

October 2022

# Purton Magazine



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

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# Purton Contacts

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

## **Schools & Playgroups**

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

## **Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary** [www.stmaryspurton.org.uk](http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk)

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

Vicar: Revd Ian email: [vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk)

Tweedie-Smith Tel: 770077 (773031 emergencies only)

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

Tel: 770627

Warden Sandra Horsnall: 770157

Administrator: Rosie Harris [administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk) Tel: 773035

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

Minister: Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton

Revd Shirlyn Toppin Bassett SN4 8LT

## **Catholic Church - Church of the Sacred Heart, High St, Royal Wootton Bassett**

[www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk](http://www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk)

Priest: Revd Father Tel: 852366

Lucas Rodrigues

*Services: Holy Mass Sunday 11.00am. Mon, Tues, Wed 9.30am. Fri 7.00pm*

## **Catholic Church - St Mary's Church, High St, Cricklade**

Priest: Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church

Father Michael Robertson

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

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# Purton Magazine

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Purton Community Fridge volunteers  
on launch day: George Kennedy, Linda  
Buckland, Jacqui Lay, Lynn Mayneord and  
Louise Cordas.

Credit: Heather Ponting-Bather

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The sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II came so quickly after the announcement that doctors were concerned for her health and just two days after she had been pictured working, that, for many of us, it seemed unreal. The outpouring of emotion has been moving to witness and on page 22, you will find a message of thanks from the Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire.

By the time you read this, the State Funeral will have already taken place and no doubt many Purtonians will have made their way to London to witness the parades, pomp and rituals that mark our national and collective grief. Now though, as the grandeur of the great occasions of state comes to an end, a time of personal reflection can begin.

So many tributes have highlighted the Queen's interest in people, her sense of duty and her tireless devotion to service. How wonderful it is then to see so many of those qualities reflected here in our community, where so many people do so much for others. On page 21, you can read this month's news from Age Concern, detailing all that they do to enhance the quality of life for older residents, including the coach trips that

really do merit a bit more support.

It's not just the elderly that benefit from the dutiful service of people in our community. Our sports club volunteers are running amazing programmes to get young people active and involved. Page 34 details the success of Purton Tennis Club's recent Junior Tournament and the fact that Purton can boast of cricket teams for Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 15s and Under 19s is testament to the dedication of our Cricket Club's coaches (page 46).

Purton's newest project – a community fridge – is detailed on page 15. The aim is not just to offer a helping hand at a time of rising food prices, but also to reduce food waste. It is a project that reflects both the spirit of the late Queen and the environmental concerns of the new King.

The Prime Minister said that the Queen was “the rock on which modern Britain was built.” But it is surely our volunteers, clubs and groups that form the bricks and mortar of the society built on that firm foundation. Purton can be proud of a community characterised by those same ideals that motivated our beloved Queen.

# Purton Parish Council News



## ***HM Queen Elizabeth II***

We were all greatly saddened by the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II at Balmoral Castle, in Scotland, on September 8th.

Whilst a national figure that few of us had the pleasure of meeting, she will be remembered fondly.

In the words of Ray Thomas, Chairman of Purton Parish Council, she was a monarch who:

‘... demonstrated extraordinary dedication and commitment to duty throughout her reign and did so with a graceful strength and admirable determination.’

## ***HM King Charles III***

With time passing, our thoughts can now move onto the reign of King Charles III and his coronation.

Here in our village, Purton Parish Council has already begun to carefully consider how we may mark the new King’s coronation.

To keep you informed of the plans for this historic occasion, we will be creating a space on our website in the Community Engagement section, we will continue to update you within Purton Magazine and we will also post updates to our social media pages.

These communications will provide you with details on how you can share, support, and shape these historic events, so do follow us to learn more!

## ***Going green in Purton***

With our new King leading the way in supporting the environment and global sustainability, we thought we’d highlight ways that you can play your part in protecting our beautiful rural village and the natural environment beyond.

We all know how important it is to reuse, recycle and reduce waste and to play our part through kerbside recycling, but now there are more ways within our village to help us prevent waste going into landfill which we can feel positive about supporting!

Firstly, we have our Community Fridge to prevent excess farm, shop and allotment produce adding to our landfill sites. This is an important piece of local action that must be used by anyone and everyone to prevent greater volumes of good quality food items being binned, rather than conveniently being enjoyed for free by us. So, do use it and if it feels a little strange to take without paying



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and you are able to, why not give a little to the group's Just Giving page to support training and cleaning supplies?

Our Uniform Swap Shop is another great way to reduce landfill. Many items of high quality new and used school uniforms, designed for use in only one school in the country, never get the chance of a second life. This is shocking given the likely eco impacts along the production and supply chains. Here you can easily obtain these pre-loved quality items for reuse for free and, in doing so, play an important role in waste reduction.

Thirdly you can bag up unwanted clothes and shoes and drop them in the bin at the Village Hall car park so that you can reduce waste and increase donations to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, which is purely funded by charitable donations.

Finally, of course there is our well-loved Purton Book Swap next door to the library in our telephone box, where you can pick up a free copy of a novel 24/7 to pass the time on a rainy day and you'll get a book more quickly than you would if you'd ordered one online!

Further information on our great local eco initiatives is given below:

### ***Free school uniform swap shop***

Opening soon at our Village Hall is a new, volunteer-run, FREE school uniform shop, which will help you reuse and recycle.

Set up and run by volunteers the 'swap shop' will be open monthly on the first Saturday of the month between 10 a.m. and noon for you to pop along and swap, donate or collect any items you need.



The shop will be in one of the Village Hall dressing rooms which can be accessed by a side door at the lower end of the carpark. A door will be left open to highlight where to go.

Although a swap shop, you'll be able to pop along and see what they have, even if you have no items to donate.

As well as uniform items for St Mary's C of E Primary School and Bradon Forest, the shop also stocks a small number of coats and toddler items.

Volunteers hope that this will reduce landfill and help save a few more pounds off the family budget. Please take along your own bag for any items you collect.

For further information please email: [charlotte.young@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.young@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[jacquelinelitler@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinelitler@hotmail.com)

### ***Air ambulance clothing bin***

Did you know Wiltshire Air Ambulance has a clothing recycling bank at Purton Village Hall? It's an easy way to turn your old clothing, shoes and more into donations for this life saving charity. Wiltshire Air Ambulance needs to raise £4 million each year to keep the service



operating. They are available up to 19 hours a day, 365 days a year and attend, on average, three incidents a day.

Please note that only clothing can be donated in these bins and that all clothing must be placed in bags before being donated.

Find all our recycling banks here: [www.recyclingsolutions.org.uk/clothing-banks/](http://www.recyclingsolutions.org.uk/clothing-banks/)

### ***What does the rest of the year hold?***

Some reminders of dates for your diaries (more details will follow nearer the time).

“Light up Purton” – Christmas Tree Light Switch on, held at Purton Red House/ Village Centre on Saturday 3rd December (timings to be confirmed).

Children’s Christmas Party with an entertainer at the Purton Red House – Purton-resident children only due to numbers, more details to follow – Saturday 17th December 2022 from 12 noon.

Keep up to date by following us at: @purtonparishcouncil

### ***Autumn Council meetings 2022***

Please note that some changes have been made due to the cancellation of

our council meetings in September, following the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Meetings will be held at the Village Hall from 7 p.m. as follows:

- Monday 10th October – Full Council meeting for both September & October
- Monday 17th October – Burials and Recreation
- Monday 24th October – Combined Charities meetings
- Monday 7th November – Finance and general purposes
- Monday 14th November – Full Council meeting
- Monday 5th December – Finance and general purposes
- Monday 12th December – Full Council meeting

Agendas are posted on our notice boards (at Purton Village Hall and Pavenhill Shops) and our website [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://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 young people are welcome from Year 7 and up. It’s free to come along, and refreshments, activities, and support are all available. The club is open Wednesdays at Purton Village Hall from 7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

### ***Youth Club Changes***

Please note that from September sessions have moved to Thursdays and will be held at the Millennium Hall. Session timings will remain the same (7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.)

Plans to further develop sessions are also in progress, which means that timings could change during Half Term from Thursday 20th October, although sessions will continue to be held at the Millennium Hall.

Please keep up to date by following us on Instagram: @the\_rise\_trust\_youth  
If you're not on Instagram and need to check details of the Youth Club, please email Sue Hughes: susan.hughes@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Find out more and keep up to date at:

- Call - 07715681950
- Email - danielleb@therisetrust.org .
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- Follow on Facebook - @ TheRISETrustYouthTeam
- Visit our web page - [www.facebook.com/TheRISETrustYouthTeam/](http://www.facebook.com/TheRISETrustYouthTeam/)
- Check our notice boards – we'll soon have our own space on the boards so do take a peek!

### ***The Annual Village Walk, Sunday 4th September***

Despite the threat of rain, a group of 24 people turned out for the Annual Village Walk; a fantastic turnout. Thank you to everyone who came.

It was a stile free walk and the rain held off. We hope everyone enjoyed the circular stroll around the village. Thanks again to all who joined in.

### ***Cost of living help***

To help everyone with the increased cost-of-living, we've created a page of links to further information and support. This includes information from Wiltshire Council on debt advice, utility bill

support links and sources of help and information from banks and building societies, as well as some information on free, local resources.

