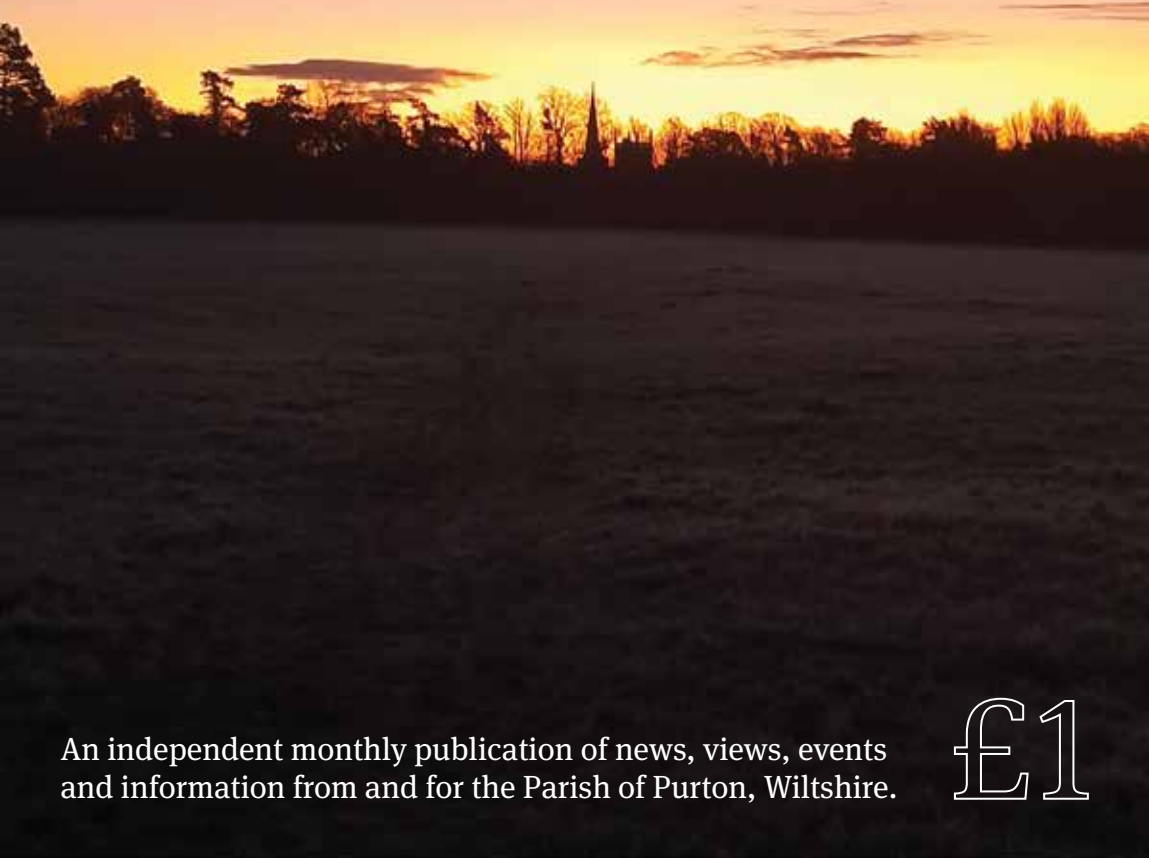


January 2023

# Purton Magazine



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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 Fridays 2.00-4.30pm)</i>		
Museum	Marion Hobbs	770185
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
Scottish & Southern Electric	24hr network failure line	0800 727282
Thames Water	Report leaks, blockages, pollution, supply issues etc	thameswater.co.uk/help/report-a-problem
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Lindsey Hall	771890
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, (10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Pips Community Café	Duty volunteers	07498 526872
<i>(Tuesday-Friday 9am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm)</i> <i>www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/</i>		

## **Schools & Playgroups**

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

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

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

Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk Tel: 770077 (773031 emergencies only)
Curate: Revd Judith Wells	email: judithwells36@googlemail.com Tel: 770627
Warden	Sandra Horsnall: 770157

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

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

Minister:	Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett
Revd Shirlyn Toppin	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 Lucas Rodrigues	Tel: 852366
-------------------------------------	-------------

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

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

Priest:	Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church
---------	------------------------------------

Father Michael Robertson

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

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# Purton Magazine

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Front cover image: St Mary's Church at  
sunrise, December 2022.

Credit: Heather Ponting-Bather

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# From the Editors

January 2023  
Volume 45 No.1  
1st Published 1975

The cold hand of winter settled silently over our village recently leaving an attractive coating of snow everywhere. Doubtless, ponds and lakes could have become frozen, tempting children to test and play on the ice but we learn of the young fatalities when trying the same in Solihull – and so sadly just before Christmas.

In the last few weeks, children in Purton have benefitted from the Uniform Recycling Outlet that was launched in the Village Hall. Some 40 children are now able to give a second life to good quality pre-loved uniforms that had been cleaned and pressed for the event. There were also some coats as well as books, toys and toiletries available – all at no cost. It has been estimated that recycling over 100 items has saved around £3,000 since the project began – see page 9.

Views of villagers under 30 years of age are being sought by the Parish Council. Readers will see that three surveys conducted earlier in 2022 received a good response but with very few from younger residents. To make sure that the opinions of all age ranges are recorded, younger villagers are encouraged to complete the short surveys listed on page 16 where QR codes make responding so much easier.

A new development that most will notice is the coming introduction of some Speed Indicator Devices. Those will be used alongside Metro Counts which document numbers, volumes and vehicle types. Over the last 12 months Metro Counts have recorded traffic volumes in excess of 40,000 per week in the village with perhaps 14,000 exceeding the speed limit – more details are on page 6.

While Christmas is said to be a time for children, in Purton it's always a good time for grown ups as well. Ideas to keep warm this winter – especially in this cold period – have already helped over 80 residents to reduce their bills and stay warm with pop-up energy sessions in the village with further details on page 16.

Then, with new diaries to hand, the list of subjects and speakers for the new term of the Purton Historical Society are on page 36 and do look very interesting – non members are always welcome as well.

As the old year draws to a close after three Prime Ministers and the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, we wish each reader, distributor and advertiser a very happy, healthy and successful New Year.

