

May 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>		
www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/		

Schools & Playgroups

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

Purton Magazine committee:

Avril Ainscough, Barbara Compton,
Sheila Fowler, Sandra Horsnall, Francis
Sheppard, Richard McCarthy, Neil Miles.

Designed by: Heather Ponting-Bather,
In Touch Design & Print, Purton.

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c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College
Road, Purton SN5 4AR

Tel: 01793 772954
email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Distribution & Delivery enquiries:

Sandra Horsnall Tel: 01793 770157

Email:
distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:

The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close,
Purton SN5 4DF

Also online at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

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Front cover image: New lambs at Rogers
Farm, Purton

Credit: Michael Woodward

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From the Editors

May 2022

Volume 44 No.5

1st Published 1975

This month our Nature Correspondent writes on page 29 about the return of our 'aerial feeders' to benefit from the plentiful supply of insects available on the wing. After the 'dainty' Sand Martins arrive the swallows appear, reminding us that "one swallow makes no summer nor does one day." The sentiment is well known and appreciated especially with our weather but it seems that Aristotle (384 B.C. to 322 B.C.) first wrote those words in his best known work on ethics. It is rather comforting to think that more than 2000 years later, these special harbingers of summer are still swooping around our lovely landscapes.

The Gardeners' Guild article on page 37 tells us of another outdoor institution from 2000 years ago, the Maypole. It seems that there is also a link to pagan folklore with the first day of summer being the most significant for the ancient Celts. They marked traditional fertility rites on the day with a tree being selected, stripped of its branches and decorated with flower garlands. The tree was considered to represent masculine energy while the spring floral garlands represented feminine energy; the sacred tree and attendant spirits would bring the community good luck.

These days the tradition of maypole dancing is still enthusiastically enacted

in many villages around the country, especially on May Day itself. Different coloured ribbons are weaved in opposite directions by dancers criss-crossing to form a multi-coloured pattern with the ribbons although reversing that process may well be more difficult than it sounds.

By the month of May the season of summer sports is getting into full swing while football finals conclude the winter season. On page 56 Purton Football Club reports the most disappointing season in the memory of many but plans are afoot for another fund-raising dinner in September. Meanwhile Purton Cricket Club have a full and exciting looking fixture list on page 59 and include details about how well the club is geared to coaching youngsters – new England cricket captains always seem to be needed! Purton tennis club are also doing their bit for young aspirants with free training sessions on Saturday mornings for junior members – see page 59.

Finally a quite staggering fact has recently been reported on page 19. Currently some £91 billion is still circulating in the form of paper £20 and £50 bank notes that will no longer be legal tender after 30th September.

£2

Buys a copy of the latest and still frustrating Christian Aid quiz.
See page 19

7th

May for the Millennium Garden tree planting and open morning.
See page 21

£91bn

Of paper £20 and £50 notes in circulation but no longer legal tender from 30/09/2022. See page 19

Purton Parish Council News



Annual Parish Meeting and Community Awards



Thank you to all those who attended our Annual Parish Meeting with positive comments, observations and questions and for those who nominated our unsung Community Heroes. The Council were delighted to present certificates and gifts to Sandra Horsnell, Joe Gardner, Lucy



Lewis, David and Mary Nettleton, Barry Pitts and Hazel Woodbridge. All deserving nominations and the 2021-22 winner, presented with a trophy, was Barry Pitts. A huge thank you goes to all our volunteering community in Purton.

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

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Community Grants

Our community grant scheme for 2022-23 is now open with the first round of applications to be heard on Monday June 20th. Applications need to be presented to the council offices by Monday 13th June latest. If you need information or support in completing your application, please do not hesitate to contact our offices directly. Application forms are available from our website or by calling the office to be sent a printed copy.

<https://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/data-transparency-sub/key-parish-council-documents>

Volunteer Footpath Team Report

A brief report from our wonderful footpath volunteering team: We were off during most of January to March. Growth across stiles etc. is minimal this time of year so no action was required. Two small repairs were carried out and a fallen branch following the high winds was cut off. The disputed route of FP50 from Vasterne Hill has been resolved by Wiltshire Council and we have waymarked it. Mysteriously, the post waymarking this footpath from FP50 in the field firstly had the way marker removed and now the post itself has gone. We will be replacing this.

Council Meetings – May 2022

Annual Council Meeting Monday 9th May 2022

Purton Village Hall and Institute Building Charity Meeting Monday 23rd May 2022

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 07715 681950 or email danielleb@therisetrust.org. The Youth Club meets on Wednesdays at Purton Village Hall from 7.00 pm.m to 8.30 p.m. for young people in Year 7 and above.

Community Events

- Thursday 2nd June 2022
Purton “Baked Off “ baking competition. Deadline for entries 23rd May (Commemorative Jubilee gift for all those who enter)
- Friday 3rd June 2022
FREE Jubilee Tea Party 12 noon -3pm 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 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. Details of applications are posted on our website and on the Wiltshire Council portal, the link for which can also be found on our site. Applications to be considered at our meetings will be posted on our agenda, which can be located on our notice boards and website.

- PL/2021/08733 – Bell Inn, Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke. SN5 4JG. Single storey side extension to kitchen.
- PL/2022/00259 – Braydon Manor Farm, Braydon. SN5 0AG. Variation of condition 8 on application N/13/01723/FUL - Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Solar Array to Provide Circa 7 MW Generation Capacity Together with Transformer Stations; Internal Access Track; Landscaping; Security Fencing; Security Cameras. Access Gate; And Ancillary Infrastructure.
- PL/2021/11324 – Land off the Buffer, Ridgeway Farm Development, Purton Road. SN5 4JT. Care Home for older people (Class C2) with associated access, parking, and landscaping.
- PL/2022/00669 – Woodside Farm, Braydon. SN5 0AA. All-weather surface riding arena for private use.
- PL/2022/00823 – 41 Upper Ox Hill, Purton. SN5 4GG. Garage extension and conversion.
- PL/2022/01013 – 14 The Hyde, Purton. SN5 4DY. The Proposal is for single-storey front extension, single-storey rear extension and alterations to the roof form to allow for habitable accommodation.
- PL/2021/09283 – 7 Hill View, Purton. SN5 4GP. Extension to the rear elevation.

Play Park Update

Through Community Engagement, we have installed a new POD Swing at Play Close Play Park to enable less abled children to experience the sensation of conventional swings.

VACANCY

Community Development Officer

10-15 hours per week. NJC points 18-23: £25,419-£28,226 pro rata.

Purton Parish Council is looking for an energetic and highly efficient Community Development Officer to work alongside the Clerk to Council, Officers and supporting Councillors in their efforts to improve the lives of the residents by developing a sense of community within the parish.

The Parish Council has seats for 15 councillors, with 10 currently serving, whose main aim is to ‘work with the community for the community’. They are supported by a team of 10 employees, led by the Clerk to the Council. The Council has a budget of £339,575.77 to deliver a wide range of services.

The successful candidate will have a key role helping to develop the community engagement activities. This outward-facing role brings with it responsibilities such as recruiting and managing volunteers, organising events, promoting our grants scheme, fundraising, engagement in the council’s future strategy, environmental projects, youth support and communications.

You will be the Council’s person on the ground – getting to know residents and organisations and making things happen. You will be a confident self-starter who is unafraid of taking the initiative, but understands the importance of democratic processes, openness and accountability.

This role is about people. You will have excellent written and verbal communications skills and will be numerate with an eye for detail. You will thrive as part of a small, tight team

and be willing to undertake odd jobs. You will need experience of working in the community or voluntary sector, or a background in a related career such as fundraising, social work or youth work. It would be desirable to have Level 2-3 Certificate in Community Development or higher relevant qualification, and graduate applicants are welcome. You will be required to pass background checks from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Applicants should apply by emailing deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Closing date for all enquiries is 6th May 2022 (Noon).

Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council currently has the option to co-opt five Councillors. If you are interested in this community role, please follow the link below to our website and complete the forms or contact the offices directly to arrange for the information to be sent to you by post.

www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/data-transparency-sub/policies-procedures

Hall Hire, Charity Buildings

In line with Government policy, all COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. However, we ask all hirers to consider their own restrictions for the safety of those attending when booking.

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

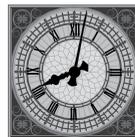
www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk – and sign up today.

After 8

Twelve After8 friends
were going for a meal
Everything was planned
for
Then Covid came to steal
Two caught Covid ...
Ten After8 friends drove
to where
The Bolingbroke was
waiting
To welcome us there

Everyone arrived, we each
ordered a drink
The table was laid ready
We took our seats in a
wink
Our meals we had pre-
ordered, so no decisions
to make
The conversations flowed
No time for a break
Time flew by, talk in every
direction
Then - what pud should I

have?
There's
quite a
selection
Soon the
evening was ending, we
needed to pay
Credit cards out
It just remains to say
Thank you all for your
company!



Sheila

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 all 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.

Spring Covid Booster

The Spring Covid Booster vaccination is for those aged 75 and over and people aged 12 years old and over with a weakened immune system. The vaccination can be booked through the National Booking Service (website below) or by phoning 119.

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/

200 Club draw

Membership is now open again, so please consider joining. The annual cost is £15 and a standing order is preferred.