You can find this page at the below web link:

[www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/community-awards/cost-of-living-support](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/community-awards/cost-of-living-support)

Take a look and if you need further information, do feel free to come to the Parish Council Office to chat to us.

Purton Parish Council Offices are open Monday to Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. if you would like to chat about further support options.

### ***Donations to our community***

The Parish Council Finance & General Purposes Committee reviews funding for local community groups.

Perhaps your group, club or society may need funding. If so, you may like to contact our Parish Clerk, Debbie Lawrence to learn more on 01793 771066. You'll be able to discuss any potential projects, and the criteria in more detail, so please do not hesitate to call to access help and advice.

You may also wish to note that our next round of donations will be made in February 2023.

### ***Planning Applications***

Planning applications are received and are discussed by the Parish Council on the second Monday of each month. Purton Parish Council is a consultee only and final decisions are made by the planning authority, which is Wiltshire Council. Details of applications are posted on our website and 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 found on our notice boards and on our website at the following address: [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/services/planning-highways](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/services/planning-highways)

Applications received, granted, and refused at the date of submission for this edition of the Purton Magazine, are as follows:

### ***New Applications***

- PL/2022/05094 – The Royal George, Pavenhill, Purton, SN5 4BZ. Replacement externally illuminated hanging sign, signwriting, and amenity signs. Under delegated powers, Purton Parish Council raised no objection to the replacement of externally illuminated hanging signs, signwriting, and amenity signs.
- PL/2022/04000 – Oak View House, Braydon, SN5 0AG. Proposed works to dwelling constructed under application. 15/01053/FUL – Removal and rebuilding of defective areas of construction including the walls, roof, and chimneys, plus reduction in area of glazing. Replaced fabric materials will aim to match existing. Under delegated powers, Purton Parish Council raised no objection to the proposed works to dwelling constructed under application. 15/01053/FUL – Removal and rebuilding of defective areas of construction including the walls, roof, and chimneys, plus reduction in area of glazing. Replaced fabric materials will aim to match existing.
- PL/2022/05673 – Holly Lodge, 3 Church Street, Purton, SN5 4DS. Cypress tree – fell. Under delegated powers, Purton Parish Council raised no objection to the works to trees in a conservation area.
- PL/2022/05284 – 12 Saxon Mill, Purton, SN5 4FT. Proposed single storey rear extension. Under delegated powers Purton Parish Council raised no objection to the proposed single storey rear extension.
- PL/2022/05316 – 46 Vasterne Close, Purton, SN5 4EZ. Erection of a single storey side and rear extensions, extend front dormer window and replacement garage. Under delegated powers, Purton Parish Council raised no objection to the erection of single storey side and rear extensions, extended front dormer window and replacement garage.
- PL/2022/05678 – Land at the Old Diary, Upper Pavenhill, Purton. SN5 4DQ. Notification for prior approval under class Q for the conversion of existing agricultural building into a dwelling. Under delegated powers Purton Parish Council does not object, providing all requirements for Section Q development are met, however, it does consider the design to be one that will not enhance the area or provide an appealing visual appearance.

### ***Permission Granted***

- PL/2022/02350 – 17 The Fox, Purton, SN5 4EF. Erection of a two-storey rear extension (resubmission 20/11336/FUL). Approve with conditions.

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- PL/2022/03982 – 17 Highridge Close, Purton, SN5 4BS. Single storey rear extension. Approve with conditions.
- PL/2022/02897 – 60 Pavenhill, Purton, SN5 4DA. Change of use of land to enable the erection of cattery pens for the boarding of cats. Approve with conditions.
- PL/2022/04246 – 4 Parkside, The Hyde. Purton, SN5 4DZ. Erection of single storey side extensions, front, and rear box dormer window, 3 rooflights and conversion of garage into habitable space. Approve with conditions.
- PL/01155/OUT – Land at Restrop Road, Purton, SN5 4BP. Outline planning permission for up to 47 dwellings with associated landscaping and vehicular and pedestrian accesses off Restrop Road (all matters reserved except means of vehicular access). Approved with conditions.
- PL/2022/03819 – 44 Common Platt, Purton. SN5 5LB. Single storey extension to rear and garage to side and rear. Approve with conditions.
- PL/2022/02574 – 35 Station Road, Purton, SN5 4EN. Shared single storey rear extension to 35 & 36 Station Road. Loft conversion to 35 Station Road to include front elevation roof lights & rear elevation dormer windows. Approve with conditions.
- PL/2022/01986 – 77 The New Coach House, High Street, Purton. SN5 4AB. Removal of condition 2 of N97/0037 to allow use of the Coach House as an independent residential dwelling and the creation of parking area. Approve with conditions.

## ***Refused***

- PL/2022/02772 – 2 Upper Pavenhill, Purton, SN5 4DQ. Proposed two storey side extension and loft conversion with dormer.
- PL/2022/01974 – Key View, Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke, SN5 4JG. First floor extension to side and single storey extension to rear.

## ***Councillor Vacancies***

The Parish Council currently has the option to co-opt five Councillors. If you are interested in this community post and can provide valuable time and resources to support the community, please visit the link below to our website and complete the forms, or contact the offices directly so that the information can be sent to you by post. The Clerk is also available for an informal chat prior to completion of your application.

[www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/data-transparency-sub/policies-procedures](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/data-transparency-sub/policies-procedures)

Safety inspections and memorials in council cemetery/churchyards

Following our testing in January 2019, headstones which were staked due to failure will now be sunk to safeguard all users of our cemetery, as no contact has been made by family members to arrange repair.

Grave Spaces still to be sunk: 310 Davies, 319 Bunce, 356 Strange, 404 Newman, S16 Young and S19 Unitt.

Work has commenced and will continue in October, and we will endeavour to ensure the inscription in all cases is legible.

If anyone wishes to speak to the council before work commences, please do so

by calling on 01793771066 or emailing [lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### **Hall hire, charity buildings**

The Parish Council manages two community hire facilities; the Village Hall, and Millennium Hall. For more information please contact us:

- Email – [lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- Telephone – 01793 771066

Purton Parish Council would like to thank everyone for their patience and considerate use of the car park whilst refurbishing work is carried out and the number of parking spaces is restricted to ensure public safety.

Hall users may wish to note that whilst this work continues to progress, there will be limited Parking at Purton Village Hall until 14th October.

The hall will be closed between 19th and 30th September whilst the front entrance is completed and again from 5th December, for refurbishment of the inside of the windows.

### **Keep up to date**

Further council details and community information are available as follows:

- Telephone – 01793 771066
- Email – [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- Notice Boards – all council meetings and community notices are placed on these boards
- Attend council meetings – all meetings are public access, held in the Village Hall and are advertised in the Purton Magazine.
- Visit – [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- Sign up for regular updates at – [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/contact/contact-us](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/contact/contact-us)
- Follow us on Facebook – [purtonparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/purtonparishcouncil)
- Visit our offices - Monday to Thursday 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and Fridays 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
- Follow us on Twitter – @PurtonPC
- Hard copies of council meeting minutes are also available at the library, which is open on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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## **The Fridge is open!**

Hello! Just to let you all know that Purton's Community Fridge & Pantry, located in the Silver Threads Hall entrance lobby, is now open for all to use. A HUGE thank you to everyone who has helped get the Community Fridge off

the ground – we couldn't have done it without you all!

We will be having an official opening launch on Wednesday October 5th at 11 a.m. at Purton Silver Threads Hall and everyone is invited to attend.



The fridge and pantry are totally free to use and are available to everyone.

They will be open during Pips Community Cafe opening hours which are Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. until 4.30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 1.30 p.m.

Please follow the PipsCommunityCafe Facebook page if you can, for any changes to these times.

You'll be able to donate any fresh items like gluts of fruit and vegetables from gardens and allotments. Store cupboard items that you've had a while and know you'll never use or are nearing their best before date can also be donated.

Any unwanted, unopened chilled items you have and are no longer going to use can also be donated but must have at least one day before their use by date.

Please do not put any chilled items in the fridge that are past their use by dates. If you are putting items in the fridge yourself please, use the bottom shelf of the fridge for any donations of

fresh and chilled foods. Similarly, with store cupboard donations, please use the bottom shelf of the bookcase to leave any packets, tins or boxed foods. This way the volunteers can process and record all donations in the correct way.

As well as individual donations, any good, surplus food destined for waste is also welcomed from shops, businesses and registered food producers.

If you run a local business and feel you would like to support Purton's Community Fridge scheme in any way, please get in touch via email ([purtoncommunityfridge@gmail.com](mailto:purtoncommunityfridge@gmail.com)).

It is hoped that this new Community Fridge in Purton will help reduce food waste going into landfill, as well as to help everyone save a little money on their food costs.

You can follow and share the project's posts on Facebook at [PurtonCommunityFridge](https://www.facebook.com/PurtonCommunityFridge).

*Louise Cordas*

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## Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



### ***Next PPG Fundraiser***

You may remember that three years ago we raised funds for, and went on to purchase, a Doppler Machine.

An explanation: Patients who suffer from leg ulcers have a risk of developing deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and therefore have to have regular checks for this. The procedure that is undertaken is called a Doppler assessment. The nurse uses the Doppler to check the blood flow

through legs and ankles. This procedure is very long with a pre-measurement resting time of up to 20 minutes, and a further 30 minutes to complete the assessment. The Doppler machine allows the measurement to be done in minutes.