---

**38**

Went by coach on a Christmas shopping trip to Clarks Village, Street, see page 22

**60+**

Links to information and support for the cost of living increases. See page 11

**80+**

Residents helped by WWCE to reduce bills and keep warm this winter. See page 16

# Purton Parish Council News



## ***Purton Parish Council makes £16k SID Investment to slow speeding cars***

Purton Parish Council has invested over £16k in Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) as part of its commitment to cut cars speeding through our village.

For the unfamiliar, SIDS highlight to drivers that they have exceeded the speed limit, in hope they are then able to abide by it from that point on.

Used as part of a significant community response to concerns raised regarding speeding and safety on the village's roads, the SIDS are now being used in the battle to fight speeding drivers and are used alongside Metro Counts which document numbers, volumes and types of vehicles and Community Speedwatch, which gathers Speed Camera data.

Placed in four key areas of the village over the last year, Purton's Metro Counts have both reinforced the need to continue to use and to fund measures such as SIDS to motivate reckless drivers to reduce their speed but have also helped to reduce the level of local concern about numbers of speeding drivers.

Recorded over the last 12 months, Purton's Metro Counts have documented the following traffic volumes of around 41,000 on the High Street a week and 44,000 a week through Station Road – with about a third in each of these two locations exceeding the Prescribed Speed Limit (PSL).

This data has therefore shown that

whilst a minority are exceeding the speed limit and will be prompted to slow down by the SIDS, around two thirds of vehicles are travelling within it in Station Road and High Street and over 90% in Pavenhill.

The implication of this is that although residents are greatly concerned about the speed of traffic, the number exceeding the speed limit is reassuringly lower than they may perceive.

Kevin Law, the Leader for Purton Community Speedwatch, said:

“Purton can be a great place to live, it's reasonably safe and does not have many accidents.

The visuals of the flashing signs and the volunteers in high vis jackets with a speed gun works for the everyday law-abiding citizen but unfortunately in life there are always the odd few that whatever you do will flout the law.

SIDS, Metro Counts and Community Speedwatch all allow us to evidence the speed that cars travel at and the number that exceed the speed limit.

Regardless though – the message for the minority remains the same, they must slow down.”

Purton Speedwatch is a small group of volunteers who are looking to cover more areas of Purton. Volunteers interested in supporting Community Speedwatch in Purton should contact Kevin Law by email at: [kevin.law@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.law@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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## **Official Festive Launch of the Uniform Recycling Outlet**



On Saturday the 3rd of December at 10 a.m., the Uniform Recycling Outlet held its official opening, with special guest Father Christmas to cut the ribbon!

Around 40 children, with parents and grandparents, attended to give a second life to clean, quality, pre-loved uniforms, books, toys, coats, and toiletries available to them at no cost.

With the economic squeeze on families from inflation, utility bills, increased food costs and the seasonal expense of Christmas, the community project has been given a warm welcome.

At the launch, over 100 items of uniform, plus clothing, toys, and toiletries were given away, taking the total saving to local families to around £3,000 since the project began.

Father Christmas cut the ribbon to formally open the shop and each of the children were presented with a gift bag.

Cllr Sue Relfe said:

“A big thank you needs to go out to Charlotte Young and Jacqueline Littler for all their hard work in setting up the project and to Purton Parish Council for allowing us to use the village hall rooms free of charge and for funding the cost of the rails and a steamer.”

## **Skate Park Shelter New Anti-Climb Paint – Now In Place**

To ensure the safety of everyone at the Village Centre Skate Park, visitors will be prevented from climbing on the skate park shelter roof, with new measures now put in place.



These changes will include new black anti-climbing paint on the roof of the shelter as well as warning signs to prevent climbing on the structure once the paint is in place, especially as the paint will stain clothes.

Purton Parish Council would like to ask everyone in Purton to share this important safety message with any skate park users that they know and to highlight that this change has been made in early December for everyone's safety.

## **Christmas Lights Switch On**

On Saturday 3rd of December, 250 residents attended the first ever Purton Christmas Lights Switch On Event at the Village Centre. Warmed by hot drinks and food, the crowd was treated to an evening of festive entertainment.

Proceedings were opened by the Chair



of the Council, Cllr Ray Thomas, and following a countdown, the lights on the 30ft Christmas Tree at the Purton Red House were switched on.

Giving the festive feel, entertainment commenced with a performance by the Peartree Pealers, ringing some well-loved Christmas Carols on their handbells.

Led by MD Sally Westwood, The Lyneham Military Wives then began with everyone singing carols and bringing in the festive cheer, with a fun interactive version of The Twelve Days of Christmas! Bringing festivities to a festive finish, the Lockdown Brass Band played a selection of carols and music, before everyone returned inside to warm up.

Cllr Ray Thomas, Chair of Purton Parish Council said:

“Purton Parish Council and all its volunteer councillors are passionate about our beautiful, historic village and our wonderful community. We wanted to bring everyone together to launch the festivities this Christmas and have all enjoyed a wonderful festive evening.”

## ***New Notice Boards***

To keep everyone across the parish up to date with all matters and events from Purton Parish Council, two new notice boards have been installed at Moulden View and Ridgeway Farm. Do peek on a regular basis, to keep up with local information and events.

## ***Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards 2023***

Volunteers in our village give many hours of their time to improve the lives of all of us, without pay or recognition. Without them, many local events, clubs and services simply would not exist.

Each year the Parish Council offers you a chance to recognise these community stalwarts, who do so much for our local community. This takes place via the Purton Parish Council Annual Volunteer Recognition Award Scheme.

To nominate your local hero, you simply need to obtain, complete and return a copy of the entry form to the Parish Council Office. Nomination Forms can be collected from the Parish Council Office, downloaded from our website or, if needed, posted to you.

The form is available on our website at: [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/whats-on](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/whats-on)

Councillors will consider all entries, following which award recipients will be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday April 3rd at 7.30 p.m., when awards will be presented.

Each winner who accepts an award will be welcomed to the Annual Parish Meeting at the Village Hall with their families, to receive their awards and enjoy some light celebratory refreshments.