Prizes are won every month; first prize is £100 and the second is £15. The April draw was done by Receptionist Karen Humphrey and first prize winners were Ken and Helen Bull.



Our Chair, Marietta Crockford, writes...

Dear Patients and Friends of Purton and Green Gable Surgery,

After a very successful first year for our 200 Club we are looking forward to our next season. We are now inviting all those who haven't set up a renewable standing order to sign up again for the new start in October 2022. Payments can be made by standing order, cash or cheque.

We thank you all for your support and are hoping we will get some new members as we still have a few slots available. Forms are available from the surgery.

*With thanks, Marietta Crockford,
PPG Chair*

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 us by email at the following address: groupforpatients@gmail.com

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

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Purton & District Age Concern

Purton and District AGE CONCERN

Where Is Everybody?

Yes, the Mystery Coach Trips are back, but we are short on numbers at the moment. Come along and enjoy our outing with lunch and a drive down the country lanes. Prices are the same as before; £15 for Purton pensioners and £17 for non-pensioners. Wednesday 11th May is the date for the first of these trips. We will pick up at all the usual places in the village. Book and pay Peter on 778119 or through your street warden.

We have made enquiries about a steam train trip on 15th June with a coach from the village in the morning and with a return mid-afternoon. This will be a bring-a-packed-lunch arrangement; details to follow. So keep this date free on your calendar!

We ran our first 3Bs event on the 1st April and were pleased to have 66 people attending, despite a couple of families not being able to make it because of positive covid results. There was a lovely, friendly, happy atmosphere which we have all been missing for so long. John, our bingo caller, was determined to do his job despite the fact that he has been quite unwell in the last few months since an operation. Good to see you back John, keep doing well. Our cooks, Charlotte, Laura and Helen, did an amazing job and there were seconds for anybody that needed it. Also thanks to Jason and Alan who supported the kitchen staff, and to all the other willing helpers who helped to set up the hall. We will be running another one on the

7th October, so put that one in your diary as well.

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.

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 your 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 of this.

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 Facebook and Twitter accounts which can be found at: Facebook – [purtonageconcern](https://www.facebook.com/purtonageconcern) and

Twitter – [@Purton_AC](https://twitter.com/Purton_AC). Please visit our social media sites and let us know what you think.

We still have a couple of walkers, 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

Purton Age Concern Minibus

I am so pleased that the extra Friday minibus journeys have been enjoyed by so many. As long as there is a demand then we shall continue and these are the next available dates (I have not included those which are already fully booked.)

The next dates will be as follows:

- Friday May 6th - Cirencester
- Friday May 20th - Stroud or Devizes or Marlborough
- Friday June 17th - Cirencester
- Friday July 8th - Cirencester
- July 22nd - Stroud or Devizes or Marlborough

Where I have indicated a choice, then I have asked the driver to enquire on the previous journey if there are any preferences or you can contact me directly. These are subject to any Covid restrictions that may be in place, including the three jabs requirement (unless exempt). Pick up from your home at 9ish and we return from Cirencester around 12 noon and slightly later from other places. Please remember your mask.



Just also to remind everyone that we will do surgery appointments but please avoid Fridays, as we currently only have one bus on the road now, but hopefully by the time you read this the grey bus will be back—fingers crossed!

Finally, I have managed to arrange two groups of over 75s to have their second booster at Lyneham in the next couple of weeks. I am hoping to do the same again later in May. This will hopefully include those who were booked to go, but then come down with covid. There has to be a month after they are clear before they are able to have the booster, so if there is anyone else who would look to arrange for their second booster, I am happy to book their appointment so that it is a block booking for everyone on the bus.

Please telephone 770862 to book, or email me at pac2bookings@gmail.com to get up to date information. Take care and stay safe.

Hazel Woodbridge, Minibus Co-ordinator

Celebrating Age Wiltshire

Our event “The Rum Tale Of The Moonfleet Diamond” was very well supported and enjoyed by those attending. The Tor Theatre Company were a talented duo who kept everyone entertained with plenty of opportunities for audience participation. We hope that they will return with another show in the not too distant future. We have received some lovely feedback – it is clear that people welcome the chance for a social get together and some light hearted fun.

I would like to thank the volunteers who helped with the setting up, refreshments and clearing away afterwards. Thanks also to Jenny Barnes who stood in for me at short notice.

The North Swindon Big Band will be performing at The Memorial Hall in Royal Wootton Bassett on Tuesday 10th May 2022 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. They have done two concerts for us previously and this should be a real treat. Toe tapping tunes and room to get up and dance if the mood takes you! The Purton & District Age Concern minibus may be available, booking in the normal way by ringing Hazel Woodbridge (01793 770862). Celebrating Age will cover the cost of the minibus.

To book a place for the concert, please ring Pat Hughes on 01793 772382 or email patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com
This is a free event.

*Pat Hughes,
Celebrating Age Wiltshire volunteer*

DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

People in Purton have been so shocked by news and photos coming from Ukraine that two of them in particular decided they HAD to do something quickly to support the new wave of refugees pouring out of the cities. Many people had already sent money to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Fund but how else to do something positive and practical to help?

The idea of a cake sale came up and within days, using social media and other village networks, a date, a venue and a time were arranged. Pips Community Café in Silver Threads Hall on Purton High St generously offered a venue and volunteers kindly made and delivered homemade bakes. A range of treats from pasties to scones, with everything in between, were all brought and bought within a couple of hours. Over £1,150 was raised. Well done Purton and thank you Katy, Mary and Libbie, for setting up a huge Purton village effort involving dozens of people desperate to help.

Wiltshire Council Community Matters

The bake sale held on 22 March at Silver Threads Hall raised £1,154.06 for the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Thank you to all the volunteer bakers who made things for the sale, and to everyone who bought at the sale and made donations. We are blown away by your generosity!

Katy, Mary & Libbie

12/22

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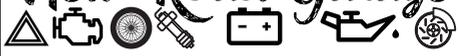
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Christian Aid Week

May 15th-21st 2022



The Purton Christian Aid Quiz is already OUT THERE and is desperate for people to buy copies £2 a go... for hours of fun and frustration.

We start the week on Mary 15th with Breakfast in the Church from 9am. Please come and join us... and let us know that you are hoping to be there. Our lovely new church at St Mary's is all set up for meals and this will be the first breakfast; porridge, croissants, allsorts! Please come and join us.

After breakfast there will be the Christian Aid Service, starting at 10.30 am. Come and find out how Christian Aid is trying to help countries in most desperate need, including Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

We are also hoping to deliver the little red envelopes to you this year – after a two year gap! – and we would LOVE you to return yours to the address on the back – please! We are so desperate to raise funds for those in dire need, including Ukraine.

Throughout May, Khalique at the Maharajah is offering a fantastic 15% reduction on his menu if people then donate their 15% to Christian Aid – how generous is that! Please see details for this offer on posters and in The Placard in this magazine.

This discount is available every Tuesday and Wednesday throughout May. Just go online – www.themaharajah.co.uk – to choose your menu, and say you are supporting Christian Aid and that you will collect your order rather than have delivery service. Thank you SO much Khalique

On May 21st we have a Cake Trail around the village again... and we do hope you will all support us by bringing cakes for us to sell or coming and buying from our tables. We know there will be tables at Upper Pavenhill, Hoggs Lane, High St (Sylvia's) and Pips so far.

For more details on any of this please contact Libbie 771018 or Mary 770505.

We welcome your support. Thank you!

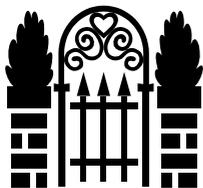
Old-style paper £20 & £50 notes to be phased out

The Bank of England has issued a warning over paper banknotes which are currently still in circulation. From 30 September 2022 old style £20 and £50 paper notes will not be accepted

as a form of payment. The scary bit is that over £19 billion worth of the notes are still in circulation – perhaps we should all look under our mattresses!

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Purton Silver Threads

Well, it is lovely to see our hall being used at long last!

Pips is now hiring it during the daytime and some of our regular users are back in the evenings.

After a long time of not meeting, we are going to hold a short AGM on Monday 6th June at 2 p.m. followed by an afternoon tea to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Silver Threads starting up again.

If members wish to go to this, could they please let Jenny know on 770339 so we know numbers for the catering.

We hope to then decide when we are going to restart our regular meetings, how often, and in what format they will be.

Lindsey Hall, Purton Silver Threads

One Stop fundraiser

On the 7th of February, both management and staff were shocked and saddened to hear that Ann Ritchings, our friend and colleague had passed away in the early hours. She is a much missed member of the team.

We will be holding a fundraiser at One Stop in Ann's memory on Saturday 28th May from 9 am until 1 pm. All the proceeds will go to The Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital London, which gave Ann such good care a few years ago. It is a charity close to Ann and her loving family's heart.

We will be selling raffle tickets with a substantial One Stop hamper, bottles and the usual array of prizes. There will also be home baked cakes and scones for sale and a tombola. Please come along and support us and remember Ann.

Pearl Lait, On behalf of Zac and your One Stop Team

Purton Open Gardens 9th-10th July 2022

We are delighted that many gardeners in Purton are kindly opening their gardens again this year, raising money for good causes, and contributing to a very enjoyable village event. There are some new gardens, and it would be lovely to add a few more to the list. It is always intriguing to see such a variety of gardens. Projects do not need to be finished (most gardens are works in progress!). Do contact us if you think you might like to join in.