It would be very helpful to both patients and staff to have a second machine at Green Gable Surgery in Cricklade, as not only will this benefit patients needing



12/22

Community Spaces for Hire

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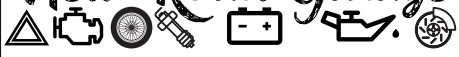
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10/22

Community Hall for Hire

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02/23

this assessment, but it will also free up valuable appointment time for other patients. The PPG plans this to be the next purchase, they cost £3,000.

Two further purchases will be a treatment couch for the consulting room and a high-backed chair with arms, both for Green Gable Surgery.

### **PPG Information Talks**

We are hoping to restart our Information Talks in the near future.

### **PPG and Purton Scarecrow Trail – 3 September**

Many thanks to all those who came and supported our Table Sale outside Sylvia Freemantle's house when Purton Scarecrow Trail was taking place. We raised over £256. Special thanks to Sylvia and her husband Colin for their support and for the use of their drive.

### **Tabletop Sale and Books – Purton Surgery Waiting Room**

A reminder that the tabletop is now up and running in the Purton Surgery Waiting Room. There are also, once again, books in the bookcase for purchase (50p each). If you wish to purchase anything from the Tabletop please hand your money to the reception team, please also donate any books by handing them to the reception team, and don't forget once you have read a book you can always bring it back to the reception team to be sold again!

### **200 Club draw**

Membership is open, so do consider joining. The deadline for joining this year is the end of September. The annual cost is £15 and a standing order is preferred. Prizes are awarded



monthly. The first prize is £100 and the second prize is £15. Forms are available from the Surgery. For more information on the 200 Club, contact Trish Baker (tel 770371) who is a member of the PPG committee. The September draw was done by Punita, one of the practice Clinical Pharmacists, and the £100 winners were Andrew and Valerie Knowler.

As always, your support for our work to both inform and support patients is much appreciated. If you know of anyone who would like to be included in our email list (all sent bcc) then please ask them to contact via [groupforpatients@gmail.com](mailto:groupforpatients@gmail.com)

*Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary*

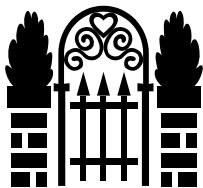
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## *Prayer for Purton*

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Witfield Close, Glevum Close, The Common, Locks Lane, (and from Moulden View) Bretton Close and Bashkir Close.*

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Visit the website: [malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk](http://malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

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# Purton & District Age Concern

# Purton and District AGE CONCERN

## ***Date for the diary***

7th October, 7 p.m. – 3Bs event

## ***Scarecrow Sunday***

Thanks to the weather just about holding, our lovely team of ladies managed to join the Scarecrow Weekend on the Sunday at the Red House, producing cream teas, which consisted of scones, jam, clotted cream, biscuits and chocolates, all presented in a lovely box with a tea or coffee. What with that and our Captain Tom scarecrow, it was all very impressive. They sold out, and having partaken myself I have to say they were delicious. Well done everybody involved.

## ***Weston-Super-Mare Trip***

We went by coach to Weston on the 17th August. We had a lovely day and everybody enjoyed it. The weather was kind to us, and the sun came out after lunch to warm us, so everyone was happy. Unfortunately there were only 20 of us on a 61 seater coach; this seems to be the pattern this year, and I don't know if people are reluctant to go on a coach because of mixing too closely with others, or whether people are just not interested. There seems to be a trend emerging on all the trips we have run this year, and I'm afraid that we will either have to put prices up or simply not run these trips in the future. We have had to subsidise each trip so far, and as much as we want to run them at a realistic price, that won't be possible unless more people come along.

## ***Mystery Trip***

The Mystery Trip planned for October 19th has been cancelled. As you can see in the last paragraph, we are struggling to meet the cost of the coach with the number of people coming on our trips. I don't see this as the end of our trips, but just a blip because of the pandemic and other factors. I believe that next year could be, and let's make sure it is, a better year for everybody, so that once again we can arrange our trips, and have a full coach each time.

The trip on the 30th November, which will be a christmas shopping trip, will still go ahead as I am sure we will get more people on board. Details will be published locally and in the magazine.

## ***3Bs Night***

Our ever popular 3B's evening, which is Bangers, Beans and Bingo, will be happening on the 7th October at 7.30 p.m., so please arrive from 7 p.m. onwards so that we can start on time. Tickets will be £8 per person. Contact Andrew on 956095 for tickets; online payment is preferred. Your place will only be confirmed once money has been received. We would appreciate donations of raffle prizes if you can.

## ***Minibuses***

If you'd like to use the Age Concern transport please contact Hazel on 01793 770862 as usual.

## ***Tai Chi***

The Tai-Chi classes have been on a summer break and started again on September 8th and will continue

weekly at 1.30 p.m. on Thursdays at the Millennium Hall, 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 the smoke alarms are not working properly then call them on 01225 256867. Please be aware that there might be restrictions in place at this time. If you are self-

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

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

Website - Visit our dedicated website – [www.purtonageconcern.com](http://www.purtonageconcern.com) – to find all the details you need about our contacts, events, news and links to other websites in the area. We also have a Facebook and Twitter account which can be found at Facebook: [purtonageconcern](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 wheelchairs and walkers for borrowing, and also crutches and walking sticks, so if you think you might need any of these at any time then ring me on 778119.

*Peter Berry, Chairman*

---

## **The Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire and Swindon has thanked residents for their support following the death of the Late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.**

### ***HM Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton, said:***

“As His Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, I would like to send my deep gratitude to everyone across Wiltshire and Swindon who has sent in tributes and messages of condolence following the sad death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. They are all very much

appreciated and demonstrate the huge impact Her Majesty had on so many people across all walks of life in the county.

“This is a difficult and emotional moment for the country as we look ahead to the lying-in-state, and then the funeral and committal of such an inspirational and beloved monarch. However, I also feel a deep sense of optimism for our future under His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty The Queen Consort. His Majesty has been so warmly embraced in the four corners of our nation and this has been wonderful to witness. He can be assured of Wiltshire’s loyalty and support. God Save the King.

“Thank you once again.”

## Ten Years Ago...

The cover of Purton Magazine for October 2012 showed a photo of Ian Tweedie-Smith who was due to be installed as our vicar during the month. This ended a gap of three years during which we had no resident incumbent – though Judith, John Railton and many visiting priests carried the burden – and we now have had ten years of stability.

Purton Museum’s Exhibit of the Month was a feature on the Home Guard, more specifically the Company raised in the village. Surprisingly, there were well over 100 men in the accompanying photograph, rather more than we are used to in popular culture. Various

documents also remain, such as the order to exchange armlets for “shoulder titles” which were to be sewn on one inch below the shoulder seam. And, if you couldn’t shoot straight, you couldn’t have a rifle. But then who did have one? Another order was to attend a firing range without bringing rifles. Is our popular culture really wide of the mark?

At last, it seems that Jubilee fever had died down and the village was back to essentials. Purton Placard ran to three pages – a level normally seen only at Christmas – publicising everything from church services to (you guessed it) a Christmas Fair. Many



groups were hoping to recruit new members; all interests were catered for, from wildlife to the Conservative Party, the British Legion to young golfers.

The last word should go to the vicar. Asked what was his fancy-dress costume of choice, he replied “Naval officer in Nelson’s time”. In the subsequent ten years, has he been seen wearing it?

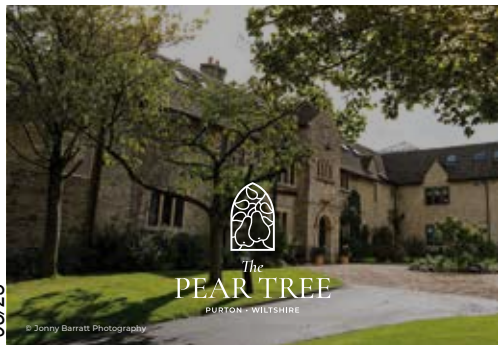
# Church Floodlighting



- Sept 9 St Mary's Church was floodlit to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of **Shirley and Michael Lawrence**. With love from Jonathan, James, Becky, Alexander and Nicholas
- Sept 10 St Mary's was floodlit to celebrate the wedding of **Michael Harris and Angharad Davies**
- October 27 This is the day that David and I (**David and Janet Newman**) would have been celebrating our 60th Wedding Anniversary (David died on Sept 4 2018). Also remembering his Mother, Miriam Lottie Newman, who died 60 years ago on the very same day that David and I were married. Remembered with love by Janet Newman and sister-in-law Joy.

*For October, the floodlighting bookings will start at 5.30pm and the lights will stay on until 10pm. 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.*



05/23

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12/22



# Purton Open Gardens



On Thursday 1st September, Purton Open Gardens was pleased to present a cheque of £500 to Jubilee Garden Project (raised from the sale of programmes

for Purton Open Gardens). £500 is also being given to Prospect Hospice (with a presentation to be advised) and £500 going to Ukraine DEC.

---

## Purton Stoke Annual Potato Growing Competition

After a summer of nurturing their potatoes in a bucket, the residents of Purton Stoke gathered at the Spa Oval (Purton Stoke Cricket Ground) on August Bank Holiday Monday to determine who had grown the largest potato and heaviest yield. Following the weighing of 40+ buckets, a BBQ and family rounders match was enjoyed by all.

