonian”, Craig Miles, who currently plays professional cricket for Warwickshire County Cricket Club and remains in touch with the Club.

At the moment we are running our age group indoor Winter Coaching Programme but soon we’ll be playing outside at our beautiful ground, on our grass square and practising in our 3 outdoor nets which members can book. In fact, the season kicks off for our seniors with a friendly on the 30th April. From this date you will see training sessions as well as long and short formats of cricket being played throughout the week at the ground. You are most welcome to spend a few minutes spectating.

A word of caution as we prepare for the season you may notice groundworks taking place with mowers and a tractor in operation. If you exercise your dog on the footpath, please take care, keep them on a lead and pick up anything that they leave behind!

The Club offers a genuinely inclusive and welcoming environment. Ask any

of our 120 members or their parents, families and friends who regularly come out to support them at training or in the matches we play at home and across the county. Last season we hosted a six-a-side intra club tournament for family members and youth players, not to mention our bicentennial match vs the MCC. All of this is run by our friendly volunteers who are always pleased to welcome extra support and help with a range of jobs; administrative, ground maintenance, coaching, social media, umpiring, helping with sponsorship and our pavilion rebuild project.

At Purton CC we have an extremely strong and thriving youth section and are keen to grow and develop. If you, or someone you know, would like to be part of the community we are building, please contact membership.purtoncc@gmail.com.

And don’t forget, the Club has summer programmes for All Stars (5-8 year olds), starting 8th July, and Dynamos (8-12 years olds), starting 6th May. Login to <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/> and search Purton.

Graham Wright

Calling all Gardeners... *Purton Open Gardens, 9th-10th July*

Many thanks to those who have already agreed to participate. We’d also love to have more new gardens – both big and small - taking part and raising more money for various charities. It’s not a competition - it’s about sharing what you have made or are planning and what you enjoy in your garden. It’s wonderful to see what other people have created.

We all have weeds or areas that are

works in progress, so please don’t worry. Sometimes people prefer to just show their front gardens from the pavement. Several of the venues will be selling refreshments and it’s always a very enjoyable community event.

If you would consider taking part, please contact Diana or Adam Meares on 01793 770046 for further information.

Purton & District Probus Club



On Tuesday the 8th of March the Club experienced a reminiscent presentation, especially for the older members, concerning some local heroes of World War II.

Paul Gentleman and his enthusiastic supporter, Noel, associates of "Swindon Heritage", gave us "The Swindon Boys", a PowerPoint presentation which included film footage of air battles and the recorded voices of two wartime Prime Ministers.

Harold and John Starr grew up in Swindon where their parents, Ellen and Morley Starr, ran The Central Temperance Hotel, in Regent Street, now the site of the Savoy Pub. Born in 1914, Squadron Leader Harold Starr's contribution to the Battle of Britain, flying Hurricanes, was considerable. As Squadron leader of 253 Squadron, he clocked up a significant record. Wing Commander John Starr, born 1917, also had a memorable service career, being awarded the DFC with a later bar. John flew the Mosquito VI and recorded successes against a number of bombers and fighters. On one occasion, he had a narrow escape when closing on a bomber to within 50 yards, the resulting

explosion of the enemy aircraft blinded his vision and removed layers of paint from the nose of his Mosquito. Later in the war, his Mosquitos intercepted a high proportion of the Doodlebug flying bombs.

Wing Commander Ken Rees, the third member of the trio and a nephew of the Starr family, flew the Wellington Bomber, one of the last wood & canvas aircraft. Leading his team to lay mines against German battleships, he was obliged to ditch into a Norwegian lake and as a prisoner was escorted to Stalag Luft III for a very different adventure. Having almost succeeded in "The Great Escape", he eventually returned home to settle in the Isle of Anglesey and write his memoirs.

Our speakers Paul and Noel gave us a very memorable morning. Our next meeting, on April 12th at 10 a.m. in the Millennium Hall, is the A.G.M. John Clark will talk on 'Alternative Energy'. On the 26th April, Dr G. White will address the members with "Portraits of Elizabeth I. Visitors and new members welcome.

Bob Stevens

After 8

I've just read my emails and this piece wrote itself; so many comments of how much people had enjoyed the evening, seeing so many there and thanks to Janet & Helen for organising. The quiz was fun but as usual we had forgotten too many of last year's events. It was an alphabetical quiz. X caused trouble, so we had to find two



countries with an x in their name, answers at the end. Our thanks to Helen and Rick for the picture quiz, who knew that Malcolm Muggeridge looked so young.