Thanks, Diana and Adam Meares 770046

Purton Millennium Garden

On the 7th May there will be an informal open morning and tree-planting at the Millennium Garden, marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Purton Voices will be there, and you are invited to come into the garden to see how the rejuvenation project is progressing. Pips are happy for visitors to bring refreshments from there into the garden. Tree-planting at 1100am.

Purton Scarecrow Trail

3rd & 4th September 2022

Scarecrow entries to be with us by 30th June 2022 please!

We are planning another event as a fundraiser for maintenance costs of the defibrillators at the Village Hall and The Royal George pub.

For those of you who are not sure what a “scarecrow trail” is, it’s a quiz based on clues around the village. Each “scarecrow” will have a cryptic meaning which will usually be easy to solve but, hopefully, with a few tricky ones to make the competition worth the prizes that will be on offer.

Anyone who would like to be involved is welcome to either make their own scarecrow to put in their garden or window or to “host” one for someone else if that is easier. It has to be clearly visible from the road or path outside your property. You can be as artistic as you want or keep it really simple.

The trail will be run over Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th September 2022. We shall also run a mini trail for younger children, on a shorter route and located off the main roads.

The 2022 theme will be “Heroes & Villains”; choose from films, TV, fiction or real-life characters and make your entry as easy or tricky as you like.

We would be delighted if any shops or businesses in the village could put a scarecrow in their window, “sponsor” a scarecrow on the trail and/or offer a prize.

If you want to take part, making or hosting a scarecrow (or to offer a prize),

please contact us. Let us know your 1st and 2nd choice entry of hero, villain or hero & villain by 30th June 2022.

Let us know your contact details (name, address, postcode, telephone number and email address if you have one) via info@purton-scarecrow.co.uk or call Ali Davies 01793 772579 if you don’t have an email address. We shall then send out more information or call you about what to do next.

Please also visit and like our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail/ – where you can see previous scarecrows and perhaps get some ideas if you need them.

If you plan to offer teas, cakes or any refreshments to fund raise for your favourite charity, please let us know so that we can indicate this on the route/trail map and also please consider donating some of the money raised towards our scheme, as this will contribute to the ongoing maintenance costs of the defibrillators.

A quiz sheet with a map of all the scarecrow locations, parking and refreshment sites will be available to buy from various places in the village, both beforehand and on the weekend.

We shall provide more detailed information closer to the time, with updates in the Purton Magazine over the next few months and also on our Facebook page.



Our village gem - Hoggs Lane update

Many thanks to everyone who has given time to help out, in what has turned out to be not such a small project. I hope that you will see from the photos that gradually more and more of the wall is appearing, albeit a bit broken down in places!

There has been a huge quantity of debris created as there are roots of ivy, bramble and nettles in abundance; many are very deeply embedded, to such an extent that a hammer and chisel has been the best way to cut through some of the deeper, thicker ivy roots.

The next biggest challenge is the large patch of bramble by the Hoggs Lane sign. The dead Elderberry has now been cut down and removed, but there is a huge mass of bramble, with that gone, one will once more be able to stand at the highest point of the lane and admire the wonderful view. If there is anyone out there with a 'bladed brush cutter' willing to have a go it would be much appreciated.

Between the road surface and the base of the wall is a bank of soil, the other day I dug some of this out and sifted it to take out the roots and weeds and discovered it is actually quite nice soil. If anyone is in need of any top soil, then you are welcome to borrow my barrow and sieve to have a go.

Hopefully by the time Open Gardens happens in early July it will be looking reasonably neat and tidy, but in the meantime do come and look, and if you have time a spare pair of hands (attached to a body of course) they are always most welcome!

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

*Many thanks, Hazel Woodbridge,
Hafaway House*



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Ten Years Ago...

In last month's article, we were left with the quandary that there were 100 million definitions of a neighbourhood.

This month (that is to say ten years ago this month) Ps & Qs rode to the rescue with their own: If a parish looks like a neighbourhood and feels like a neighbourhood, then it is a neighbourhood.

As always in May, Christian Aid week came round. The editor mentioned the "annoying, addictive, yowl-inducing quiz". What was not

known is that it would become even more so, each passing year. I know, I've seen an advance copy of 2022's!

The museum's exhibit of the month was an invoice, priced to the last halfpenny, from the local corn and seed merchant to a small farmer living in Pavenhill. What was remarkable about it was that it covered a whole year, amounting to well over £1,000 in today's money. Would that we were able to obtain credit like that these days.

Purton Cricket Club was



coming back into action.

It seems that the fixture list was so congested that an under-11 game was scheduled at 10.30 p.m. More years ago than I care to mention, when I was an under-11, I was tucked up in bed at that hour.

Ed: must have been a typo!

Church Floodlighting

April 16 St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Ann Ritchings** on what would have been her birthday. With much love: Nigel, her boys and their families and Ann's sisters.

May 18th- 20th St. Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Tony Price**. The 19th would have been his 90th birthday. Loved by all his family

For May, floodlighting bookings will start at 8.30pm and the lights will stay on until 11.30pm. 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.



Purton Historical Society



Future Meetings

Venue - Purton Methodist Church,
Play Close

Thursday, 19th May 2022 at 7.30pm 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!”

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

Vince Povey is our speaker in April and, following on from this presentation, a site visit is being 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 Corps 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: Clive and Liz Rushen Tel: 01793 770933

Saturday 9th July 2022 at 2.00pm Visit to Coleshill Estate – A Guided Walk

This visit follows on from Liza Dibble’s presentation in February 2021 which covered the story of ‘Operation Sealion’ in September 1940. Preparations were underway in England to train a resistance group who would be ready to defend the country in the event of an invasion. Coleshill House became the General Headquarters. Come and discover this story and find out what remains at Coleshill.

We will meet in the Visitor Information Centre beside the Carpenters’ Canteen at 2.00pm. The walk will take us up the back drive to the Guard House. We will continue to the stable yard and the site of Coleshill House. A short walk into the woods will reveal the site of the SOE radio assembly. We will return through the park past the memorial trees and finish our walk at the replica operational base.

The walk will take under two hours and is approximately half a mile. The cost of the walk will be £5.00 per person. 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-opened on Saturday 2nd April with a new exhibition on Education at St Mary's School.

The museum will open on Saturdays from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

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

Lucy Lewis, Museum Archivist

In the Mood *Sunday 10 July, 3pm, MECA, Regent Circus, Swindon*

The Cast of Stage Struck and North Swindon Big Band have joined together to take you on a journey back to the 1940s.

The Cast of Stage Struck (TCOSS) were due to celebrate their 5th anniversary show in 2020, but due to Covid it was cancelled. Wanting still to mark this special milestone, they joined forces with North Swindon Big Band (NSBB) to bring you this extra special Sunday afternoon treat at Swindon's historic entertainment venue, MECA.

TCOSS is a Wiltshire-based singing group that performs variety shows and small concerts around the local area. They will be performing a swing and blues section with a modern twist, in tribute to the Andrews Sisters, Puppini Sisters and a Bond medley.

North Swindon Big Band, formed in 1993 as the U3A Dance Orchestra, have performed at many public events and private functions around Swindon and Wiltshire. They will be entertaining you with a selection of music from the

40s swing era and include many of the greats like Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Frank Sinatra and Sammy Nestico as well as dance era of the 1940s through to the present day.

MECA seemed the perfect venue to hold this afternoon of song and dance. The Art Deco style building originally opened as The Regent Theatre in 1929 and has seen many changes over the years.

Tickets cost £14 (under 18s £10) and include a cream tea. If you book and pay before 10 May, they are offering an early bird offer of £2 off a ticket.

Our chosen charity for this event is Alzheimer's Society. TCOSS and NSBB are passionate about music and know that research suggests that listening to or singing songs can provide emotional and behavioural benefits for people with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

Tickets are now on sale by calling 07596 151051 or contacting The Cast of Stage Struck on social media.

Purton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



The Guiding units love a celebration and there has been plenty of opportunity for that in the last month. For Mothers' Day, 1st Purton Brownies decorated jars and filled them with a week's worth of special messages or vouchers for the Brownies to do chores. 2nd Purton Brownies made felt hearts which included sewing – always a challenge! The Guides made button and wire flower bouquets. All age groups – Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers and their leaders – attended the Mothering Sunday service at St Mary's Church.

The Purton Brownie units both celebrated girls completing their Brownie Gold award before they moved on to Guides. That is the highest award a Brownie can achieve and requires significant effort. Having spent most of their time in Brownies either online or at outdoor meetings, it was fantastic to be able to present Misha and Eva with their Gold awards.

Easter was the next celebration: Rainbows made cards, decorated bonnets played numerous games and generally had great fun at their April Easter-themed meeting. Guides made Easter trees and decorations.

2nd Purton Brownies travelled to space! They looked through a telescope, made a planet mobile, explored phases of the moon in Oreos (before eating them of course!), made constellation viewers and tried simple tasks an astronaut would find difficult with thick gloves on, and looking through plastic to simulate an astronaut's helmet.

Purton Guides and Rangers joined 5th Melksham Guides for a day of wintery fun based on the 'Winter Wonderland' badge. The badge and activities were designed by members locally who are participating in international trips, including Arabella this year and Aoife next year.