### ***The results of the potato in a bucket competition are as follows:***

Heaviest Yield	1st John Crawford (3104g), 2nd The Bostock Family (2780g) and 3rd Neil and Sally Brown (2218g)
Largest Potato	1st The Bostock Family (385g), 2nd The Bostock Family (358g) and 3rd Neil Brown (350g)
Children' Heaviest Yield	1st Tyler Brown (2284g), 2nd George Bostock (1560g) and 3rd Bella Bostock (860g)
Best Decorated Bucket	Holly Drewett

# Purton Scarecrow Trail

The 2022 Purton Scarecrow Trail went well. The scarecrow makers put lots of hard work and imagination into their creations. We had 38 scarecrow entries around the village and a mini trail for children in Hyde Lane/The Hyde. In particular, thank you to St Mary's school and to Lindsey Hall, who made so many of the scarecrows. We raised over £700 towards the maintenance fund for the two community access village defibrillators. Thank you so much to everyone who either made scarecrows, hosted a scarecrow or bought trail maps and took part in the competition. Thanks also to the Rushen Family who generously donated the proceeds of their sale to our funds.

If anyone wishes to make any donations to the community access defibrillator maintenance fund then please contact Purton Parish Council, which holds and manages the funds.

Photographs of the event are available on the Purton Scarecrow Trail Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail](http://www.facebook.com/PurtonScarecrowTrail)

We are very grateful to GWB Roofing who helped us with printing of the quiz sheets and trail maps.

Prizes were generously donated by The Bell at Purton Stoke, The Cooperative, The Angel, The Royal George, Purton House Farm Shop, The Village Gym, Kidzabout/Golfing Hole and Jenny Smith.

The winners were:

Correct answers: Chivers family, Andy Fryer, Liz Rushen.

Best scarecrows: Highway Rat, Deadpool, Noor Inayat Khan

Children's trail winners: Up to age 7 Arthur Amos, Harry West;

Over age 8 Alfie Fryer, Ted Mitchell.

## ***The answers for the 2022 quiz are as follows:***

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Maleficent                 | 13. Noor Inayat Khan (SOE wireless operator WWII) |
| 2. Deadpool                   | 14. Moana   |
| 3. The Highway Rat            | 15. Henry VIII                                    |
| 4. Elmer Fudd                 | 16. Boycie (Only Fools & Horses)                  |
| 5. Scarecrow (Jonathan Crane) | 17. Spiderman                                     |
| 6. Batman                     | 18. Dick Turpin                                   |
| 7. Wonder Woman               | 19. James Bond                                    |
| 8. Virginia Wade              | 20. Odd Job                                       |
| 9. Cap. Sir Tom Moore         | 21. Ernst Stavro Blofeld                          |
| 10. Thor                      | 22. Joe Wicks                                     |
| 11. Voldemort                 | 23. The Hulk                                      |
| 12. Dolly Parton              |   |

- |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 24. Supertato                       | 32. Sonic the Hedgehog      |
| 25. Captain America                 | 33. Edith New (suffragette) |
| 26. Usain Bolt                      | 34. Super Mario             |
| 27. Matilda                         | 35. Super Ted               |
| 28. Narnia's white witch            | 36. Lizzie Borden           |
| 29. Dolores Umbridge (Harry Potter) | 37. Baymax (Big Hero 6)     |
| 30. NHS Doctor/Nurse                | 38. Dick Dastardly & Mutley |
| 31. Paddington Bear                 |                             |

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2022

Please support the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, which will take place from Saturday 29th October until Remembrance Sunday on the 13th November. We are hoping there will be a house-to-house collection and poppies will be available in many local businesses as usual.

If anyone is unable to get a poppy or a Remembrance cross, please contact us and we will arrange delivery to you.

*Shirley and Michael Lawrence*  
*Poppy Appeal Organisers*  
 Tel: 01793 771084 or email: [thelawrences@btinternet.com](mailto:thelawrences@btinternet.com)

## PADS News

### **2022 Pantomime – Merlin**

Rehearsals are now underway for this year's pantomime, Merlin, which will be performed at Purton Village Hall on the following dates:

Thursday 24 Nov 2022 7.30 p.m.

Friday 25 Nov 2022 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 26 Nov 2022 2.30 p.m. (Matinée)

Saturday 26 Nov 2022 7.30 p.m.

Tickets will be available from early November, at a cost of £8 per adults, with all concessions £6 per ticket. Please see posters and PADS Facebook page in

early November, for further details on how you can purchase tickets.

It is still not too late to get involved in the chorus, so if you like to perform, act, sing or dance and would like to take part in this production, please get in touch, either by emailing [information.pads@gmail.com](mailto:information.pads@gmail.com) - You can also find us on Facebook - PurtonPADS



*Kate Bath, PADS Chair*

# 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.*

## **Patients in need of patience**

I thought I would try Lloyd's chemist for my prescription after an absence of two years of going elsewhere (online pharmacy) but my goodness the service was awful, while I waited for over 20 mins for my prescription, which in the end they didn't have anyway only part, five more people came in, one elderly man who could barely stand was told it would be an hour's wait whilst the made his prescription up and the other four people they never had what they needed either and would take up to two days before they could get it. It's time that Purton had a new Chemist, a company that can deal with the demands of the village and give a good service, I won't be going back to Lloyds if I can avoid it.

*R Clarke*

## **Delightful displays at RBL Show**

Thank you to the committee of Purton Annual Flower Show for their

enthusiasm and hard work in organising this event in aid of the Royal British Legion. What a pleasure it was to have our Village Hall a buzz with activity and excitement. Well done to the organisers and all the participants, children and adults.

*Marion Hobbs*

## **Happy day trippers**

I have just been on another very enjoyable coach trip with Purton and District Age Concern – this time to the amazing Webbs of Wychbold – a garden centre with several other shops. But sadly, as with the trip to Weston Super Mare, the coach was only half full. I know that Peter [Age Concern chairman] is concerned about running these trips at a loss. We are very grateful to Peter for organising such events and would urge more people to take advantage of them, to enable them to be cost effective.

*Edna Bunce*

## Care Home Volunteers

Could you spare an hour a week to help older people combat loneliness and isolation? We're looking for more volunteers in the Purton area to visit local care homes.

For more information please call Lisa on 07922 507848 or email: [Lisa@carehomevolunteers.org.uk](mailto:Lisa@carehomevolunteers.org.uk) or visit: [www.carehomevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.carehomevolunteers.org.uk)



# Pips Community Café



Hello all, just a quick update on how things are going on with Lou's Hot Lunches on a Tuesday at Pips Cafe.

August and September saw a huge rise in visitors requesting a hot lunch, even through the very hot weather we had around fifteen diners. The last two weeks we have had sell out weeks which is fantastic! The mini bus regularly has up to ten ladies and gents booking a seat to come on a regular basis.

The price is £5 for a main meal, £2 for a pudding and, if bought together, you get a free drink of your choice. The lunch is served from 12 midday until 2 p.m. or until sold out and there will be around 20 portions of both main meal and dessert available. There will be a vegetarian main meal option too which usually consists of either a cauliflower or macaroni cheese bake priced at £5.

Plus we have the usual full Pips menu available as well if you'd prefer or as an alternative if we have sold out.

At present there is no current booking system in place for the hot lunch, but anyone using the Age Concern minibus will be guaranteed a lunch place.

If you would like to reserve a seat on the bus for next Tuesday or any of the other Tuesdays, please do so by calling Hazel on 01793 770862.

## ***Here's what's on the menu for Tuesdays in October...***

- October 18th – Sausage casserole, mash, broccoli, cauliflower cheese & carrots. Apple crumble & custard.
- October 25th – Roast gammon, roast potatoes, vegetables & Yorkshire pudding. Sticky toffee pudding & custard.

Look forward to seeing you soon!

*Louise, Pips volunteer*

# October Nature Correspondent

## *Fungi, Spiders, Daddy Longlegs and Creepy Crawlies*

By the beginning of October most of our summer visiting birds have disappeared. Swallows and Martins, Warblers, Pipits and Flycatchers have all gone south, whilst flocks of Ducks and Waders, Starlings, Redwings and Fieldfares from all quarters are coming this way. The “Twitchers” are heading for migration “hot spots” such as Fair Isle, Portland Bill and the Scillies to seek out a rare Warbler, a Wryneck or a Shrike.

But now that the flowers have withered, the butterflies all but gone and the days shorter and colder, what can we less besotted nature lovers seek out as the leaves steadily fall from the trees?

Well, we could start with a visit to Westonbirt Arboretum where Acers and Maples as well as native trees provide a spectacular range of leaf colours as the month progresses-fierce reds, vibrant oranges and bright yellows.

Back at home it's a good month for sorting cupboards, tidying up sheds, and hoovering behind the sofa, and a very good time to find woodlice, spiders and a hibernating Red Admiral



or two. Spiders come into their own from mid-September to early October and feature in various shapes and sizes: the Cellar Spider, Giant House Spider (a fast mover), Mouse Spider, Cupboard Spider (can bite, causing “mild side-effects”) and another biter – the Noble False Widow Spider! As for woodlice we suddenly find a small host in a dark corner by a skirting board and we obsessively Hoover them up in the name of good house-keeping.