Your hero can be of any age. They may be new to a project, have set up a project or have been giving their time, energy and commitments to a well-established organisation for many years. You'll simply need to let us know who they are, which organisation they volunteer with and a few words about what makes their contribution so special. The closing date for entries is January 31st, 2023.

### **Council meetings 2023**

Meetings will be held at the Village Hall from 7pm as follows:

- Monday 9th January - Full Council Meeting
- Monday 30th January - Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity Meeting
- Monday 30th January - Charity Finance Meeting

Agendas are posted on our notice boards (Purton Village Hall and Pavenhill Shops) and our website [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### **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 in Year 7 and above are welcome. It's free to come along and refreshments, activities and support are all available. The club is open Thursdays at the Millennium Hall between 7.00 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.

Please keep up to date by following us on Instagram: [@the\\_rise\\_trust\\_youth](https://www.instagram.com/the_rise_trust_youth)  
If you're not on social media and need to check details of the Youth Club, please email Sue Hughes: [susan.hughes@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:susan.hughes@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Find out more and keep up to date at:

- Call - 07715681950
- Email - [danielleb@therisetrust.org](mailto:danielleb@therisetrust.org) .
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- Check our notice boards – we'll soon have our own space on the boards so do take a peek!

### **Cost of living help**

To help everyone with the cost-of-living changes, we've created a page of more than 60 links to further information and support. This includes information from Wiltshire Council on debt advice, utility bill support links, 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 following address:

[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 your 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, on 01793 771066 to learn more.

You'll be able to discuss any potential projects and 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 is to be held in February 2023, for which applications must be submitted by the 23rd of February.

### ***Litter picking in the community***

The Parish Council has 24 litter pickers and a selection of high viz clothing if anyone in the community wishes to borrow them to pick up litter in their area. We cannot provide recycling/waste collection options therefore any litter collected will need to be taken to the recycling centre by those collecting it.

Please contact the offices should you wish to use these items by either:

- Calling us on: 01793 771066
- Emailing us at: [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### ***Planning Applications***

The Parish Council reviews planning applications on the second Monday of each month. Purton Parish Council is a consultee only, and the final decisions are made by the planning authority, which is Wiltshire Council. Details of applications are posted on our website should you wish to view and on Wiltshire Council's portal, the link for which can also be found on our website. Applications to be considered at our meetings will be listed on our agenda, which can be found on our notice boards

and our website at:

[www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/services/planning-highways](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/services/planning-highways)

Permission Granted Applications – the next Granted Permissions will be published on our website. Applications received, granted and refused at the date of submission for this edition of the Purton Magazine, are as follows:

### ***New applications – December 2022***

- PL/2022/07509 – 22 Station Road, Purton, SN5 4EN. Retrospective application for garden store to side elevation. At the Full Council meeting held on 14th November 2022, Purton Parish Council raised No Objection to the retrospective application for garden store to side elevation, providing it remains as a garden store and is not used for any other purpose.
- PL/2022/07748 – 15 Hoggs Lane, Purton, SN5 4HQ. Demolition of existing proposed two storey side/rear extension and detached garage with home office over. At the Full Council meeting held on 14th November 2022, Purton Parish Council raised No Objection to the demolition of existing extension proposed two storey side/rear extension and detached garage with home office over.
- PL/2022/07967 – 103 Pavenhill, Purton, SN5 4DB. First floor front extension, amendment to previous approval PL/2022/03167 and two single garages. At the Full Council meeting held on 14th November 2022, Purton Parish Council raise No Objection to the first floor extension, amendment to previous approval

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PL/2022/03167 and two single garages.

- PL/2022/07482 – 27 Waite Meads Close, Purton, SN5 4ET. Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. At the Full Council meeting held on 14th November 2022, Purton Parish Council raised No Objection to the proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.
- PL/2022/08052 – Manor Hill Farm, Purton, SN5 4EG. Certificate of lawfulness to confirm established commercial use of office, stores and workshop spaces. At the Full Council meeting held on 14th November 2022, Purton Parish Council objects to the certificate of lawfulness to confirm established commercial use of office, stores and workshop spaces for the following reasons: The area is not suitable for HGV traffic, being between two limits of 7.5 ton maximum and on a narrow country road. The applicant states the usage has been established over a period of ten years therefore it has a right to apply for this certificate. Whilst it is true that Manor Electrics have been in residence for over ten years, the other proposed companies have not and can be deemed as new businesses. This area is not suitable for an expansion of industrial use and should not be considered for further expansion. A recent application, concerning a scaffolding company was refused permission and limits of diversification should be imposed.

## ***Permission Granted – September 2022***

- PL/2022/03235 – The Pear Tree, Purton, SN5 4ED. Flat Roofed Infill to Internal Courtyard, Flat Roofed Storeroom Extension and Acoustic Wall. Approve with Conditions.
- PL/2022/06599 – 3 Long Acre, Purton, SN5 4BQ. Fell three Beech trees (T1, T2 and T4)
- Approve with Conditions.
- PL/2022/06342 – 21 Hogs Lane, Purton, SN5 4BU. Proposed solar panels to front and back roof. Approve with conditions
- PL/2022/06904 – 8 Glevum Close, Purton, SN5 4HA. Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. Approve with conditions.

## ***Councillor Vacancies***

The Parish Council currently has the option to co-opt three Councillors. If you are interested in this community role and can provide valuable time and resources to support our community, please use the link below to our website and complete the forms or contact the offices directly for information to be sent in the 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 repair.

The last grave spaces to be sunk are: S16 Young and S19 Unitt. This may have been completed by the time of this magazine's publication.

If anyone wishes to speak to the Council about this, please do so by calling us on 01793 771066 or emailing [lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### ***Cemetery Christmas Wreaths***

Every year we remove Christmas related items from graves and dispose of them from 9th February. If you wish to keep any items that have been placed at a graveside, please remove them before this date.

### ***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)
- Call - 01793 771066

Purton Parish Council would like to thank everyone for their patience and considerate use of the car park whilst refurbishing work was carried out and parking spaces were restricted. The Village Hall will be closed from 5th of December for refurbishment of the inside of the windows.

### ***Keep up to date***

Further Council details and community information are available as follows:

- Call – 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.