1st Purton Brownies have spent a couple of evenings on fire safety. They thought about fire escape plans for their homes, learnt about ways to help keep themselves safe in the event of a fire, and practised 'stop, drop and roll'. They also safely struck matches to light candles and then toasted marshmallows. The second meeting was an exciting end to the spring term with a visit to Swindon Fire Station, courtesy of fire officer Andy and White Watch. Brownies, brothers and sisters, parents and leaders all learnt a lot about the work of the fire service, culminating in having a go with the hoses and Molly proudly making her promise in front of a fire engine – a truly memorable promise ceremony.

We'd love to have more members joining the fun. 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



May Nature Correspondent

The Aerial feeders

By early May, with plenty of insects on the wing, all our “aerial feeders” have returned, including the swift, the swallow and the two martins.

First to arrive is the dainty Sand Martin, as early as mid-March: it has sandy-brown upper parts, a dark underwing and a white breast with a brown necklace, details that are not that easy to spot as you track them with your binoculars as they flicker and flutter over lakes and gravel pits. They nest in burrows in traditional colonies: in Wiltshire the Cotswold Water Park and the quarries in Calne attract the largest numbers. Recently, in response to a drop in U.K. breeding numbers, artificial sand banks have been created in reserves such as Minsmere and the London Wetland Centre, with spectacular success.

It was once thought that our swallows hibernate in mud banks and reed beds in the winter months: even Gilbert White, author of *The Natural History of Selbourne*, was confused as to the truth of the matter. Barn Swallows, those much-loved harbingers of spring, are broad-front migrants arriving from early April from southern Africa and staying with us until September, sometimes later. The nest is open at the top, on a ledge or beam inside a barn or a shed.

Swallows are often double-brooded, in good years even stretching to a third brood. The most glamorous of the hirundines, distinctive features include the blue upperparts, rufous forehead, chin and throat, and the long, pointed tail streamers.

A few years ago House Martins created a nest on a ledge above our garage doors, and they have returned every year since to entertain us with their comings and goings. They zip down our lane flashing their white rumps and calling with excited “prip-prip” sounds. It is particularly pleasing as the season moves on to see the heads of the youngsters peeking out from the nest.

In the first week of May, sitting in my office in what was the Old Music School, I used to hear a welcome sound: the ringing screams of newly arrived Swifts circling the St Peter’s Church tower.

I discovered recently that their calls have been recorded, dropped in pitch and slowed down, after which the screams convert into a pleasing, ghostly warble!

Swifts (pictured top, in early evening flight) eat, mate and even sleep on the wing. Be careful if you pick up a grounded one: you’ll soon find fleas and lice crawling over your hands.

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

Purton Post Bag



The editors reserve the right not to publish letters received where space and content dictate. No correspondence can be accepted for publication without the proper name and address of the correspondent being supplied. However, these details may be withheld from publication if requested.

Grateful recipient of community award

My Community Volunteer Award was a big surprise, presented in the Village Hall in front of a crowd of people. Congratulations to the other six Volunteers also awarded for their contribution to this lovely village. Now speaking in public is not my scene and although I muttered a few words of thanks I need to say more.

Firstly, thank you to the two residents who nominated me, it's greatly appreciated. A special thankyou to the other people I volunteer with, they are such good company and make the work we do enjoyable and satisfying and it's great that this is appreciated by others, so my award is their award also.

I'd also like to thank the office staff of the Parish Council for their help and guidance including the outside staff who make deliveries for us from time to time.

To anyone thinking of volunteering with the numerous groups in the village I say, give it a go, you won't regret it. Thank you all once again.

Barry Pitts

Loss of a lover of life

Shirley and family would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support following the sad loss of Allen (Bev). Bev was an inspiration. He had a great love for life, pursued many hobbies and activities, loved his family and friends and what's clear from the many cards we received touched people with his kindness and humour. He will be greatly missed but we have many happy memories to remember him by. Thank you again.

Shirley Bevington

Bicycle mishap saviours

Thank you to Sheila and the other lovely lady - Emily I think - who looked after me when I fell off my bike! Also Katherine from the Vets and Jan & Trev who took me in. How embarrassing!

Lindsey Hall

The other side of the gate

Turning the cows out is always a joyous time. Not just for their freedom but it signifies the end of the winter slog for us too. They came in on the 1st of November. That seems a long time ago now.

We had a lot of grass for them. They've managed to eat through 12 acres in 14 days. It's now growing back fast and hopefully, they'll be going back across that field in about 6/8 weeks.

We've had more calving success too. I'm still getting used to how easy the dairy calves slip out. Maddie has Matilda, Vanessa has Venus, and Emily has Emilia. Bones has a fantastic Hereford bull calf and Pricilla has a Brown Swiss bull calf we've called Presley. He will be a breeding bull.



We test all the dairy calves for a disease called Bovine Viral Diarrhoea. It's a disease that can have serious effects on fertility. The test is very easy for us to do as it's incorporated into the ear tag. When we put the ear tag in the small segment of skin where the tag goes through is pushed into a capsule we send off. The results are back quickly. This test if positive would mean the cow and calf would not be bred from as it's passed on to the calf.

It's not all been great though, we've

suffered a loss that was very hard to handle. Daphne, a lovely Fleckvieh heifer, lost her calf last year prematurely. So we were delighted to find she had produced a beautiful girl we called Daffodil. She has a great mothering instinct and was very protective over her new baby. I was keeping the new babies in overnight as the temps were still too low for them to be out.

In the mornings I would drive new mums and babies into the calving boxes so the other cows could come in. We'd done this numerous times and they

were starting to learn the process. Daffodil wouldn't get up this particular morning, it's not usual for Brown Swiss to be lazy so I went to stand her up. I picked

her up and placed her on her feet. I could see she wasn't standing straight. Her back leg was twisted around from the hip. I put her back on the straw and examined her leg from hoof to hip. Her leg had lots of abnormal movement but no breaks. Deduced it was a dislocation of the hip. Immediately called the vets. An hour later my fears were confirmed. No hope!

Having to make decisions about life or death on animals is one of the hardest parts of the job, made especially hard with the mother looking over your shoulder. That was not a good day.

Purton Village Diary - May 2022

1	Su	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church National Dawn Chorus Day
2	M		May Day bank holiday <i>and 3rd</i> Eid al-Fitr A religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide that marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan.
3	Tu	3.00pm	<i>until 7.00pm</i> Purton Museum open
4	W		Star Wars Day - May the fourth be with you! National bike to school day
6	F	9.00am	Purton & District Age Concern minibus to Cirencester
7	Sa	11.00am	Purton Millennium Garden open morning and Jubilee tree planting
		1.00pm	Purton 1st XI v Chippenham 2nd XI at Purton Cricket Club
8	Su	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church and Youth Group and pop-up crafts
9	M	7.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall
11	W	9.00am	Purton & District Age Concern Mystery coach trip and lunch
14	Sa	1.00pm	Purton 2nd XI v Spye Park at Purton Cricket Club
15	Sun	8.00am	Communion Service followed by...
		9.00am	Breakfast in St Mary's for all. Let us know if you are coming
		10.30am	Christian Aid Service for all
15	Su	1.00pm	Purton under 15 v Swindon at Purton Cricket Club
16	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women will meet at Purton Methodist Church to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the fellowship. National walk to school week starts
19	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society talk on researching family history at Purton Methodist Church
20	F	9.00am	Purton & District Age Concern minibus to Stroud/Devizes/ Marlborough TBC World Bee Day - a day to celebrate these essential pollinators and the threats they face.
21	Sa	1.00pm	Purton 1st XI v Goatacre 2nd XI at Purton Cricket Club
		9.00pm	Dragon Eye play live at the Red House
22	Su	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.00am	Purton under 13 v Corsham at Purton Cricket Club
		4.00pm	Messy Church in St Mary's
23	M	7.30pm	Parish Council Institute building charity meeting
24	Tu	7.30pm	Purton & District Gardeners' Guild meet at the Silver Threads Hall
27	F		Schools finish for May half term

Purton Village Diary

28 Sa	1.00pm	Purton 2nd XI v Wilcot at Purton Cricket Club
29 Su	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	1.00pm	Purton under 15 v Royal Wootton Bassett at Purton Cricket Club
		Oakapple Day Also known as Restoration Day, it is a traditional English celebration of the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, following the death of Oliver Cromwell.

Every week

M	6.30pm	to 7.30pm Purton Village Voices choir practice at the Red House function room (term time)
Tu	9.00am	to 11am Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	2.00pm	to 7.00pm Purton Library open
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	6.15pm	Purton Youth Club for school years 4-7 at Purton Village Hall
	7.00pm	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
4th Tuesday	7.30pm	Purton and District Gardeners' Guild meet at Silver Threads Hall
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)	Purton Historical Society meet at 7.30pm in Play Close Methodist Church.

If your Club or Organisation's events are not included in the Diary pages, contact Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton, Tel: 772954 or email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

The Plaister Charitable Foundation

The Charity was set up by the late Geoffrey Plaister and it has three main objectives which are in brief to provide welfare to Crabbet Arabian Horses, to educate the public and to try to preserve the breed.