On a warm evening in October I find a swarm of Craneflies (I prefer

## After 8



the old-fashioned name “Daddy Long Legs”) hovering over the long grass on Fyfield Down. Meanwhile Bats are seeking hibernation sites for the winter months. I discovered one clamped behind a wall panel in our garden room in late September and took it to the National Trust office in Avebury – there are incidentally reckoned to be five different species in the Great Barn.

My habit of picking mushrooms in our local fields ceased after I brought home a crop in a handkerchief and was sick for two days. There are fewer appearing locally these days, so I have switched allegiance to the fungi of Savernake Forest, which include the hallucinogenic magic mushroom and the fly agaric toadstool, attractive to the eye but be warned – it’s poisonous!

All this in preparation for the festival of Halloween on the 31st, images for which find inspiration from some of the above.

*Robin Nelson,*

*Commissioned by Tower & Town, Marlborough*

### **August Event**

Phone call received by me: “Can you lead a walk during August please?”

“Fine,” I say, “on what date?”

This is when the challenge started! After much deliberation, Tuesday 23 August was the date finally decided upon. I planned a local walk of about four miles but not everybody wants to do the walk.

The solution? We meet with the non-walkers in Pips Café after we have completed the walk. Timing was crucial!

The walkers, four in number, met at the Red House at midday. Weatherwise, it was an ideal day for walking with sunshine, a light breeze and not too hot.

We strode purposefully towards Ringsbury Camp and thought about the ancient history of this area. We marched north to Francome’s Hill, just as former inhabitants must have done. Some of us spoke to the horses in the field, as you do.

We made our way, following the footpath below Hooks Hill, to the High Street. A slight stagger up the incline to Pips Café and, lo and behold, we met other After 8 members, already ordering food and drinks. Plenty of convivial chat ensued, plus we somehow put the world to rights. A pleasant time was had by all. Many thanks to Pips volunteers for putting up with us.

I am sorry that some members were unable to join us on this occasion, such is life. Hopefully we can all unite at our next meeting.

*Sandra Horsnall*

# Purton Village Diary - October 2022

1	Sa		Black History month begins, a month-long observance throughout October, devoted to education about the history of Black people and the celebration of their contributions.
2	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Harvest Church for All at St Mary's
5	W	11.00am	Purton Community Fridge will be officially opened at Silver Threads Hall
6	Th		National Poetry Day
9	Su	10.30am	United service at Purton Methodist Church with bring and share lunch
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Church
10	M	10.00am	Sue Giles speaks to Purton WI about her work as a Registrar at Silver Threads Hall
11	Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at Hook Village Hall for a talk about Life in the RAF.
14	F	6.00pm	Purton Artists Exhibition Opens at the Village Hall
15	Sa		World Singing Day
			Shwmae Su'mae Day, An annual celebration of the Welsh Language. Tidy!
		10.00am	Purton Artists Exhibition at the Village Hall
		7.30pm	Wessex Male Choir Concert in aid of the St Sampson's Church Appeal, Cricklade
16	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	Purton Artists Exhibition at the Village Hall
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Church for All at St Mary's
17	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk from Judith Cranswick about the Greek Legacy
21	F		Trafalgar Day, a celebration of Lord Horatio Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar.
23	Su	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
25	Tu		Diwali the Hindu festival of Lights, which is celebrated with fireworks, decoration and feasting.
		10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at Hook Village Hall for a talk on the Arctic Convoys of WWII
30	Su		British Summertime ends
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Service at St Mary's Church



# Purton Village Diary

31 M

Halloween

The Day of the Dead, a Mexican holiday of Dia de Muertos takes place over three days. The festival is a happy celebration with gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember those who have died during the year.

## 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
W	10.00am	to 12 noon Coffee and Chat at Pips Community Cafe, Silver Threads Hall.
	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
Th	1.30pm	to 2.30pm (during term time) Tai Chi at the Millennium Hall
F	3.30pm	to 5.00pm Weekly group for Ukrainian families and their hosts at Royal Wootton Bassett Library
Sa	10.00am	to 12.30pm Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-end of Oct)

## Every month

2nd Monday	Purton WI meet at 10am at the Silver Threads Hall (October-March)
3rd Monday	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church
3rd Monday	Royal British Legion meet at the Red House
2nd Tuesday	2.00pm Silver Threads meet at Pips Community Cafe
2nd & 4th Tuesday	10.00am Purton Probus meet at Hook Village Hall.
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 (April-September)
4th Thursday	(September to May) Purton Historical Society meet at 7.30pm in Play Close Methodist Church.

The Purton Village Diary is now kept at Pips Community Cafe, add your events and check what's happening in our village.

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

# Purton Tennis Club

## *Junior Tournament 2022*

Our annual Junior Singles Tournament took place at the beginning of September on the same weekend as the Scarecrow Trail. As we had a scarecrow at the club, I warned the children that

persuading to enter, but he was glad he did as the boys served up a fantastic match. George won the first set 6-4 before Lewis struck back to win the second 6-2, meaning the title would be



if they sat next to Virginia, they may be mistaken for one too!

The Junior Girls' event pitted Laila Giles against Lucy Pidgeon for the second year running and the result was the same too, with Lucy prevailing in a two sets to love win. Both girls have improved tremendously over the summer and I hope that they continue to come to the sessions, as they are both of the age when so many girls in the past have lost interest in tennis.

The Senior Boys also saw only two entries with George Pidgeon taking on Lewis Starkey. Lewis took some

decided on a match tie-break (first to ten points, two clear). George strode out to a 7-1 lead but it is a long way ten points, and Lewis played some intelligent points to draw level at 7-7. More closely fought points followed before George just got over the finish line by 11-9.

In the Junior Boys' event, three boys took part, playing one set against each other. Will Togher won both his sets against Charlie Barlow and Josca Watkins, and so became the champion at his first tournament. I was impressed with the sportsmanship and determination of all three boys, but Will just had the edge with his topspin

forehand coming to the fore in many of the rallies. Many thanks to Teresa Miles and Tom Kendall for umpiring the matches and for assisting with the Saturday morning sessions throughout the summer: I could not cope without them! Twenty-five children



attended; 14 in the 10 o'clock group and 11 in the 11 o'clock group. I look forward to seeing them all again next April, together with anybody else who would like to come along and give tennis a go.

*Nicola Gardner*

#### DISCLAIMER

Contributions to Purton Magazine are welcome for consideration, the contributor's name and address must be supplied (but may be withheld on request). Copyright must be agreed for publication in this magazine - especially those recognisable in photographs. Opinions expressed in the Magazine are solely those of the respective contributors. Contributions are to be written concisely and we reserve the right to edit contributions and advertisements. Submissions received after the copy deadline will only be included at the editors' discretion and if space allows. Articles and information relating to the Parish of Purton and relevant to its residents, will be given priority. Advertising is accepted in good faith and does not imply the Magazine's endorsement of the product or service.

# Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Given the club's late start this year, blink and the August meeting was upon us with a visit from Dr Francis Burroughes to entertain us with a talk entitled "The Victorian Head Gardener". And entertain us he certainly did with a fascinating overview of the horticultural career of his father, delivered with elements of dry humour to keep us all amused.

The talk began with a question:

'If you were going to mow the lawn tomorrow, what would you need to do first?'

After a number of 'incorrect' answers from members, we were left pondering as Francis promised to enlighten us with the answer later in the talk.

We learned that his father left school when he was 12 years old having secured a job with remuneration, as a 'pot boy', or gardener's boy, on a large Victorian Country estate before the start of the First World War.

Having left school at 3.45 p.m. on Friday afternoon, he set off early the next morning, armed with a doorstep slice of bread and dripping, to walk the two and a half miles to Slate Park, which was to be his workplace, ready for a 6 o'clock start with the promise of a midday finish, it being a Saturday.

Normal hours would be 6.30 a.m. until 8 p.m. or until it would be too dark to see during summer months.

His pay was 6 shillings a week which was considered to be a very good wage back then. From this he was required to pay 2 shillings and 9 pence to the head gardener, this being the fee for his apprenticeship, with the remaining 3 shillings and sixpence still considered to be very good pay.

For the first six months of his apprenticeship, his main task was to wash terracotta pots using water and soda, a relentless task resulting in sore hands until his skin hardened over time. Over 750,000 bedding plants were grown at Slate Park so it's easy to see just how many pots he washed!

The estate consisted of a red brick Gothic mansion set in 1,500 acres in East Anglia; a very aristocratic area to live in at the time.

The household consisted of the father, mother, four children, two sets of grandparents, three maiden aunts, as well as 24 indoor servants

and 24 outdoor servants. There was a hierarchy of staff both indoors and outdoors.

All the outdoor staff were under the control of the head gardener and each of his under gardeners were responsible for a particular area of the garden.

In a first rate establishment, Francis explained that a butler would expect to receive £300 to £350 per annum with accommodation and meals included.

Meanwhile a head gardener, with the responsibility for producing fruit and vegetables for the whole household throughout the year, (about four dozen people every day), would expect to receive an annual remuneration of £400 to £450, together with a dwelling heated with the same water as that which served the hot house!

Slate House was about one hour from London and so popular for weekend parties. 12 people would form a shooting party and each would bring their valet.