Before the fun of the quiz Janet introduced us to the Blue Stockings, well she did bring the wool and needles in case anyone volunteered to knit one. The term was used in the 18th century to describe people who had literary and intellectual interests. The term was later used to mean just women who preferred intelligent conversation or writing letters and essays rather than play cards or hobbies that men thought more appropriate to women's brains. Anyone wish to sew a sampler or try tatting? These groups of women were privileged and in Society so that they would have contact with the thinkers of the day, even if they were dismissed when the port was served.

Lord Byron in 1821 dismissed a fellow poet Felicia Dorothea Hemans suggesting "that she knit blue stockings not wear them." In the first group only

one person had worn blue stockings but the name has stuck through the ages. It is still used today but disparagingly. In 1781 Elizabeth Montagu published essays but of course her name didn't appear, just as the Brontës learnt, only a book bearing a man's name can be published.

This led us on to a lively discussion on education for women and the state of education today. Some, like Janet, had used lockdown to research a topic that had interested her, whilst others had found lectures, talks etc. on the internet. Others of us just read and swapped books. One site that some had found of use was Futurelearn.com which has connections to the Open University and other institutions.

These ideas of the Blue Stocking get together brought us in mind of the formation of the National Housewives' Register in the 1950s which became The National Women's register of which After8 is an offshoot.

Quiz Answer: Mexico and Luxembourg

Eve Booy

Sing FourFour Community Choir

Do you like to sing? Are you looking for a new hobby? Do you want to make new friends? Joining a choir could be for you!

"SingFourFour" is a mixed community choir of some 45 members from Cricklade, Purton and the surrounding area. We have varying levels of musical experience and share a passion for singing and enjoying music in a friendly and supportive group. Our musical director, Jen Bamford, selects a wide range of music and assisted by talented

accompanists ensures that rehearsals are both stimulating and fun.

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays, 7.30-9.30 p.m. at Cricklade United Church in Calcutt Street. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 16, no audition is required. We look forward to welcoming new members so why not give it a go?

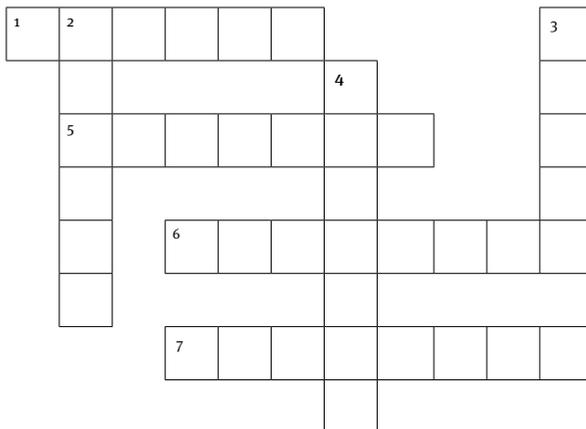
For further information see our website: www.singfourfour.org.uk or telephone Pat Hughes, Chairperson, 01793 772382.

Mini crossword

Here is the next in our series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun. Again there are no prizes but the answers to March's puzzle are 1) Collins 2) Locks 3) Hyde 4) Hoggs 5) Packhorse 6) Tadpole 7) Mud 8) Pond

This month there are seven clues and readers will benefit from their general knowledge.

- 1 across Six British Kings and a Saint (6)
- 5 across Baby or bridal weather (7)
- 6 across Famous Grand National fence (8)
- 7 across Woodland flower (8)
- 2 down Religious festival (6)
- 3 down Apples in the boat race (5)
- 4 down Testing sport (7)



we try to take 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.

This is another crossword created by Neil and Rob Miles with some general knowledge questions to challenge villagers. Answers will be in the May 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

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

Fundraising Jam Sale

After the success of my Pictures of Purton charity calendars at the end of 2021, I'm back to ask for your kindness and support again! My £3000 target

for Prostate Cancer Research is getting closer thanks to the generosity of many people in Purton, after calendar sales, Christmas fayres and Santa hat

challenge were all a great success, so thank you!

So what's next? Jam!

Mary has very kindly donated some of her amazing jams and chutneys for me to sell in Pips Community Cafe. If you haven't had the good fortune to try Mary's marmalade or plum jam (to name but a few) on your toast, or her delicious chutney in your cheese sandwiches, I urge you to come and buy some! If you are already a fan, then please tell your friends and come and stock up. All money raised will go straight to my Just Giving page - www.justgiving.com/jogower - either by your direct donations, or I'm happy to take cash and will make the donation for you.