The reason these horses are important and interesting is that all their ancestors can be traced back to Lord and Lady Blunt's stud at Crabbet Park in Sussex. The Blunts, related to Lord Byron, were intrepid, interesting characters who travelled to various Arabic countries looking for Arabian horses of quality to bring back to England to improve their Thoroughbred race horses. During their expeditions they found that good quality Arabs were in decline so they set about searching for the best animals that could be proved to be "Asil" (pure), whose ancestors were proven to have originated from the herds of the desert Bedouins, in order to bring them back to England to preserve them. They did several trips to a number of Arabic countries, travelling on horses and camels and sleeping in tents in the desert. They learnt to speak Arabic and had others assisting their search.

They imported many horses and although some were lost at sea, bred from the remainder and became internationally famous for their stud from where Asil Arabians were sold all over the world. Unfortunately Crabbet Park Stud eventually closed when the M23 was constructed. Modern ideas of what qualities are desirable in Arabic horses have done great harm, just like modern dog breeding. This has led to the loss of some of the very desirable

qualities of the early Asil horses. They were used in battle, had tremendous stamina and speed

and had kind temperaments developed over centuries of living in close harmony and sharing the tents of the Bedouins. The Crabbet Arabian horse is in decline and becoming increasingly rare. There are several Crabbet organisations in a number of different countries including the UK whose aim is to promote "Crabbet Arabians" but our charity is unique in providing welfare and preservation.

Geoffrey had, in his heyday, gained international recognition for the quality of his horses and they were sold to a number of countries. Towards the end of his life he tried to find buyers who would take his whole herd to preserve them but when it became clear that this was not going to happen he set up the charity.

We thought this story might be of interest to the local community and it might help us find people who would like to become involved. We hope to eventually set up a heritage centre within the property at Diana Lodge, Collins Lane.

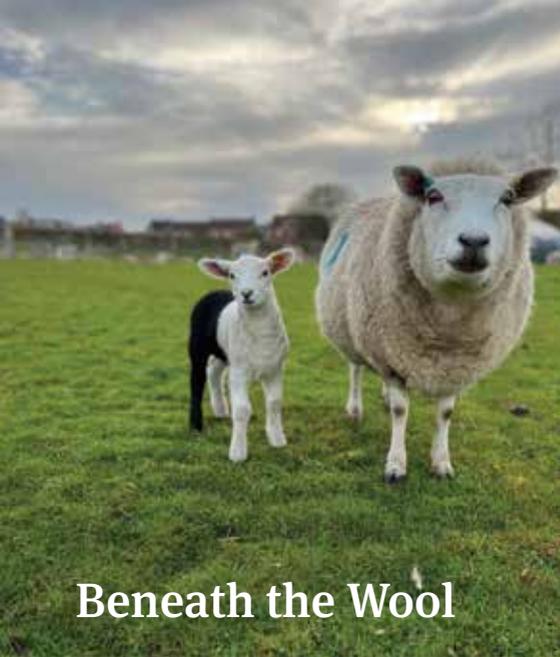
You may have come across Geoffrey driving a vintage car around the country lanes, or Barbara, his wife, who used to run dog training classes locally.

In recent months we have taken in six Arabian horses all of whom needed a safe place to live out their days.



Last year's foal, Imperial Silver Hamame (Hamame is Arabic for Dove) which is 100% Crabbet and therefore, Asil.

Margaret Bower



Beneath the Wool

Well this month has been very busy. We have started lambing fully and they certainly came very quickly! On the 27th March we got all the ewes into the shed ready for lambing. They had free access to their energy licks which are very important just before lambing, as this is when they need all the energy they can get to help them through the period. It didn't take long for it to all start and on the Monday, about five days early, we had the first lambs. It wasn't the easiest birth and some assistance was needed but she had two live lambs afterwards. We then had a bit of a quiet spell and then they really got going and it all got a bit busy and the lambing pens were soon full up.

On the 3rd April we had a surprise lamb as she was nearly half white and half black. This is very unusual, especially from a white ewe and a white ram. The Lleyn breed does have the common

markings of black spots on the back of their heads, but this was a little bit more and on the back end. She's been named appropriately Domino! Some people initially thought it was an April fool but I can assure you it's not and she can now be seen in the field.

This year's lambs are the first lambs for our new ram Jules, they all seem very good. The only thing we have noticed is that they have a tendency to be a bit lazy and slow to get breathing as well as we'd like when they come out. A few have needed a bit more work and sometimes the odd splash of cold water to really get them going. The cold water gives them a bit of a shock and a wake up, and can get them to breathe more.

By next month we should have the final total and all the statistics, but at the moment it looks like the female lambs are significantly in the lead.

Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton

St Mary's Primary School

School Governors

St Mary's Church of England Primary School is looking for new governors to join the school governing board.

The school's ethos is "Faith in everyone to shine brightly", providing opportunities for all children, including those who are disadvantaged, to achieve their potential – both academically and in their personal development, well-being and spirituality.

The Role

The role of governors is strategic, not involved in the day-to-day running of school, and governors should:

have vision to shape the future of the school with a clear strategy that considers the views of all key stakeholders and protects the longer term interests of St Mary's and the community of Purton;

recognise that the need for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is at the heart of the school's work, underpinned by the school's Christian values;

be able to be flexible with their time in order to attend a range of governor events.

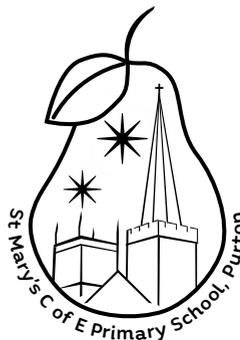
Being a school governor offers the chance to support the School Leadership Team in shaping the lives of the young people in our community.

Governors are expected to attend six meetings each academic year with some additional time for dedicated committees, training, school visits and events.

Meetings are usually held remotely in the evenings however training, school visits and some meetings will take place during the school day.

Whilst St Mary's is a CE school, our school community is diverse and we want our governing body to reflect that diversity. We welcome applications from people who feel they can contribute to the school, whether you are a parent or carer of a child at St Mary's or not.

Closing date: 31st May 2022



Please apply in writing, stating your interest in the role and any relevant skills to the Clerk to the Governors: clerk@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk

General information about being a school governor can also be found at www.nga.org.uk

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

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



With a few weeks to go before we resume the club's activities, I was considering ideas for the May magazine entry, something with some relevance to nature/gardening and the month of May.

May Day came to mind and with it the tradition of maypole dancing which still takes place in villages on the 1st of May each year.

There's some suggestion that it began in Roman Britain about 2,000 years ago when soldiers would celebrate the arrival of spring by dancing around decorated trees to thank their goddess Flora.

There is, however, a link to pagan folklore. The ancient Celts divided their year into four festivals, with Beltane, the first day of summer, being the most significant. The day was marked by traditional fertility rites, and a tree, usually pine or birch, would be selected, stripped of its branches and decorated with flower garlands.

Some say that the tree represented masculine energy, and the floral spring garlands that adorned it represented feminine energy. It was thought that the sacred tree and its attendant spirits would bring a village good luck.

Plaited-ribboned maypoles followed, with the maypole always the focal point of village dancing. Ribbon-weaving dancers are either pairs of boys or girls, with girls taking one colour of ribbons and boys the other, or a group of multiple ages where younger dancers

take the inside of the circle and older dancers the outside. The dance creates a multi-coloured pattern which creeps steadily down the pole. The dancers then reverse their steps to undo the ribbons.

This is said to represent the lengthening of the days as summer approaches, although the significance of the pole itself is not really known. Either way, the maypole itself is a reminder that 'spring has sprung' and rebirth has begun.

Regional variances developed including 'well dressing' in Buxton – the decoration of springs and wells – and a 'Jack in the Green' in Cheshire, where a pyramid or conical framework was decorated with spring foliage and worn as part of the May Day procession.

In 1644 Maypoles were banned altogether in an Act of Parliament under the 17th Century Protectorship of Oliver Cromwell, but restored in 1660 under Charles II.

The idea of a May Queen, usually a young girl, dressed in robes and 'crowned' as part of the festivities, gathered pace through the 19th century.

Some accounts suggest that the 'crowning' of the May Queen was often controlled by the village elite, rather than as a result of village folk customs.

May Day celebrations continue today with the most dedicated revellers in Scotland and Ireland, where they recognise Beltane or Gaelic May Day, and Bavaria in Germany, where the

maypole is painted in their region's white and blue and adorned with representations of the local craftspeople and trades.

So there it is, a brief history of the maypole and why people dance around them!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 24

May at 7.30pm in the Silver Threads Hall. The speaker is yet to be confirmed.

We are always happy to welcome new members so if you have an interest in gardening please join us. We meet every fourth Tuesday of the month with a speaker and raffle.

Margaret Goodall (Secretary 770906)

Rotary inspires a new generation with a Junior Technology Tournament

The Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett & District went along to St Mary's Primary School in Purton recently at the invitation of Headteacher Naomi Clarke to run the Rotary Junior Technology Tournament, which was demonstrated at a 'Big Bang' fair at the NEC. The fair is the UK's largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people.

The tournaments are a challenging and enjoyable way for young people to enrich their STEM (Science, Technology and Engineering) learning. They are designed for 8 – 11 year olds, and in partnership with The Rochester Bridge Trust, Rotary provide an interesting and fun experience that tests the knowledge, innovation, team working and problem solving skills of the participants. The tournaments have been granted a CREST (Creativity in Science and Technology) award by the British Science Association.