At this point the earlier question raised its head once more:

And the answer...

‘Well put the boots on the horse of course so that the turf wouldn’t be damaged by the horse’s metal shoes’.

Understandable when you consider that there were 25 acres of lawn to mow at Slate Park.

The process involved two grooms together with a carriage drawn by two horses harnessed to a cylinder lawnmower, these having been

introduced in 1854.

As boxes to collect the clippings had yet to be introduced, the grooms would steer the mower whilst two workers would rake the clippings left behind and two gardener boys would pick them up to take them away.

A concrete roller filled with water, for added weight, was steered by the head gardener along the same line as that made by the mower earlier.

Besom brushes were used to clear any residue and to ensure that the grass would be laying in the same direction as it was originally laid. Fortunately stripes were not the order of the day. Thank goodness for Flymos!

However this wasn’t the half of it – it gets worse!

It was necessary to start cutting lawns on the east side at 6.30 a.m., or as soon as the dew was off the grass, as the process needed to be completed by 8.30 a.m.

Then the mowers moved swiftly to the lawns on the west side as these had to be completed by 10.30 a.m. when the family moved upstairs to their bedrooms to prepare for the day.

At about 11.30 a.m. when the family left home, work on the lawns on the south side could begin. Ye Gods! What a process!

When his father applied for a post as head gardener, he was asked at interview if he would be able to produce grapes for 10 months of the year!

A strange question, but not unreasonable, when we learned that the process would begin in January with the heating of the greenhouse, the coke filled boiler needing to be riddled twice daily to maintain heat for the 4" and 6" cast iron water pipes within.

By March, there would be no insects around to pollinate the flowers and so this had to be done by hand, not an easy task given that the reproductive parts of a grape are smaller than a pinprick!

Humidity would be controlled until June when the process of picking the fruit could begin.

Placing stems into water and adding a small piece of charcoal, would preserve the vine for another 12 weeks into December, ensuring the requisite 10 months of grape production.

With the onset of the First World War, his father was called up and sent to Catterick for training. Although this was the furthest he had ever travelled from home, he was fortunate not to serve in France. Having contracted Spanish flu, he was in hospital and unable to join in the celebrations when Armistice Day arrived, and swore to the end of his life that the government still owed him one day's pay!

The next step in his career was a move to Gravetye Manor in Sussex, owned by William Robinson, who was to become one of the greatest gardeners of all time. He had bought the Manor and the one thousand acres of land on which it stands in 1885 and it was his home until he died well into his nineties in 1935.

It was here that he realised many of his ideas for the creation of the English

natural garden; the style which is now admired and copied all over the world.

A workforce of 600 gardeners maintained the grounds that featured artificial lakes, terraces, level lawns and orchards of nut, quince, apple and pear trees amongst others.

One of the gardeners was required to sample the pears until peak ripeness was considered to have been reached.

When that moment came, a pear was presented to Robinson on a silver platter for him to sample. He always maintained that there was only a 30 minute period when a pear is at peak perfection!

A move to the employment of a Colonel Dixon followed. He had bought a country house outside Launceston and was interested in growing salad crops and was a pioneer in growing orchids.

He founded the Launceston Horticultural Society whose Silver Challenge Trophy his father went on to win in 1933, 1934 and 1935, and we were privileged to be able to pass around the miniature of the trophy given to his father.

In 1939 when the Germans started the Second World War his father was too old to enlist, but he continued to work as an inspector, checking all growers in the South West for their suitability for cauliflower seeds.

This proved to be a most interesting and informative talk of life in a bygone age much enjoyed by all those present.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 25 October at 7.30 p.m. when Rachel Warrington will be joining us. Her topic is to be confirmed.

*Margaret Goodall*

# Royal Wootton Bassett Gardening Club

Meetings held at The Memorial Hall, Station Road, Wootton Bassett at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are welcome, £3 a meeting, annual membership is £17

We hold a Raffle, plant sales, gardening and seed swaps.

- Oct 3rd Paul Green – They think it’s all over, but what about the autumn planting?
- Nov 14th Michael Jones – Mistletoe: fact, myth, and legend.
- Dec 5th Christmas party
- Jan 9th Christina Stapley – The Living Garden – gardening for natural survival

- Feb 6th Robert Harvey – Mediterranean wild flowers in nature and the garden
- Mar 6th AGM and mystery speaker

Our new programme for 2023-24 will be issued in the new year. We run day trips, an evening trip and a three- day weekend trip every year.

Please contact Pat Perryman, Chair, on 07817 207047 if you would like further information about the club.

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## Purton Football Club



It was a packed Workingmen’s Club on the evening of Monday, 12th September when Liverpool legend Bruce Grobbelaar visited Purton for “An Evening with Bruce”. Bruce gave a vivid recollection of his long, successful career at Anfield and also a rather humorous insight into the life of a journeyman professional footballer.

Afterwards, Bruce generously allowed plenty of time for close interaction with the audience by signing autographs and posing for selfies. Our thanks go to Bruce for making the long journey to Purton and giving us a special evening. Thanks also to Phil King (ex Sheffield Wednesday, Aston Villa, Swindon Town), who served as master of ceremonies and for providing the additional entertainment. A nice sum of money was raised for the benefit of Purton FC.



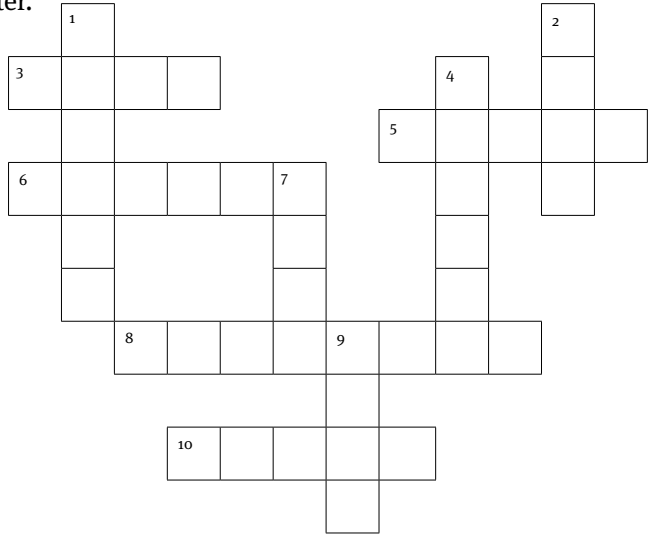
In the picture l to r: Helmut Lenz, Bruce Grobbelaar, Terry Crumbie  
*Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer of Purton FC*

# 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 September's puzzle are 1D) Aster 2D) Sapphire 3A) Autumn 4D) Libra 5A) Michaelmas 6A) Equinox

A sport related theme this month, as we move from the summer sporting season into the winter.

- 3 across Formal dance (4)
- 5 across Lid (5)
- 6 across Baffles (6)
- 8 across Perimeter line (8)
- 10 across Angler's haul (5)
- 1 down Fish covering (6)
- 2 down Ended (4)
- 4 down Type of hat (6)
- 7 down Could be off, leg or mystery (4)
- 9 down Get down! (4)



This is the next crossword created by Neil and Rob Miles to challenge villagers. Answers for this quiz will be in the November 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. Some of the words come from recent Purton Magazines and especially from the advertisements but, of course, dictionaries provide many more options. We aim for the clues to have a spread of difficulty to attract readers initially with the easier clues.

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

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



# Purton Historical Society



## ***Meeting Venue – Purton Methodist Church, Play Close***

The Society would like to welcome members and visitors to the continuation of their autumn programme as follows:

***Thursday 27th October 2022, 7.30 p.m.***

### ***A Town Most Notoriously Discontented: Marlborough and The Civil War – Nick Baxter***

In December 1642, a Royalist Army besieged and attacked the town of Marlborough in Wiltshire. Edward Hyde, adviser to King Charles, described Marlborough people as “notoriously disaffected” and full of “malice”. The Parliamentary commander, Sir James Ramsay, organised the defence of the town building earthwork defences and erecting barricades. Militia put up a spirited defence but could not withstand the Royalist onslaught. Marlborough was plundered and pillaged. Houses were burnt and the cheese taken from the market. Some 120 prisoners were led through the snow to captivity in Oxford castle. John Francklyn, the Marlborough Member of Parliament, was one of the prisoners and died there. The Royalist sacking of Marlborough was amongst the most appalling events of the English Civil War.

***Thursday 24th November 2022, 7.30 p.m.***

### ***Ringsbury Camp and the Iron Age – Keith Allsop***

Ringsbury Camp was built in the Iron Age, about 2,600 years ago. It took an incredible amount of effort to build but what was it used for? This talk looks at the Iron Age, Ringsbury Camp, some other local hillforts (there are more than you think) and their roles. Ringsbury Camp has never been excavated, but it has been ploughed in the past, so the archaeology will be badly damaged, so the talk will detail what we know about other hillforts and apply it to Ringsbury.

***Friday 2nd December 2022, 7.30 p.m.***

### ***Christmas Social In The Silver Threads Hall***

We welcome back, by popular request, ‘Out of the Box Catering’ and ‘The White Horse Folk Club’ from Highworth. These are the same caterers and entertainers that were so successful at the 2021 Social. Tickets are £17.50 per person and include a buffet supper, entertainment, quiz and lucky ticket number. Bring your own choice of drink and we will supply the glasses.