### ***Views of Under 30s Wanted***

Earlier this year we ran three surveys regarding local planning, life in the village and our charities, and we were pleased with the response.

A review of those completing the survey has however shown that few under the age of 30 have taken part.

With this in mind, we'd like to encourage young people to complete our quick online surveys to make sure that we capture their views.

If you are or know anyone under 30 living in the village, please ask them to use the camera on their smartphone to photograph these QR codes to take them to our surveys and complete them, so that their voice is heard.

## Neighbourhood Plan Survey



## Charities Survey



## Living in Purton Survey



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# Purton United Charities

The distribution of funds will take place on Saturday 4th February 2023 at Purton Silver Threads Hall from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Qualifications to receive the Charity are:

- One payment per household.
- Applicants aged 65 or over on the payment date.
- Applicants resident in the parish for a minimum of one full year on the payment date.

If you are unable to attend, you may apply in writing by no later than 3rd February 2023 to: Neil Miles, 5 College Road, Purton, or to any other Trustee.

# Energy advice cafes helping keep Purton residents warmer this winter

Since kicking off in November, Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy's Keeping Warm This Winter pop-up energy sessions have helped over 80 local residents understand how they can reduce their energy bills and stay warm as the temperature plummets.

Jessica Thimbleby from WWCE has been working closely with local community organisations including Pips Community Café, Lunch Clubs and Purton Library to run the sessions. She said, "It's been great to share tips and advice and to answer some of the questions people have about heating their homes and saving energy. I've had lots of conversations about things you can do to increase energy efficiency at home – one of the simplest ways is to reduce draughts – but another recurring theme has been how to reduce damp and condensation and deal with the risk of mould as we all try to have the heating on less."

Jessica added, "We've had a hugely positive response to our pop-up events – the practical displays showing ways to avoid wasting energy have gone down particularly well. We're incredibly grateful to all the organisations who have hosted our energy cafes and helped us to reach more people, giving them a safe and welcoming space to find out more and ask questions. It's a worrying time for many, particularly now that it's



12/23

Community Spaces for Hire

# Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

tel: 01793 771066  
www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Millennium Hall  
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Purton War Memorial and Village Centre  
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03/23



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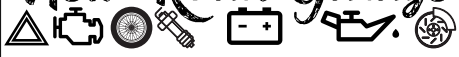
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06/23

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Community Hall for Hire

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[www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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02/23

getting colder, but help is out there”.

Jessica is planning more pop-up energy cafes in the new year. If your group would like to host one, please get in touch at [jessicat@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:jessicat@wiltshirewildlife.org) or call 07568 231015.

Julian Barlow, Chair of WWCE said, “As well as being Chair of WWCE I am also a local Parish Councillor from Compton Bassett, so am all too aware of the devastating effect these cruel energy price hikes can have on the more vulnerable members of our community in Wiltshire. That is why I am so pleased that our community energy company can provide practical tips and advice and I am not surprised that Jess is finding her work is so well received.”

If your heating system is broken and you can't afford to repair or replace it, or if you're worried about paying your heating bills, contact Warm and Safe Wiltshire on 0800 038 5722 or [warmandsafe@cse.org.uk](mailto:warmandsafe@cse.org.uk). Citizens Advice (0808 223 1133) and Age UK Wiltshire (0808 196 2424) can also offer help and advice.

Financial help to install energy efficiency measures is available with eligibility for schemes often dependent



on household circumstances and income, to prioritise low income households. The Wiltshire & Swindon Credit Union (01793 522216) or [office@wascu.co.uk](mailto:office@wascu.co.uk), and Lendology, (01823 461099) or [enquiries@wrcic.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wrcic.org.uk) may be able to help with affordable loans towards home improvements, including boiler replacement in Wiltshire.

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## Celebrating Age Wiltshire

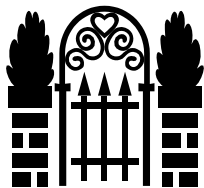
We are pleased to welcome back Tor Theatre who will be performing “Cinderella 2 or Buttons Bounces Back” on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January in Purton Village Hall at 2 p.m.

This should be a lively and fun afternoon with the best in touring pantomime – comedy, song, dance and audience participation. Tea and cake will be served during the afternoon. This is a free event but booking is essential – please contact Pat Hughes.

*Pat Hughes, Celebrating Age Volunteer.*  
*Tel no. 01793 772382 or email [patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com](mailto:patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com)*

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12/23

# Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



## ***Our purchases for the surgery this year***

During the course of this year we have purchased -

- A second doppler machine
- Three adjustable consulting couches
- A new screen for the waiting room in Purton Surgery

We are also grateful to the generosity of Purton & District Age Concern for funding the purchase of another high-backed chair with arms, this time for Green Gable Surgery.

## ***200 Club draw***

Thank you to all who are supporting the 200 Club. The December draw was done by Receptionist Marie Chapman, the £100 winner was David Herbert and the £15 winner was Avril Ainscough.



## ***Table Top and Books in Purton Surgery***

A reminder that the tabletop is now up and running in the Purton Surgery Waiting Room. There are also books in the bookcase for purchase (50p each). If you wish to purchase 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 for the shelves!

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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## **5K Your Way – Move Against Cancer**

We invite anyone who is living with or beyond cancer, families, friends and health care professionals, to join us once a month to walk, jog, run, cheer or volunteer at a 5K Your Way, move against cancer group linked to a local parkrun. Your local 5K groups are Lydiard Park and Marlborough.

All ages and abilities are encouraged and welcome. Lots of people walk. Do as little or as much as you want. You don't

have to do the whole 5K. We meet on the last Saturday of every month. Groups meet at 8.45am for a 9am parkrun start. Register with parkrun to get your barcode so your walk/run will be timed. For more information there is a website: [5Kyourway.org](http://5Kyourway.org)

E mail: [lydiardgroup@5kyourway.org](mailto:lydiardgroup@5kyourway.org)

We will next meet on December 31st. Make it your New Year resolution to join us.