The children, working in teams of four, have to solve an interactive technology task and are required to design, model and build a solution with materials such as paper, card, clothes pegs, string and elastic rubber bands, using a premade wooden base, all supplied by Rotary free of charge.



At St Mary's Primary School the task was to build a scale model of a bridge that would enable squirrels to cross a pathway in an environmentally friendly setting. The children's success was ably demonstrated at the end of the tournament when, among the tests to find a winning team, bellows were used to see whether the model squirrels would be blown off the bridge in a gale!

The whole of Year 5 at St Mary's (60 children) took part over two successive mornings. They were all fully engaged and enthusiastic throughout the sessions and the budding engineers set a high standard with their bridge building solutions. Gold and silver medals were awarded to the top two teams on each of the two mornings.

The enjoyment was amply shown by some of the amusing names the children had selected for their teams such as 'Fanta Frenzy', 'Banana Splits' and 'Elite Four'!

Headteacher Naomi Clarke said, "The children gained a lot from the event and we would love the Rotary Club to visit us again."

Team leader Rotarian Mark Mudd, who was accompanied by 3 Rotarians from the club, said "It was very rewarding to see all the children having such fun and being so involved in a very friendly and competitive way."

Junior Youth Quiz

The Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett and District organised the annual junior youth quiz which was held on the evening of 21st March at the Marsh Farm Hotel.



It saw six teams of three pupils battle it out facing 10 rounds of 10 questions.

The schools that entered teams were Normmarsh, Broad Town, Longleaze, St. Bartholomews, Broad Hinton and St Mary's. At the halfway stage, the teams were fairly equal and only half of the teams had fielded the joker which gave them double points for their selected round.

Finally, after a tense battle, the winning team was announced as St Bartholomews, who scored 88.5 points. Coming a close second was Broad Hinton with a score of 84.25. The St Bartholomew's team each received a book token for £20 and the coveted trophy for their school, with runners up each receiving £10 book tokens. All pupils received a certificate for taking part.

A really successful fun night was had by all the teams, a horde of teachers, parents and Rotarians. Our thanks go to Allison Bucknell who made an excellent question master, Mark Mudd for organising the whole event and to the other Rotarians who helped to make the whole evening such a success.

Linda Locke, President Elect & Public Relations Officer



Cyber Security Roadshow

Thank you to Cyber Security expert, Simon Lambe from Mishcon de Reya law firm, who visited the school to present a roadshow to Year 10 and 11 Computer Science students. The session looked at:

- What does the head of cyber security do?
- What motivates hackers?
- How can we reduce the risk of an attack?
- What is the attack kill chain?
- How easily personal data can be accessed online?

Mr Campbell, Computing Subject Leader, said: “Thank you to Simon for taking the time to come in and share his expertise with the students. They particularly enjoyed the live demonstration!”

National Science Week

As part of the National Science Week theme ‘Growth’, we had seven Indian Runner duck eggs in an incubator. After seven days we could ‘candle’ the eggs and check if they were developing. Students from tutor group 7B2 and the Year 11 Triple Scientists were able to tell



that one egg wasn’t fertilised and they discussed how that happens. At the time of writing four eggs have hatched. They spent a very sleepy night in the incubator so they could dry off and then the following morning were transferred to their little enclosure.

Science Teacher Mrs Hall said, “The students have all been amazing and have really appreciated this opportunity to bring science alive in the classroom. Classes have been respectful and it’s proved to be a really positive experience, giving us all the opportunity to discuss different topics such as charity work and environmental issues, as well as the biology of the process!”

For more information on the charity that we have been working with, see [Hatching for Schools - Wiltshire](#) on Facebook. They rescue chickens, ducks



and other small animals. They are then sold on or kept at the family's own farm. Whilst at Bradon Forest they went home every night with Mrs Hall so they weren't alone.

Pi Day Competition

March 14 marked Pi Day, an annual celebration of the mathematical sign Pi. Founded in 1988 by physicist Larry Shaw, March 14 was selected because the numerical date (3.14) represents the first three digits of pi, and it also happens to be Albert Einstein's birthday. We mark Pi Day at Bradon Forest each year and this year Maths teacher, Mrs Elias, ran a maths based treasure hunt. Students had to answer a series of questions on the hunt. The winners said it was very hard! Congratulations to (Year 7) Sophie G, (Year 8) Albie and Year 10 students Minna, Harry S, Lois H, Joyce and Ruby M who all won a certificate and an Easter Egg.



U16 Girls Football Team

Our U16 Football Team beat Wyvern St Edmunds 3-1 and are now through to the semi finals of the County Cup!

Charity Fundraising

The Wiltshire Youth Council, of which two Bradon Forest students are members, nominated Friday 1 April 2022 be a day in which students could attend schools in non-school uniform wearing blue and yellow for a minimum donation of £1. The money raised was donated to The Ukraine Disaster Emergency Committee Crisis Appeal, which is providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water, shelter, healthcare and protection. We raised over £1,300 for the cause.

We were blessed with sunshine for our fun run at lunchtime in aid of Red Nose Day. Several staff and students ran in fancy dress!

Vacancy

We are seeking cleaners between 3.30 pm and 7.00pm during term time, plus two weeks in the holidays for deep cleaning. £9.60 per hour. Help is available to complete your application form if needed. Call the school on 01793 770570 and ask to speak to Carla Allen, HR Administrator.

Outreach Purton *Community information from Wiltshire Council*

Wiltshire Council thanks you for supporting Ukraine

We wanted to say thank you to everyone who has supported the people of Ukraine throughout this incredibly challenging time for them, including those who have joined the Homes for Ukraine scheme or donated to national charities. Communities across Wiltshire are rising to the challenge and your efforts are really appreciated.

Latest figures show more than 280 Wiltshire households have been matched with Ukrainian refugees as people fleeing the war-torn country start arriving in the county. Once the guests have arrived we are asking for sponsors to email refugees@wiltshire.gov.uk so support can begin straightaway.

Alongside partners, we have produced a welcome pack available at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6167/Wiltshire-stands-with-Ukraine. This page also has information and frequently asked questions for those involved in supporting Ukrainian refugees and people who want to find out more. It provides local information which sits alongside the government information for refugees www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk.

We're on the lookout for new taxi drivers in Wiltshire

Wiltshire Council needs reliable drivers to fulfil its growing number of school and social care contracts. These

contracts offer regular work and hours. They also help and support some of the most vulnerable people in Wiltshire.

It's easy to become a licensed taxi driver and takes around six weeks. Fees apply. Once people have become a licensed driver, we hope that they will bid for one of the growing number of SEND school transport and social care contracts that we have available.

Contracts start at around £30 a day for short routes, increasing to £250+ a day for longer routes. For details on how to licence a vehicle as a taxi, private hire or hackney carriage vehicle, and for an application pack, see www.wiltshire.gov.uk/licences-permits-transport#Application%20process.

Play your part to support health and care services

Already stretched health and care staff need to be able to provide care to those most in need, and any person arriving at hospital or calling 999 for anything less than a genuine life-threatening emergency is preventing this from happening.

At the first sign of feeling unwell, people should call NHS 111 or go online to 111.nhs.uk and use the question-and-answer service to pinpoint their condition and to receive tailored advice on the best course of treatment to take.

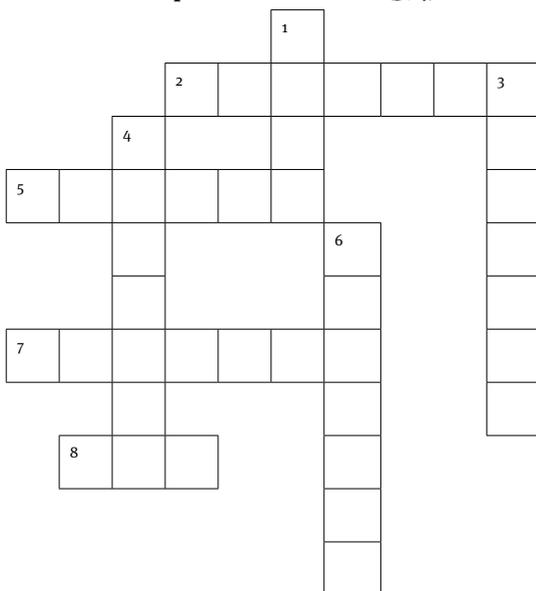
*Heather Ponting-Bather, Outreach Purton
& Wiltshire Together Community
Champion helpline 772954*

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) George 2) Easter 3) Coxes 4) Cricket 5) Showers 6) Beechers 7) Bluebell

This month there are eight clues and readers.

- 2 across Workers in metal (6)
- 5 across Religious meeting place (6)
- 7 across Place of learning (7)
- 8 across Original (3)
- 1 down Soaring (4)
- 3 down Transport terminus (7)
- 4 down Silver line on underground map (7)
- 6 down Top of the mountain (3,4)



This is the next crossword created by Neil and Rob Miles with some general knowledge questions to challenge villagers. Answers will be in the June issue and if any reader would like to create their own mini crossword we would be delighted to include it in a future issue of your magazine. As before we try to take some of the words from recent Purton Magazines and especially from the advertisements but, of course, dictionaries provide

many more options. We aim for the clues to have a spread of difficulty to attract readers initially with the easier clues.