I will also have Prostate Cancer Research Charity wrist bands and pins available.

When is this happening I hear you ask?

I will be in Pips Community Cafe, on the

High Street, over lunchtime on Friday 22nd April and from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. on Saturday 23rd of April.

If neither of these dates are convenient for you, you can reserve and collect direct from me in Witts Lane (or I can deliver if you live in Purton).

I will post a reminder, along with exactly what jams and chutneys will be available, nearer the time, on my charity Facebook page www.facebook.com/JoMarathonChallenge, as well as the Pips Community Cafe page and other Purton pages.

Thanks again for your support.

If you'd like to read more about the amazing work of Prostate Cancer Research and why your money is so important, please head to their website www.prostate-cancer-research.org.uk

Thanks, Jo Gower

Christian Aid Week is looming!

As you know, I'm sure, Christian Aid Week usually arrives in Purton with a trumpet fanfare of activity!

This year, with the horrendous concerns in Ukraine, we shall be even more active than usual, as we want to support the DEC Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal as well as others in desperate need in other parts of the world, where they are struggling with climate change, which causes hunger, flooding and famine.

Please support Purton Christian Aid team as much as you can, by learning more about the work of Christian Aid, at events in St Mary's Church, coming for breakfast in the church, cooking

and buying from the famous Purton Cake Trail around the village and putting money in the red envelopes or e-envelopes distributed around the village.

The week starts with breakfast in St Mary's followed by a special interactive church service on Sunday May 15 and ends with the Cake Trail on Saturday May 21st.

And of course there will be the infamous quiz, available from Palm Sunday, April 10th.

*For more information please contact
Mary Hodges 770505 and Libbie 771018*

The Phoenix Players

Due to COVID, we made the difficult decision in January 2022 to postpone our January production until April and we will now perform at the Arts Centre from Wednesday to Saturday 27th - 30th April 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

The play is a comedy, 'Ding Dong' by Marc Camoletti and Tudor Gates and will be just the thing to chase away the winter blues after the festive season is over.

"Bernard is married to Jacqueline who is having an affair with Robert who pays a call girl to pose as his wife. Add a surprise appearance by Robert's actual

wife Juliette, mix in a maid who can only cater with what she finds left in the freezer and you have the perfect recipe for a very awkward dinner party".

Rehearsals have been beset with problems for our cast; COVID, a broken shoulder and a hospital stay to name just a few, but rehearsals are going well and we can't wait to get to the Arts Centre and put on a fab show.

Ticket prices are £12 with concessions at £10 and can be reserved from Pauline on 07517 698083 or by emailing: bookings@phoenix-players.com



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Church Floodlighting



March 27 St Mary's was floodlit for Mothering Sunday
'A Ray of Light for a Mother's plight in Estrangement'

April 17 St. Mary's will be floodlit for Easter Day to celebrate that He is Risen.
Hallelujah!

April 27 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Norma Charlesworth**

For April, floodlighting bookings will start at 7.00pm and the lights will stay on until 10.30pm. 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.



Stay fit and active while studying this year. With the Easter holidays fast approaching, students can get a great deal on a fully inclusive Life Zone membership package at one of Wiltshire Council's 20 leisure centres this Easter, including Lime Kiln Leisure Centre in Royal Wootton Bassett. For just a single payment of £29.99, you will get unlimited access to the fitness suite, public swimming sessions, group exercise classes, health suite (where available) as well as a gym induction if required, for 4 weeks from the date of purchase. There is no admin fee to pay either!

This offer is open to those aged 16 and over in full time education (proof of enrolment will be required). It is not available in conjunction with any other offer and is only available for purchase between now and 17 April 2022.

Simply contact your local leisure centre (details at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure), visit us to ask about details or join online at <https://leisure.wiltshire.gov.uk/LhWeb/en/Public/Home/Memberships>. Full terms and conditions apply.

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Poetry Corner

A Purtonian's grandson wrote this lovely little – and very descriptive poem. During Storm Eunice in February, his teacher asked the class to write a poem about the weather that day using as many descriptive words as possible. Fraser, age 8, apparently then narrated

his poem over a video taken of the stormy weather which his grandmother then sent to an author friend in America. She transcribed it and added the illustrations and we are delighted to include it in Purton Magazine.