# Purton & District Age Concern

Purton and District  
~~AGE~~ CONCERN

## ***Forthcoming events***

- Carols Under the Christmas Tree - Christmas Eve 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- Burns Night - 21st January (ticket only entry)

## ***Christmas Shopping Trip***

We had our Christmas Shopping Trip to Clarks Village in Street, Somerset on the 30th November and what a good day it was. We had 38 people on the coach which is the best sized group we have had this year. The weather nearly caught us out, as it rained heavily just a few miles from the village, but by the time we got there it had stopped. And fortunately it did not rain again for the rest of the day.

There are a lot of shops to visit and a good variety of retailers, some nice restaurants, with street food and market stalls in between. The overall feedback was very good so it will be one we will visit on another occasion. Lots of full shopping bags on the return journey.

## ***Christmas Party***

On the 26th November we had our party for the less abled and their carers at the Millennium Hall, with entertainment from Paul and his ukulele band, which was well received. Our helpers, led by Sarah Webb, produced a lovely tea with fresh sandwiches and trays of cakes and trifles, and numerous cups of tea (and a few sheries) which was enjoyed by all. It was good to catch up with residents from Ashgrove and The Cedars as a lot of them are from Purton and were known to us.

## ***Village Christmas Party***

On Saturday the 3rd December we ran the Christmas Party for villagers which included the Street Wardens and Minibus crews who attended for free, as a thank you for their hard work. Our helpers once again excelled themselves, this time led by Maria Looker, and produced a ploughman's type meal and dessert, followed by copious amounts of coffee or tea and mince pies. Entertainment was provided by Steven Tilley, a very talented young man who specialises in 50s, 60s and 70s songs, and Sarah Griggs and Jane Hargreaves, who led the carols after the raffle was drawn. Both acts were warmly received by all those attending.

## ***Burns Night***

We are having a Burns Night Dinner and Ceilidh on January 21st at the Village Hall which will include a three course Scottish dinner with Haggis followed by dancing to live music, a traditional Ceilidh, with a caller to point you in the right direction! Not that it helps as we still get it wrong, but that's part of the fun. There will be a bar run by Matt and Louisa from the Purton Club and all the food will be cooked fresh on the premises. Tickets are £25 each and can be purchased from Andrew on 956095 – we are limited on numbers, so you need to contact him quickly and it is ticket entry only.

## ***Happy New Year***

It just leaves us to wish you a Happy New Year, and we hope to see you

attending our events in 2023, just keep reading the notes for the latest information. The coach trips are decided month on month and could be mystery tours with lunch or a boat trip, or perhaps a train trip, normally a steam train. Don't forget all you pensioners have a £5 voucher to spend on one of them. As a reminder anyone turning 65 during the year should email secretary@purtonageconcern.com so that they can be added to our list and put in touch with relevant street wardens.

### ***Tai Chi Classes***

The Tai-Chi classes 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. We will be offering a FREE taster session for beginners. New members will have to fill in a health form at the first lesson. Cost is £5.00 per session and classes run in term time only.

### ***Minibus***

If you need to use the Purton Age Concern transport for appointments or to go on one of our shopping trips, and are over 60 years of age, then please contact Hazel on 01793 770862 as usual.

### ***Useful Contacts***

If you have a problem or need to speak to anyone on any other topic then the contact numbers you should use, after you have talked to your street warden, are Peter Berry from Age Concern on 778119, Heather Ponting-Bather from Purton Outreach on 772954 or Debbie Lawrence, Clerk of the Parish Council,

on 771066. Remember that Purton is a very special village and there is always somebody that can help and will help.

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

Bobby Van – If you need the Bobby Van for replacement batteries or if the smoke alarms are not working properly then call them on 01225 256867. Please be aware that there might be restrictions in place at this time. If you are self-isolating and not letting anybody enter your home then you will need to replace your smoke alarm yourself as they won't leave one on the doorway. If they are called to replace one, then they have to do it. Please be aware.

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

Website – Visit our dedicated website – [www.purtonageconcern.com](http://www.purtonageconcern.com) – to find all the details you need about our contacts, events, news and links to other websites in the area. We also have a Facebook and Twitter account which can be found at Facebook: purtonageconcern and Twitter: @Purton\_AC. Please visit our social media sites and let us know what you think.

We still have a couple of wheelchairs for borrowing or walkers, also crutches and walking sticks, so if you think you might need any of these at any time then ring me on 778119.

*Peter Berry, Chairman*



## Remember to #SaveSafely when cutting costs



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# Purton & District Age Concern Minibus - Secretary needed

Many of you will already be aware Andy White, who has been the Secretary of the Minibus Committee, has decided to retire after undertaking the role for a number of years and we are therefore hoping that someone from the Village might like to take on the role.

The Minibus Committee consists of four of us; Dave Warren our Chairman, Graham Price Treasurer, me as Co-ordinator and the Secretary. We meet when necessary, as thankfully generally speaking it runs fairly smoothly, with each of us having specific roles. Andy has put together a job description which I am happy to forward on to anyone who may be interested. As can be seen it is not a role that requires continuous work but is vital to ensure that our legal requirements are met as and when these arise, mainly annually at different times of the year. Also when new drivers or shotgun join then their credentials need to be checked and recorded.

I am sure Andy would be happy to talk through the role with anyone that may be interested, without any obligation to proceed, if it is not your cup of tea! Access to the internet is quite important as this is the easiest form of communication between us.

The minibus provides a vital link for those who find getting about difficult to ensure that they can continue to enjoy activities both within our Village and elsewhere and we need new team members to help us continue this service.

Please call me telephone 770862 to book or email me at [pac2bookings@gmail.com](mailto:pac2bookings@gmail.com) and I will pass on your interest to my fellow Committee members.

Take care and stay safe.

*Hazel Woodbridge BEM,  
Mini Bus Co-ordinator 01793 770862 or,  
Email [pac2bookings@gmail.com](mailto:pac2bookings@gmail.com)*

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## Outreach Purton *Community information from Wiltshire Council*

### ***Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub here to provide cost-of-living advice and support***

The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is here to provide support and advice to anyone who might need it as a result of the cost-of-living crisis.

The hub was originally set-up at the start of the pandemic to provide information and advice. Anyone can access the hub

and it can provide confidential advice, information and signposting from our friendly team to help with the current high cost-of-living.