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

More than a cricketer

The former Australian cricketer Shane Warne died in March at the unnecessarily early age of 52. Even non cricketers will have known about his many exploits both on and off the field often through regular appearances in the tabloid newspapers.

What has only really come to light after his death was his great ability to lead and encourage everyone around him. His favourite greeting, especially to new team members, is worthy of many repetitions – “Effort is free, just like manners.”



Open 10am-4.30pm Tue-Fri
(last orders 4pm)

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

For the latest information visit:
facebook.com/pipscommunitycafe/

Join us at the Silver Threads Hall for;

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Tel Mary: 01793 772298,

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Chris or Justyn on 01793 814888

A book I will always remember

*Ultimately what makes
the book work is
du Maurier's tremendous
narrative drive,
the sheer exhilaration
of her storytelling.*

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 House on the Strand

by Daphne du Maurier

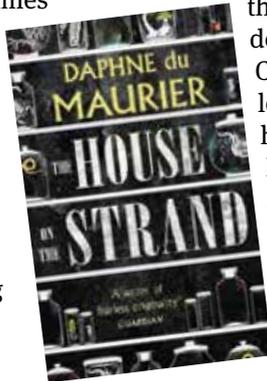
The House on the Strand is Daphne du Maurier's penultimate novel, written after she was widowed and while she was waiting to move out of her beloved house Menabilly and into her new home, Kilmarth, a couple of miles away. This is not her best or most popular book, but it is one of my favourites. It is a novel about a particular type of time travel, where the mind slips into the past but the body remains firmly in the present. It is also about obsession, drug abuse, failing marriages, friendship and loyalty.

The story is narrated by Dick Young, an unemployed London publisher having a midlife crisis. Dick is not particularly likeable, yet somehow du Maurier manages to make the reader sympathise with him – even when he wakes from one visit to the past to find

himself strangling his wife.

About three years before the book begins Dick married an American widow with two young sons, and Vita is now pressing him to join her brother's firm in the States. Dick has no wish to do this, so he has fled alone to Cornwall, to Kilmarth, a house lent to him for the summer by his old friend Professor Magnus Lane. (The two men bonded as students over their mutual admiration for a choirboy. Vita does not care for Magnus.)

Magnus is a scientific genius who has invented a potion that enables the user to view the past. He has taken the drug himself while staying at Kilmarth, and he encourages Dick to do the same. The book opens with Dick's initial journey to the past: 'The first thing I noticed was the clarity of the air, and then the sharp green colour of the land.'



On each trip (except the final one) Dick is compelled to follow Roger the steward, the fourteenth century inhabitant of Kilmarth. Whether or not Roger is in some fashion aware of Dick is never altogether clear, but certainly any attempt to communicate with Roger or anyone else in the past brings Dick crashing back into the present feeling sick and ill.

This is a book soaked in du Maurier's beloved Cornwall: the Cornwall of the time of writing (the late 1960s) and the very different yet recognizable Cornwall of the early 14th century. Part of the fascination lies in the contrast between the two landscapes. The sea came much further inland in the past, the estuary 'sweeping deep into the land,' and what is now a valley full of reeds and stumpy willows was then a navigable creek with banks of mud and sand. Six hundred and more years have wrought huge changes, and yet some things remain the same: the lanes still follow the same routes, and despite modern additions the old farmsteads occupy the same sites.

Virtually all the action takes place within walking distance of the village of Tywardreath (the name means 'the House on the Strand'), an area du Maurier knew intimately as she had lived in the parish for twenty-five years. The places in the book – from Kilmarth itself to the railway tunnel – are real places. The historical characters, the Champernounes, the Bodrugans and even Roger the steward, are fictional versions of real people.

The drug is dangerous. Dick develops a numbness in his fingers and a tremor in

his right hand. Although the symptoms come and go, they gradually worsen, but Dick is by now too addicted to abandon his trips. And while Dick is mentally following Roger in the fourteenth century, his body is moving blindly through the modern landscape. When Magnus is found dead after walking into a goods train as it entered a tunnel, Dick realises that his friend was on a trip when he died and that for him the railway line did not exist. At the inquest, desperately trying to avert a verdict of suicide, Dick conflates past and present. 'You have to remember it was snowing at the time,' he says to the coroner, of Magnus's death in July.

The book has faults. The scientific explanation of how the drug works is clumsy and unnecessary. The modern characters are thinly drawn. Although the relationship between Dick, Vita and Magnus is well done, Vita is not a very convincing American, and her sons are even less so! The large number of mediaeval characters, many related by blood and marriage, is confusing. (Some editions have a family tree, which helps.)

Ultimately what makes the book work is du Maurier's tremendous narrative drive, the sheer exhilaration of her storytelling. As always with her writing there is a huge amount going on under the surface – which is why so much of her work bears reading time and again. And as so often, she does not attempt to tie everything up neatly. Just as in real life, there are loose ends, which leave questions reverberating in the reader's mind.

Patrick McCormack

The Cirencester & District Model Aircraft Club



The club was founded in 1947 and has been in continuous operation since then. Run by local enthusiasts, all of whom are volunteers, the club meets regularly throughout the year and is very fortunate to have two flying sites. One at the business park next to Cotswold Airport, where we have a tarmac strip, and another near Garsdon which has a grass surface. The club fly fixed wing aeroplanes and helicopters powered either by internal combustion engines or electric motors, though we don't operate drones or jet turbine powered aircraft.

The club enjoys a very friendly atmosphere with encouragement and help always at hand for any member, who may either be just starting out in the hobby and learning how to fly, or for the dedicated enthusiast about to commit their 'one thousand hour quarter scale build' to the air for the first time, which can sometimes be a challenging moment!

Flying a model aeroplane is a very rewarding experience. There's nothing quite like the sense of achievement that can be had from building, flying and bringing safely back to land your own creation, even if you haven't actually built it yourself. Occasional mishaps are, it must be said, all part of the experience of model flying, but unless it's a total write-off most models can be repaired and when they take to the sky again it's a great feeling.

We are very keen to attract new members of all ages to come and share in the enjoyment of this exciting hobby. Please come along and find out more by contacting either Pat Puffett on 07707 667414 or Stephen Peart on 07966 431869 and we'd be delighted to see and help you. Further information is also available on the club's website at <https://ciren.bmfa.club>.

1st May - International Dawn Chorus Day

Early risers (5-5.30am) will be rewarded with the best dawn chorus, but we are assured that nature's singers can be heard throughout the morning. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has published a guide on their website www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/events-dates-and-inspiration/events/dawn-chorus/

If you manage the early start, you'll likely hear skylarks, song thrushes, robins and blackbirds. Birds such as wrens and warblers often won't start singing until the sun comes up.

The RSPB website has a link to their birdsong identifier, alternatively there is an app called BirdNet. As for places to go for the free concert, simply open your doors and windows, or for the more adventurous, a journey to a local nature reserve, such as the Cotswold Water Parks, would be worthwhile.

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This MBE is for my amazing team, says chief of First City Nursing

Stephen Trowbridge, First City Nursing's managing director received his MBE for services to domiciliary care from Anne, Princess Royal at Windsor Castle on 5th April, saying that it belongs to all his colleagues at his health and social care service organisation based in Swindon.

First City Nursing & Care provides support workers and carers to individuals within the community at Ashgrove House in Purton as well as across Swindon. The company has been recognised for the selfless service they demonstrated throughout the pandemic. He said "I may have been the person to go and pick up the MBE, but it's actually an official acknowledgement of how well the entire First City team helped support, our customers, staff, the NHS and other local care providers during the pandemic so that patients could remain at home, wherever possible.

"Home care companies like ours deliver the crucial professional care in people's own homes that enables



individuals to remain at home for longer. We assist hospitals to discharge patients into a safe and familiar environment without delay. The past two years during the pandemic have been extremely challenging and continue to be so. However, our staff team has battled Covid day in day out keeping all our customers safe and providing an essential lifeline to many.

“I’m so proud that they all work tirelessly to make sure the people they visit are getting the best care possible. If it wasn’t for them going over and above and being so flexible, this honour would never have happened. They are a very reliable, friendly and honest team, and also genuinely care about each person they are supporting. When I was presented with the MBE I had such a lump in my throat, because it showed their dedication and value has been recognised and appreciated at a national level.

“I thank all our staff, past and present, for the contributions and sacrifices they have made, during the past few years. I am currently having our own First City Medals made to truly thank our team past and present for working in Covid conditions and making a difference to so many. I also want to thank Swindon Borough Council, the NHS and all our partners in care, for trusting us with this crucial work.”

We Record...



Baptism at St Mary’s Church

03 April 2022

Amber Audrey Viktaravicious

Funerals at St Mary’s Church

16 March 2022

Allen Peter Bevington (Bev) (69)

29 March 2022

Gwyneth Irene Keogh (94)

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Kibblewhite Close, Proud Close, Reids Piece, The Peak, Willis Way, Long Acre, High Street, College Road, Hooks Hill, (and from Ridgeway Farm) The Brook, Webb’s Place and New Reed*

Purton Profferings

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North Swindon Big Band concert

Memorial Hall, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 8EN

Tuesday 10 May 2022 2.00—4.00pm

North Swindon Big Band are back! Bringing you toe tapping tunes the band will be playing all the favourites and there's space to get up and dance if the mood takes you!