I am a Storm

I am a storm
whipping winds that batter faces

I am a storm
torrential rain hammering down
shocking people below

I am a storm
and I am ferocious and furious
I am rapid and breathtaking

I am a storm
and I am intense
vicious in extreme

I will destroy you
with my mighty gusts of wind

I AM A STORM.

By Fraser, Age 8 years





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

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12/22

Prospect Hospice

Have fun at It's a Prospect Knockout!

It's a Prospect Knockout promises a fun day out with friends, family or colleagues while tackling wacky challenges.

The event, in aid of Prospect Hospice in Swindon, involves entertaining games including those with foam and water, running over large inflatable obstacles and more. Not only a challenge for those taking part, but great for spectators to come along and cheer on your team.

It is being held on Sunday 17 July 2022 at Swindon Cricket Club, County Road, Swindon, from 10 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. and is for teams of ten adults aged 18 or over.

The friendly competition will involve teams competing in several games and



working together to get as many points as possible.

Sheryl Crouch, head of income at Prospect Hospice, said: "Everyone who takes part will have an unforgettable experience and will also be helping Prospect Hospice to care for people who need end of life care and supporting their loved ones."

Entry is £300 per team (or £30 per person) and each team is asked to raise an additional minimum of £500 (or £50 per person).

To find out more and to enter a team go to www.prospect-hospice.net/knockout

Royal Wootton Bassett & District Rotary Club

Would you like to be involved in projects and volunteer to help your local community, and national and international communities around the world?

Rotary needs your talents, energy and skills to help the lives of others. You will get an enormous sense of achievement and have fun too, doing something really worthwhile and be part of a worldwide organisation of 1.2 million members. Men and women of all ages and walks of life are welcome.

We support local charities and organise fundraising events to help those in need at home and abroad.

Have a look at our Facebook page and

our club website to see some of our activities:

Facebook Page: RWB & District Rotary Club
Club Website: www.rwbrotary.club

We hold face-to-face lunch meetings twice a month at the Wiltshire Golf Club, Royal Wootton Bassett and two Zoom meetings a month on a Wednesday lunchtime from 12 to 1 p.m. Of course, you are not obligated to attend all these meetings.

If you can offer Rotary a little of your free time to join us we'd love to hear from you. You can contact us on our club website (see above) or email our secretary on secretary@rwbRotary.club

*Linda Locke, President Elect
& Public Relations Officer*

Calling all Trustees

Do you have a trust in your family or are you a trustee looking after money or property for someone, such as a child?

If the answer is “yes” then from September 2022 it is likely that you will need to register the trust with HMRC.

Currently, certain trusts need to be registered with HMRC if they are liable for Income Tax, Inheritance Tax, Stamp Duty or Capital Gains Tax. But from September 2022 it will be necessary to register nearly all ‘express’ trusts, even if there is no tax to pay.

What is an ‘express’ trust?

An ‘express trust’ is a trust that was created deliberately, such as a trust created by someone’s will or a trust that a person makes by a deed during their lifetime. This means that after a person has died, if they have a trust in their will which continues two years after the death, it will need to be registered.

Examples of the kind of trusts that will need to be registered include:

- A trust holding money for a child who has not reached 18 (or 21/25 depending on the wording in the will);
- A discretionary trust (where the money is to be held for several beneficiaries, but the trustees can decide how to use the funds);
- A life interest trust, where someone dies and leaves some or all their estate in a trust for another person for their lifetime and then to other beneficiaries when that person dies.

There are a few trusts which will be exempt from registration, they include:

- Certain charitable trusts;
- Trusts that are set up to be used at a later date with less than £100 in them;
- Some trusts for land, pensions, and insurance policies;
- Trusts imposed by law or by a court.

If you are not sure, it is worth checking.

Who is responsible for Registering the Trust?

The trustees will be responsible for registering the trust. If you are an executor of a will, you may also be a trustee. It is best to check the will or the trust paperwork to identify the trustees.

The online Trust Registration Portal is now live and you can find lots of helpful advice on the .GOV website about registering your trust. Just go to: www.gov.uk/guidance/register-a-trust-as-a-trustee#not-register

I have just made a will with a trust in it, do I need to register it now?

No, a trust in your will only starts after you die. Your trustees may need to register it if the trust continues beyond two years after your death.

If you are not sure whether your trust needs to be registered or if you would like help or guidance in the registration process, please get in contact with Rachel Saunders at Forrester Sylvester Mackett by email rachelsaunders@fmsolicitors.co.uk or telephone 01793 522688 and she will be able to offer you further assistance.



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