People can call the hub Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 0300 003 4576 or email [wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk). The opening hours will continue to be regularly reviewed depending on demand.

We also have a range of support and advice on our dedicated cost of living pages [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6665/Council-tax-benefits-and-financial-support](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6665/Council-tax-benefits-and-financial-support). It contains information on council tax and benefits, energy advice, housing information, mental health support, local practical help and support available for businesses. The council's recently launched interactive community directory can also be found there, which contains details of other warm spaces in the county as well as community food providers.

### ***How can you help rough sleepers?***

What do you do when you see someone sleeping rough?

How can you really help someone when you're not sure the best way to do it?

We're offering advice to people on what they can do to support anyone they see sleeping rough on the streets and how you can provide real support.

If you see someone on the streets, you can provide details to [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) which connects rough sleepers with local services that can support them. StreetLink will provide the council with details so officers can talk to the rough sleeper, help them find a warm place to stay and offer ongoing support.

People are also encouraged to donate to local charities in Wiltshire, which directly help those in need.

With temperatures falling we've also activated our Severe Weather Emergency Provision. If you are sleeping rough, or you know someone who is, let us know on 0300 456 0100 so we can provide accommodation and support.

### ***Group A Streptococcal infections (Strep A)***

As you may know, there has been a recent national increase in notifications of scarlet fever to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), above seasonal expected levels.

During the winter months, it is not uncommon for this type of infection to circulate throughout nurseries and pre-schools and while we are seeing more poorly children this year than we would normally, parents should be reassured that only a small number of cases become very serious.

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes* or group A *Streptococcus* (GAS). GAS is a common bacteria. Lots of us carry it in our throats and on our skin and it doesn't always result in illness. However, GAS can cause a number of infections, some mild and some more serious. GAS causes infections in the skin, soft tissue and respiratory tract. It's responsible for infections such as tonsillitis, pharyngitis, scarlet fever, impetigo and cellulitis among others.

Scarlet fever is not usually serious but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications (such as pneumonia) and spread to others. A course of antibiotics, along with plenty of rest and fluid intake, will help most children to feel better in just a few days.

The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours, the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body and giving the skin a sandpaper-like

texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and will be pale around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a bright red 'strawberry' tongue. If you think you, or your child, might have scarlet fever, please contact your GP or NHS 111 as soon as possible. Please make sure that you or your child take the full course of any antibiotics prescribed.

Although you or your child will feel better soon after starting the course of antibiotics, you must complete the course to ensure that you do not carry the bacteria in your throat. After you have recovered, stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.

### ***Household batteries to be collected from next week as part of Wiltshire kerbside recycling service***

We now collect small household batteries as part of our kerbside recycling service. Put batteries in clear, sealed sandwich bags on top of your blue lidded bin and they will be collected for recycling.

The batteries you can put out for collection are D, C, AA, AAA, 9V and button-type batteries.

Every year hundreds of fires at waste facilities across the country are linked to batteries thrown out in the bin. Help us to stop fires and keep staff safe by never placing batteries inside your bin.

*Heather Ponting-Bather,  
Outreach Purton Tel: 772954*

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## **Purton & District Gardeners' Guild**



Members of Gardeners' Guild met for the last time on 22nd November. The current committee have all served for many years and decided to step down in the new year. With no one volunteering to take their place, the difficult decision was made to close the guild.

Set up in 1975 with 20 founder members, 2023 would have been our 49th year as a club, formed to provide support, knowledge and friendship for those with an interest in gardening within Purton and Lydiard.

In the early years of the Guild, running costs were comparatively low, enabling many thousands of pounds to be donated to local good causes. For example in 1983 payments were made to Purton medical aid, Nursing Homes, Helping Hand and the Prospect; a total of £720, the equivalent of £2,345 in today's money. Speakers' costs for that year were just £37. Very reasonable in comparison to this year when one speaker alone cost over £200.

No wonder that in recent years most of our income and money raised has been spent on fees.

Booking speakers has always been difficult and going through some of the old minutes this has been a problem most years! We have had some brilliant speakers, (and some not so good, but rarely). Barbara Pollard, one of the 'naked gardeners' from Malmesbury proved to be a popular choice, especially with the gentlemen of the club. Many members who normally sat at the back wanted front row seats, I'm sure it was nothing to do with the mini-skirt she was wearing!

In 2005 the guild hosted BBC Gardeners Question Time, a popular radio show with Bob Flowerdew and Anne Swithinbank answering questions from the audience. Also in attendance was Chris Beardshaw, who kindly signed my gardening gloves, which I still have, obviously unused! The event was well-supported with the hall at Bradon Forest school full to bursting and with no tickets left over.

Another memorable event was a visit to Highgrove, the garden belonging to the then Prince of Wales. This took a lot of organisation with visitors names having to be submitted and checked before permission was granted.

For our last meeting, a bumper raffle, wine and delicious food provided by our members was enjoyed by all.

Moira thanked the current committee and past committee members for all their hard work with a special thanks to Margaret, our Secretary, who has done a fantastic job of booking speakers and writing a report each month for the magazine for many years. She deserves a well-earned rest!

Our meeting concluded with a very important lady, Marjorie Shailes, being presented with a bouquet of flowers and the silver Competition Cup as a memento of Gardeners Guild. Marjorie is our last founding member and is much loved by everyone. She has supported the guild for the last 48 years – an amazing achievement. Marjorie stood up and thanked the committee for a lovely evening and I know this gesture meant a lot to us all.

Thank you Marjorie, and thanks to all of Gardeners' Guild members past and present who have supported us over the years. I'm sure we all have fond memories and have formed some very special friendships and gained a wealth of gardening knowledge.

It just leaves me to say Merry Christmas, Happy and Healthy 2023 and KEEP GARDENING!!!!

*Moira White, Chair*

# Ten Years Ago...

The Magazine reported in January 2013 that “things in Purton were beginning to stir”. The Carnival was coming! And the procession was going to be better organised than ever before! And it was all go for the children’s activity week in August! But what of the current season’s jollities, I hear you say? As the magazine went to print before Christmas, we couldn’t know what was going to happen. Always excepting the Historical Society which, rather than turning back the clock, turned back the calendar and was able to record its Christmas social.