Tea and cake will be served in the break.



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www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/CAW

Swindon Croquet Club

There was a strong turnout for Swindon Croquet Club's first golf croquet tournament of the season, with a team of high handicap players competing against a team of low handicap players. Tournament organiser Tony Tomlin did a superb job, not only arranging several rounds of singles and doubles matches, but also coping with the introduction and complexities of the new 'Advantage' handicap system. Higher handicap players now receive a hoop score advantage instead of the previous 'free' shot system.

After two rounds of matches, the high handicap team held a narrow one point lead but the low handicap team finished strongly, winning all but one of the afternoon singles matches to clinch a hard earned victory.



Low handicap team players Terry Clements, Sandra Jerram, Martin Briggs, Colin Brain and Beverly Briggs remained unbeaten throughout.

Everyone was very grateful to Tony for organising an enjoyable day's play.

Photo: Tournament organiser Tony Tomlin (left) presents the 3Ts trophy to Low Handicap Team Captain Jeff Hannath

'This Girl Can' classes coming to local leisure centres

The hugely successful 'This Girl Can' campaign created by Sport England has partnered with EMD UK to create 'This Girl Can' Classes with the aim of supporting more women to get active.

The sessions have been specifically designed to provide a welcoming introductory programme where 'getting it wrong is totally alright'.

During the classes women are introduced to a variety of different group exercise styles, each with different moves and skills to try. These include

dance fitness, box fitness, yoga-inspired stretch, and variable intensity interval training.

Each forty-five minute class starts with a gentle warm up, followed by two different blocks of exercise, with a break in between. The activities will be different each week, giving women a taster of several exercise class styles. The class ends with a cool down and guided mindfulness.

Your local class will run at Lime Kiln Leisure Centre, on Tuesday, 12 noon



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- 12.45 p.m. All classes are £3.10 per class and will run on an initial 12-week programme.

Research from the 'This Girl Can' campaign revealed that fear of judgement, fear of not being fit enough, feeling body conscious or fear of looking stupid stop women from getting active. 'This Girl Can' Classes have been designed to help women overcome these fears by building confidence and fitness levels, whilst encouraging friendship and having fun. The instructors are specially trained to create a warm and supportive atmosphere.

At 'This Girl Can' Classes, you can

be reassured that there are no wrong moves, and everyone can take it at their own pace. We want women to come and do their worst.

Full details and timings for the new This Girl Can Classes can be found online at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure-classes.

Booking is available at each centre up to seven days in advance. To book in for a class or other leisure activity, please go to: <https://leisure.wiltshire.gov.uk/LhWeb/en/Public/home> or contact your local leisure centre. All contact details available at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure-leisure-and-sport-centres

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Purton Football Club



By the time the May issue is circulated and read, we will have played our final game of the season and win, lose or draw, it will make no difference to our final league position in what I can honestly say is one of the most disappointing seasons I have experienced, if not the most disappointing. I have explained in previous issues of the magazine some of the reasons behind this, but nevertheless the problem needs to be solved during the closed season and I can assure the people who support the club on the terraces and financially that work has already started.

Talking of keeping the club on a firm financial footing, it is a good opportunity to thank our main sponsor First City Home Care for their support for the past few seasons and continuing again for the 2022/2023 season, along with news that we ourselves have our own fundraising events following the success of the Peter Shilton sporting dinner.

I am pleased to announce that for our next dinner we have another goalkeeper, Liverpool legend Bruce Grobelaar, winner of six league titles, three FA cups, three League cups and of course his antics in winning Liverpool the European cup.

I have seen Bruce twice and can assure everybody a good night, with many tales of a colourful career and playing with some Liverpool greats.

This dinner is on September 12th with a cost of £25 which is inclusive of a fish and chip supper and bookings need not be on a table basis but individually or small groups.

I know this maybe seems a long way off but you have to book these quality speakers so much in advance as since the Covid restrictions have been lifted the speakers get busy and sports clubs are desperate to maximise their fundraising efforts after a couple of barren years.

Again, I have to book this a first come first served basis and although I will be putting reminders in future issues of the magazine, I would urge those wishing to attend to let me know in the forthcoming weeks/months on 07855 406662 or by e-mail address terry.crumbie@gmail.com.

Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC



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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Purton Cricket Club



By the time that this magazine is published the Purton Cricket Club season will have begun. As usual we start with a couple of friendly matches to get the teams warmed up for the rigours of the matches to come. Our First and Second Eleven will be the first to be in action at the ground and you can expect one or other of them to be playing on a Saturday, weather permitting. Sundays are usually the preserve of our junior and youth teams with Under 11s, Under 13s and Under 15s hosting their home games in the mornings and afternoons.

Our Midweek team are in the first division of four Swindon Midweek Leagues and usually play around 10 to 12 league games a season, all on a Thursday evening from 6 p.m. to roughly 9 p.m. This is often followed by socialising at the pub afterwards. Other teams include the likes of Swindon and NALGO, who also have established Saturday league cricket sides, as well as local Swindon social clubs. For the last few seasons Purton have finished around mid-table, but we do have ambitions to win the league this season. We have training once a week with the other adult teams of Purton CC on a Wednesday evening. There is also the option to play weekend cricket for either the 1st or 2nd XI. We are always looking for good quality players to help improve the standard of our midweek team so if you are interested then please contact membership.purtoncc@gmail.com

Purton is also pleased to be able to offer the ground to Wiltshire County Cricket throughout the season. Practice matches and county games are typically played during the week, starting in the mornings. The Wiltshire Under 12 boys share a coach with one of Purton's coaches and will be using our facilities several times this year.

In the evenings our members usually train on the ground or in the nets with our compliment of ECB qualified coaches. If you visit on a Friday evening, when the younger cricketers train, you will not only find a great buzz about the place but also a café selling hot and cold drinks and cakes. The funds raised go towards running the club, which, being a solely volunteer-based organisation, is always looking for support.

Indeed, we have had support from local firms already who have provided us with practical help. Other companies have recognised that the club has hundreds of visitors throughout the season and have provided sponsorship in return for advertising at the ground and on the club shirts. If you would like to benefit from your name and logo being seen at the ground, then please contact: chair.purtoncc@gmail.com

Last year we received some grants provided by the ECB in order that we could provide a more welcoming environment and offer cricket throughout the summer to the All-Stars (5-8-year-olds) and Dynamos (8-11-year-olds). This will enable us to repair some of the structures at the ground which are starting to show their age and buy some much-needed kit for the youngsters.

Home Fixtures for May (Correct at time of printing)

Sat 1.00pm	07/05/2022	Purton 1st XI v Chippenham 2
Sat 1.00pm	14/05/2022	Purton 2nd XI v Spye Park
Sun 1.00pm	15/05/2022	Purton U15 v Swindon
Sat 1.00pm	21/05/2022	Purton 1st XI v Goatacre 2
Sun 10.00pm	22/05/2022	Purton U13 v Corsham
Sat 1.00pm	28/05/2022	Purton 2nd XI v Wilcot
Sun 1.00pm	29/05/2022	Purton U15 v Royal Wootton Bassett

Graham Wright

Purton Tennis Club



The summer season has now started and hopefully our teams will have some good results this year. Our courts at the Red House campus are looking really good after the spring spruce up, and thanks to our maintenance crew, we have replaced some of the fencing that had perished over recent years. So, all and all, things are looking good.

Our junior members have started their training sessions on Saturday mornings and this will continue until the end of the summer. These sessions are free to attend for our junior members.

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.

For the armchair tennis fan, there are lots of tournaments around the world

that can be seen from the comfort of your own home at this time of year. However, 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.

Tennis is a very sociable game that can be played by people of all ages and abilities. Members of Purton Tennis Club have unlimited access to the courts, so being a member is very good value, and set in lovely surroundings. Perfect!

Jon Bastin (coach)
jjbimages@gmail.com

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

Janet Saunders (secretary)
janetcsaunders@gmail.com

Poetry Corner

Mull's Tragedy Rock

Bright Ewan was a handsome youth who lived on Erraid Isle,
He was a shepherd boy of skill who did his work in style.
But Ewan's heart was not in work. His passion was elsewhere,
For near the rugged Gribun cliffs there lived a maiden fair.
Sweet Rona was the lovely maid who drew him with her beauty.
To woo this girl with tenderness was his devoted duty.
The youth and maid a perfect pair, their love was quite complete.
A marriage date was duly set with bridal home retreat.

In bliss the two walked hand in hand and wedding pledges vowed.
He swore to love her through the years, as long as time allowed.
Their friends all gathered round in joy to toast the happy pair
While dance and singing filled the hall and laughter everywhere.
When all had blessed the newlyweds, the feast came to an end,
And slowly all the crowd dispersed as each did homeward wend.
Then when at last they journeyed home a storm burst down on all
While no one knew that on this night a massive rock would fall.

And as the two embraced in joy with love so strong and pure
A rock positioned high above was now no longer sure.
With wrenching roar, it tumbled down and crushed the hut beneath
And lovers in their youthful prime lay dead in Highland heath.
The timbered frame still visible, the bodies in their tomb,
And as the decades progress on sweet flowers burst in bloom.
And if you walk on Gribun cliffs in early hours of morn
You'll hear the joyous laughter of the lovers in the dawn.

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