Tickets are available at monthly meetings, from Janet and Tony Neate (770117), Jim Mosley (778395) or Marion Hobbs (770185). Visitors are always welcome.

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

# The Golden Chapter of the Great War 1914 – 1918

The Golden Chapter was kept in St Mary's Church for many years following its dedication on 1st April 1920. It is a beautifully illuminated record of the men from Purton who served in the First World War.

In 2014 it was decided that the book is a significant part of our heritage and should be preserved and protected so arrangements were made for it to be restored by the Conservation Department at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham. The Parish Council helped to fund this process which took a while but the result was very pleasing. Since its return the Golden Chapter has been installed in Purton Museum where it will remain in an appropriate and secure environment.

It was decided to produce two copies of the Golden Chapter with additional information included. Bob Lloyd undertook a decade of research to establish a complete list of the men and women connected with Purton who were involved in the war; there were many more than was realised in 1920. In order to make all the facts available to anyone interested in family history or the village in the early twentieth century generally, members of the Purton Historical Society have incorporated Bob's work with the original names and dates into a longer book. There is more information about those who died and the survivors in three extra sections, while thirty three

other names have been added to the list. The new copies of the Golden Chapter were due to be bound in 2020 but the Covid pandemic and lockdowns caused a frustrating two year delay.

This project has been funded by a legacy in memory of Brian Freegard, the Museum Curator from 2009 until 2012. He was the instigator of the Heritage Lottery funded project to mark the 50th anniversary of the PHS by commemorating the bicentenary of the death of the 5th Astronomer Royal, Revd Dr Nevil Maskelyne, who is buried in St Mary's Churchyard.

The two books are the result of a collaboration between the PHS, namely Dr John Belt, my late husband, and myself, also Heather Ponting-Bather of In Touch Design and Print, together with the Vicar, Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith. Additional funding came from the PHS, St Mary's Church and a donation in memory of John.

These important historical documents are to be dedicated during the morning service in St Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday, 13th November 2022. Everyone is very welcome to attend. The hour long service begins at 10.30 a.m. and will include two minutes silence, when the nation remembers the fallen in all wars. This year we shall be thinking especially of the suffering in Ukraine.

*Jean Belt, September 2022*

# *A poem I will always remember*

***Definitely a poem of our  
time, though written over  
a hundred years ago...***

*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.*

---

# God's Grandeur

*by Gerald Manley Hopkins*

A man before his time? A prophet? Fortune teller? Introduced to Gerald Manley Hopkins' poems at 6th form many years ago, this poem is one that I think of often when I feel in need of some spiritual insight.

It begins on a positive note – “the world is charged with the Grandeur of God” – now I am no Catholic believer as Gerard Manley Hopkins was, but I can appreciate that nature itself is wonderful to see. The alliteration in the next lines – “it will flame out like shining from shook foil; It gathers to a greatness like the ooze of oil Crushed” – carry with them the images of creativity.

But then man's interference is described with a downbeat, bleak moodiness; the choice of language being very appropriate for the images portrayed.

However, Gerard Manley Hopkins ends

the second sextet on a very positive note – “nature is never spent” – and though we appear to be destroying the beauty we have been given – “morning, at the brown brink eastwards springs” – all will be restored.

Definitely a poem for our time, though written over a hundred years ago, as we wrestle with the problems of global warming and pollution. Can we be so positive about the final outcome?

The other poems written by this Jesuit priest are well worth studying for his imagery, his use of language and his philosophy of life. He struggled with his beliefs for many years. Even as a non-believer, I feel drawn to his humanity and his deep introspective view of the world and mankind.

*Gwen Britchford*



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# St Mary's Primary School

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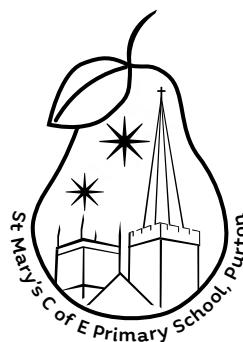
Last academic year at St Marys, each year group had access to 50 recommended reading books to enjoy and learn from. This was a great success and helped promote reading progress for all children.

This year, the school needs to purchase more of these 50 books for each year group.

Is there any company or organisation who would be willing to part fund or sponsor some books for a year group?

If you think you could help, please contact the school office – [admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk)

*The Governors – St Mary's CE Primary School, Purton*



## **St Mary's C of E Primary School Open Mornings**

St Mary's will be holding open mornings for children starting in September 2023, and their parents. These will take place on Friday mornings at 10 a.m. and can be booked by calling 01793 770239.

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Mrs Naomi Clarke BEd (Hons)

# Purton Cricket Club



So, we reach the end of another summer season at Purton Cricket Club. The weather was so much kinder than in 2021. As Fixtures Secretary, I only had to issue half the number of amendments to the list thanks to the awesome weather. In fact, the dry weather through the last few months has played a significant part in the club extending the coaching sessions for a further three weeks to take the training right up to the end of September.

While the outdoor season will be over at the time of publication, preparations are well underway for the “Winter Nets”. Don’t worry we are not wishing the year away as they don’t start until the new year. Indeed, if you are interested in joining the Winter Nets programme then please contact [membership.purtoncc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.purtoncc@gmail.com). We would be delighted to accept new members from ages 8 and upwards. If you are an existing member, keep an eye out for the communications from the club with full details.

At the moment the plan for the youth section is to start the Winter Nets in the week beginning January 9th through to March 23rd, with a break for half term. As with last year, the sessions will be held at Cricklade Manor School. The fee for the eleven sessions is determined, ultimately, by the number of players attending, but the aim is to merely cover the sports hall hire costs in order to keep the prices of the sessions to a minimum. As promised last month I will give you a flavour of some of the recent First XI performances and we’ll look at how the

various teams did in their respective leagues.

From a batting perspective we have had some great knocks from across the team with 117 from U. Talati at Goatacre, 104 from C. Wright vs Avebury and 103 from N. Little at home against Swindon NALGO. The bowling has likewise demonstrated outstanding performances with P. Whittaker taking 4 wickets for 19 runs at home to Malmesbury and T. Whittaker taking 4 for 31 against Calne. The result of performances like these was to put Purton 1st XI fifth in their league (Division 1) of 10 teams.

I am delighted to say that our 2nd XI finished top of Division 5. The Midweek senior team managed sixth place from eight in the Swindon league. Our Under 11s T20 teams came third in their league, while the Under 13s T20 team came fourth and the U13s in Division 2 of the WYCL finished third of eight teams. Our U15s T20 team finished sixth of nine teams, but eighth in the longer form of the game. Finally, our Under 19s, in their first year in the competition, managed to reach the semi-finals having beaten Corsham and Wootton Bassett along the way. Despite an excellent showing in both the batting (half centuries by J. Harker and T. Hallett) and bowling (O. Trivedi’s 4 wickets for 11 runs), Purton lost to Potterne. Nevertheless, a great effort and congratulations to all our teams on their performances this year and roll on the 2023 season.

*Graham Wright*

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# Swindon Croquet Club

Swindon Croquet Club's Handicap Golf Croquet team narrowly missed out on winning the South West Croquet Federation Central League, finishing a worthy second. The team recovered from a sluggish start to the season to steadily climb the table with impressive victories over Nailsea CC at home and away over Camerton and Peasedown B, restoring the team's confidence. The final match of the season was at home against Camerton and Peasedown A. Swindon raced ahead to lead 8.5/4.5 at lunchtime, before Camerton and Peasedown A staged a strong comeback, winning 4 out of 5 singles games in one round to leave the match resting on the last game. Swindon's pairing, Dave Booth and Colin Bailey, didn't buckle under pressure, playing magnificently to record a superb 7-2 victory to secure match victory overall by 10.5/9.5. Dave was Man of the Match, remaining unbeaten throughout the day. This victory meant a three-way tie at the top of the table, but Swindon were edged out by Weston-super-Mare B due to having lost to them earlier in the season.

Captain Clive Smith said, "We're disappointed to miss out on the title



in this way. However, we are already looking forward to next season and have high hopes of clinching the top spot".

Pictured top: Man of the Match Dave Booth (right) with doubles partner Colin Bailey

Pictured above: L-R: Dave Booth, Martin Briggs, Beverly Briggs, Clive Smith (Captain), Colin Bailey, Jeff Hannath



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## ***Purton W.I.***

On Monday 10th October Sue Giles  
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## **Purton Artists Exhibition 2022 14-16<sup>th</sup> October Purton Village Hall**

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# Concert for St Sampson's Church Appeal

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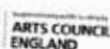
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# Purton & District Probus Club



At the meeting on 9th August, Gerry Churchard, who had previously given us “The Zulu Wars”, gave an illustrated talk on the incredible fighting career of Montgomery, Field Commander.

Gerry began by explaining that he had personal experience of Monty. After training as a Boy-Soldier, Gerry won an opportunity to take further training as an Army Helicopter Pilot at Middle Wallop. One of his duties included flying Monty to various celebrations & functions during the Commander’s semi-retirement years. With reference to Montgomery’s popularity with the public, our speaker labelled his presentation “The Marmite General”. Monty’s strengths were his rapport with every last one of his men and his meticulous preparation for any military action pending. He always aimed to be in the front line of any battle. However, though admired, he was hardly ever in favour with the Americans.