One concern running through the issue was the granting of

planning permission at Ridgeway Farm and its possible effect on life in the village. Ps & Qs described the decision as “unreasonable, irrational and irresponsible”. The editorial suggested that the government felt that we needed construction to kick-start growth. Growth is still the Holy Grail of government and it still hasn’t worked out how to achieve it.

A group from Bradon Forest went on a trip to France. After stopping at a cinema in Calais, they continued to Paris where they climbed the Eiffel Tower despite enduring wind, fog and rain, though we were not told whether they took



the inside or the outside route.

As page-fillers, there was a rich supply of quotations from such luminaries as Nikita Khrushchev, Winston Churchill and Homer Simpson. Maybe I will take the latter’s philosophy: “You tried your best and you failed miserably. The lesson is never to try” as my New Year resolution.

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## Magazine subscriptions for 2023

We are pleased to be able to confirm that the subscriptions for 2023 will remain at £10.00 to include delivery by our vital volunteer distributors. Early payments help our cash flow and would be much appreciated. New subscribers in the village are welcome to contact Sandra Horsnall, our Distribution Manager, on 01793 770157 or email [distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk) who will be happy to add you to your nearest distributor’s list.

# Purton Village Diary - January 2023

Sa 31	8.45am	5k Your Way meet at Lydiard and Marlborough Park Run
Su 1		New Years' Day
	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Carol Praise at St Mary's Church
M 2		Bank Holiday
Tu 3	12noon	Lou's hot lunches available from Pips Community Cafe
Th 5		Twelfth Night
Su 8	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
M 9	7.00pm	Full Parish Council Meeting at Purton Village Hall
Tu 10	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at Hook Village Hall for a talk on the mighty DC3
	12noon	Lou's hot lunches available from Pips Community Cafe
Su 15	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Covenant Service at St Mary's Church
M 16	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for their AGM and party. Martin Luther King Day
Tu 17	12noon	Lou's hot lunches available from Pips Community Cafe
W 18		Winnie the Pooh Day, celebrating AA Milne's birthday
Sa 21		Purton & District Age Concern Burns Night Celebration at Purton Village Hall
Su 22	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Chinese New Year
Tu 24	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at Hook Village Hall for a talk on amusing and amazing moments dealing with disasters
	12noon	Lou's hot lunches available from Pips Community Cafe
W 25	2.00pm	Celebrating Age Wiltshire Pantomime at Purton Village Hall Burns Night
Th 26	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk on the golden age of mountaineering and exploration
Sa 28		International Lego Day
Su 29	10.30am	Morning Service at St Mary's Church
M 30	7.00pm	Institute and Village Hall Charity and finance meeting at Purton Village Hall
Tu 31	12noon	Lou's hot lunches available from Pips Community Cafe

## Prayer for Purton

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

### **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
	3.15pm	to 4.15pm (during term time) IMPACT after school club at Pips Community Cafe. Games, snacks and Bible exploration. Parents need to stay but need not get involved.
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)

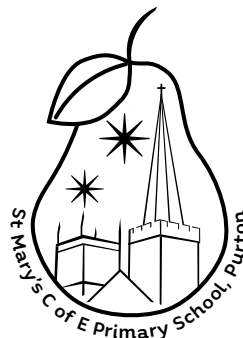
### **Every month**

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 & 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)

# St Mary's Primary School



## ***Volunteers Needed – New School Governors***

St. Mary's Primary School, Purton is looking to recruit new Governors to the school Governing Body. You don't need to be a parent to take up this role – just a keen interest in the education of children within the village.

There are six meetings a year of an evening, either in person or online, with other opportunities to visit the school.\*

If you think you may be interested in this varied and active role please contact the Clerk to Governors at [clerk@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk)

\*All applicants will need to be DBS checked prior to appointment.

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## Bradon Forest School



Bradon Forest is a secondary school located in Purton with over 900 students and sixth form. More stories are on the school website: [www.bradonforest.org.uk](http://www.bradonforest.org.uk)

### ***First overseas trip since Covid***

We were delighted that our German curriculum visit to the Christmas markets, our first overseas since Covid, was so successful. The journey took our students into France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany!

An overnight coach trip, through the Eurotunnel, ensured the group arrived bright and early at the Essex Farm Cemetery and then the 'In Flanders Field' Museum at Ypres. A quick stop at the Hasselt hypermarket in the afternoon before travelling onto Aachen where the group stayed in a Youth Hostel. The next day they visited the Lindt factory followed by free time to explore the Christmas markets and visit the beautiful Aachen Cathedral. Up again bright and early on Saturday morning to travel to Bruges for the day before travelling home tired but excited by all that they had seen.



### ***Silverstone for the most able***

30 of Bradon Forest School's Most Able Year 10 students recently visited the Silverstone Interactive Museum and Track. An incredibly





knowledgeable volunteer hosted the group and explained how Silverstone used to be a RAF base where soldiers were taught to fly before World War II. After looking at the history of Silverstone, they went to view the various cars and motorbikes they had on show. In the tech lab they investigated the different engines, tyres and exhausts used. Students also had a chance to consider the materials used in the drivers' suits, and how volunteering medical staff help to keep the visitors and drivers safe.

After a quick pit stop for lunch (with an amazing view of the track) the group were taken outside to watch the Formula 3 cars racing on the track. The noise and speed were incredible!

Their final session was with one of the experts about the careers involved in Formula 1. The students had a chance to try on the helmets, check out the tyres and ask questions about different aspects of Formula 1.

Two students, Maddi B and Jamie H-S, said they loved watching the cars on the track, and how interactive the museum was. "It gave us the experience to learn all about Formula 1 racing and motorsports. It's really inspired us about the careers involved in the engineering and motorsport sectors."

Are you looking for term time only work? Are you a retired teacher? We are looking for new members to join our team. Vacancies currently exist for a Cover Supervisor, Lunchtime Supervisor and Exam Invigilators. Full and part time hours considered. If you are interested in finding out more, call the school and ask to speak to Kerrie Kelly, HR Lead, on 01793 770570.