Bernard Law Montgomery was born in Kennington, Surrey in 1887. His family was Anglo-Irish with roots in Donegal. His father, the Rev Henry Montgomery had been the Bishop of Tasmania, where ‘Monty’ had spent his childhood years. After attending the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, Monty was Commissioned into the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. At Ypres, early in the 1914-18 War, he was shot through the lung by a sniper. Though considered severely wounded at the time, he went on to make a full recovery and as a Staff Officer, served at The Somme and Passchendaele. He was critical of other officers’ readiness to accept high numbers of casualties.

In January 1921, Major Montgomery was sent to Ireland as brigade major of the 17th Infantry Brigade, which had 7 battalions stretched across the south of Ireland. The largest county, Cork, had become the British army’s biggest security headache. The IRA were constantly causing trouble, but in May 1923 Monty was posted back to the 49th West Riding Infantry Division. In the inter-war years Monty held a number of staff positions. In 1927, he met and married a fellow officer’s widow, Betty Carver. She gave him a son, David. Unfortunately, in 1937, at Burnham-on-Sea, Betty suffered an insect-bite which led to septicaemia and her subsequent death. From then on, Monty became a very lonely person.

When Britain declared war on Germany in 1939, Montgomery was sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force. He commanded the 3rd Division. Predicting the operation would not succeed, he trained for a tactical retreat. To plug a gap in the line of defence,



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or call us 01793 841905 for further information.

overnight he moved his whole division across the line of a Belgian division. It is claimed that 98% of his men returned, rescued from Dunkirk. In 1940, this was the only full division available for the defence of this country. Anticipating the need for an eventual full scale invasion, Monty now advocated and trained for Combined Services Operations.

In 1942, Winston Churchill appointed Montgomery Commander of the 8th Army in the Western Desert. At El Alamein (70 miles from Alexandria), Monty restored the men's morale and for two months trained and re-equipped his soldiers. Monty now defended El Alamein against German and Italian forces led by General Erwin Rommel, before delivering the Allies their first major land victory. Helped by strikes on Rommel's supply lines to the Africa Corp (ammo, fuel & food) on land and sea, the enemy were overcome and pushed back to Tunisia, where 250,000 axis troops surrendered.

In 1943, Montgomery played a crucial role in the Allied Invasion of Sicily and later at Salerno in Italy. At Sicily, Generals Patton and Bradley, both viewed his previous successes with jealousy. Monty wanted to close the escape route at Messina Gap. In the event, 90% of the German garrison escaped.

In June 1944, Montgomery commanded all the ground forces taking part in the D-Day invasion of Normandy. He showed strong leadership to break the dead-locks at Caen and the Falaise Pocket. Later, he convinced Eisenhower to agree to Operation Market Garden (Arnhem), but he was not in total Command. Unfortunately, failures tend to live on, while successes are often forgotten. He did, however, demonstrate excellent command at the Battle of the Bulge (Ardenne) to prevent a Panzer breakout, where General Bradley had become completely out of touch. Monty also conducted the meticulously planned crossings of the Rhine in March 1945. He later accepted the surrender of all German Forces in Denmark, northern Germany and the Netherlands on May 4th 1945.

After the war Montgomery was made 1st Viscount of Alamein and appointed Commander in Chief of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) in western Germany. Monty had a very high opinion of his achievements and Gerry, our speaker, was proud to endorse this.

The speaker on the 23rd August, was Brigadier Peter Sharp, retired. The talk, entitled "The Gulf War" concerned the task that he and his team of officers was handed, late in 1990, to envisage, plan and set out in detail the total activity of the British contribution to the coalition plan for the eviction of the Iraqis from Kuwait. As Army Logistics Planning Officer, Peter was responsible for a major proportion of the ground activity. A five point plan was developed:

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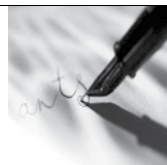
Preparation, Deployment, Operation, Stabilisation and Recovery. The personnel involved would be 53,000 (10% of the coalition forces). I'll leave aside the statistics of equipment, supplies, consumables, fuel, etc., and move to the most important aspect of the operation, the end result, recorded as follows:

“In the small hours of February 24th British SAS were the first coalition forces to enter Kuwait. British 1st Armoured Division, 180 Challenger tanks and 260 armoured infantry vehicles outflanked Iraqi forces. On day two, 300 Iraqi tanks were destroyed. On February 28th, with the coalition looking to destroy any remaining military equipment, Iraq had little choice but to sign a ceasefire. Through the whole campaign, 47 British military personnel were killed”. An inevitable & successful outcome.

Probus meetings for October: Tuesday 11th, – “Life in the RAF”. Tuesday 25th – “Arctic Convoys of WWII”. Probus meets in Hook Village Hall every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

*Bob Stevens*

## *We Record...*



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

20 August 2022 Hayley Jackson and Callum Michael Finegan

10 September 2022 Angharad Fflur Davies and Michael Philip Harris

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

4 September 2022 Lincoln Rutter

11 September 2022 Charlotte Carmen Anne Hartin

### ***Funerals at North Wiltshire Crematorium***

19 August 2022 Sandra Archer (79)

1 September 2022 Christopher Thomas Mogridge Howard (77)

### ***Internment of Ashes at St Mary's Church***

23 August 2022 Alexander James Streatfield Morley

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12/22



## Beneath the Wool

Finally we had a little bit of rain in the last month, not an awful lot but just enough to wake up the grass. And what a difference it's made already! This month we've still been feeding all the sheep, however, just recently, they haven't been eating quite so much hay which is good as they really have knocked a big hole in the stack. With the days getting shorter in the last month, there have been some lovely sunrises and sunsets over the farm. In the mornings the sun rises over the fruit trees we planted last year, which always produces a good picture. Walking in the evening from Collins Lane, you'll see the sun setting over the farm and the sheep, which also makes a lovely photo.

One thing we've done this month is make the egg boxes to sell our eggs from and they have been a big success already, with plenty of people collecting eggs from the boxes. Working out how to build something from scratch isn't my strong suit, as I never really know where to start or how to get to the envisaged item. However, I have managed something, but I'm sure a carpenter wouldn't be too proud!

We've had all the ewes and lambs in to separate them, and we've weighed all the lambs, which was very interesting. There's quite a few lambs that have done very well, although not quite as well as last year, but it's quite understandable with the dry conditions we've had. I think the average weight is slightly up on last year as there's not so many very tiny ones. There's always a few on the small side, but they do usually get there in the end, we just have to be a bit more patient with their growth.

*Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton*



# Combat those Autumn & Winter blues



During the autumn and winter, AgeUK Fitness & Friendship Clubs offers low impact and chair-based exercises promoting flexibility and helping to sustain mobility. We also have time to make friends, chat over a cuppa, try quizzing and activity games. Why not attend one of our clubs? Hopefully you will go home feeling invigorated and refreshed. If this sounds like an appealing way to combat the autumn and winter blues, then see below for details on where we are and come along.

## ***We have two clubs in your area:***

- Royal Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall, Station Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 8EN on October 6th & 20th from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.
- And Swindon Central Community Centre, Emlyn Square, Swindon, SN1 5BP which runs this month on October 11th & 25th from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

## ***Exercise and movement to help keep you warm and mobile***

It's always important to keep active and look after our mobility. Here at Age UK Wiltshire, we understand that keeping mobile is really important. Right now, as the weather gets cooler, and the nights draw in, it's essential to get out and do something on a regular basis to beat those winter blues.

## ***Anyone can do our exercise programme***

Even if you are in a wheelchair or rely on mobility aids, you will be able to attempt

our exercises. We guide you to safe alternative exercises so that they suit all abilities.

## ***Refreshments, chat and games***

Your efforts will be rewarded with a cuppa and refreshments. So, what are you waiting for? Just come along to the next session. We run every two weeks, so if you can't make one, there will be another two weeks later. The sessions cost £5 each time and you can have your first visit for free. For more information on all our clubs, where they are and dates, please visit our website: [www.ageuk.org.uk/wiltshire/activities-and-events/fitness-and-friendship/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/wiltshire/activities-and-events/fitness-and-friendship/)

## ***Contacts:***

Jane, your Fitness & Friendship Project Worker on 07506836876. Available Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 1 p.m. Email: [jane.pitcher@ageukwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:jane.pitcher@ageukwiltshire.org.uk)

Tracey Jones, Senior Fitness & Friendship Project Worker, on 07754 612569 Available Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Are you Interested in volunteering? You could run one of our clubs! If you like exercise and would like to learn and share the benefits of fitness & Tai Chi, why not email Tracey with your details or check out the website.

Age UK Wiltshire Fitness and Friendship is supported by WASP (Wiltshire and Swindon Sport) and Sport England.

# Poetry Corner

Her Majesty The Queen  
By Grace

Her Majesty The Queen,  
Lived long, Lived strong,  
She did us no wrong.

Survived a world war,  
Pandemics and more,  
Her Majesty The Queen,  
A purest soul,

A reigning Monarch,  
for Seventy years  
May she rest, for the rest  
of eternity,

Her Majesty The Queen,  
Lived long, lived strong,  
May we never,  
forget the Queen,  
She's Her Majesty Elizabeth II

Written by Grace, a Year 6 student at St Mary's Primary School



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