### ***Farm Trip***

A small number of students spent a week staying at Abbey Home Farm. Students and staff had a great time and learnt lots about what it is like to live and work on a farm. The students prepared and cooked all of their own food every day. Some of the jobs they undertook included grading the



eggs and delivering them to the shop, feeding the pigs, harvesting carrots and many more. Some of the students have been asked to come back to do work experience in July which is a testament to how hard they worked. Well done to all involved and a big thank you to the students and staff for making it a memorable trip.

### ***Emphatic girls' football result***

The U14 girls played Great Western Academy in their first County Cup match on 29 November. They had an emphatic win in freezing conditions – 13-0! Three hat-tricks from Heidi P, Varinia M and Evie M (Captain and POM). Great team performance from all and massive thanks to Year 11 officials Finlay S, Josh S and Jamie S.



### ***Year 8 basketball team into the Swindon schools final***

Following their victory against Commonweal, an unchanged Year 8 Basketball team then hosted Lydiard Park Academy. Once again the team produced an excellent attacking and defensive display against a strong LPA team to come out on top 29 - 19. The two wins confirmed the teams place in the Swindon Schools Basketball final in January. Well done to all involved.



### ***Ex-England international player visit to Bradon Forest***

Ex-England Rugby women's international player, Ceri Large, visited the school to work with our young sports women in November. Ceri spent two days in school working with our KS3 Girls PE groups, delivering rugby sessions. They worked on skills and drills to refine technique and take it into their games, learning to run to "spaces not faces." Year 8 student, Evie M, said: "The rugby session with Ceri was fun and a new experience for me. I was inspired by her as an ex-England player and she was a great coach!"



Ceri has played for England 50 times and was a part of the 2014 World Cup squad.

Huge thanks to Royal Wootton Bassett RFC and Dorset & Wilts RFU who helped fund the coaching.

# 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.

## **The Royal British Legion 2022 Poppy Appeal**

A total of £11,484.26 has been sent from Purton and district to the 2022 Poppy Appeal, and we would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way. Special thanks to the staff and pupils of Bradon Forest, St Mary's and Ridgeway Farm schools, and to the local businesses who supported the Appeal so that poppies were widely available again this year.

Also we would like to thank our many volunteers who help to sell Poppies both in Purton and at the West Swindon Centre.

*Shirley and Michael Lawrence, Poppy Appeal Organisers Tel. 01793 771084 Email: the\_lawrences@btinternet.com*

## **A celebration of lives well lived**

We would like to thank everyone who attended our celebration evening for

mum and dad on Saturday 3rd December at Purton Club, a wonderful evening of bingo hosted by Gerry Watkins, music by AutoBBand and The Dots, laughter and shared memories. We raised £388 which has been divided between The Jubilee Gardens Project and The Moonlight Eclipse Project. We would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

*Amanda, Sharon and family x*

## **Help when it was needed most**

I have been very humbled by the offers of help, the cards and the general level of support that friends, neighbours and strangers have given me in recent months as I deteriorated recently. I may not always have appeared to appreciate your support. I do now and I thank you for all you have done. I am emerging from the fog into some sunlight and it is because of your good wishes. Thank you.

*Caroline Mclean*



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# Purton Historical Society



## **Christmas Social**

The Christmas social, held in the Silver Threads' Hall, was a very festive occasion enjoyed by members and guests. The buffet, quiz and entertainment were excellent and the evening was a relaxed conclusion to a year of successful meetings.

Thank you to the many people who supported the Society during the past year. Best wishes to everyone for the new year.

## **New Programme**

Meeting venue - Purton Methodist Church, Play Close

The Society would like to welcome members and visitors to their New Year programme as follows:

**Thursday 26th January 2023,  
7.30 p.m. The Golden Age of  
Mountaineering and Exploration,  
Martin Collisson**

This presentation covers the heroic exploits of the men who made first

ascents of the Matterhorn, Eiger and Everest, plus the exploration of the Arctic and Antarctic. The talk finishes with the mountaineering achievements of arguably the greatest mountaineer living today – Reinhold Messner.

**Thursday 23rd February 2023, 7.30 p.m. The Ship Wilhelm Gustloff, Paul Booy**

The sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff was the biggest disaster in maritime history, yet few people have heard of her. She was a German ship sunk by a Soviet submarine. The reasons why she is so little known will be the subject of this talk.

**Thursday 23rd March 2023, 7.30 p.m.  
Annual General Meeting Followed  
by Photographs of Nostalgic Lydiard  
Vintage Car Rally 1989, Barry Davis**

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

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## 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.

- 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.

# Beneath the Wool

First thing to start this month is to say a massive apology for there being no Beneath the Wool last month, I had completely forgotten to write it and by the time I'd remembered, the magazine was nearly out. At the end of October we had a long weekend away in Shropshire which was lovely. We were in the middle of nowhere and right on the Welsh border. It felt like home with all the sheep and, dare I say, it felt Christmasy as there were fields and fields of Christmas trees. It was a nice break and good to get away from the farm as it has a tendency to stop you from doing things for yourself.

The lambs have had a few doses of wormer and they are looking a lot better now. In the new year we will be selling quite a few at market. They have now moved into a different field on Collins Lane and now have some grass, which they are happy about. Grass, as everyone knows, has been pretty thin this year, but after growing for quite a while they have quite a bite.

Jules has been busy with his 39 ladies. He managed all of them on their first cycle and only one repeat on the second cycle. This is good because we have kept back 14 shearling ewes and shearling ewes tend to be a bit harder for the ram to catch the first time.

We aren't quite sure what's going to happen with scanning this year as Bob, who normally scans our sheep, has finished. Bob's been scanning for quite a few years now and last year he had a phase where his mental health started to get the better of him. He was at one farm where he just needed to pack up and leave as it was all too much. There comes a point where you've got to put yourself first and, luckily for Bob, he's decided to do that at the right time. I still keep in contact with Bob very regularly and he certainly feels like a big weight has been lifted off his shoulders. From everyone at Rogers Farm we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton*



# 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 December's puzzle are 1D) Hens 2A) Ladies 3D) Drummers 4D) Rings 5A) Swans 6D) Pipers 7D) Birds 8A) Partridge 9D) Doves 10A) Geese 11A) Lords 12A) Maids

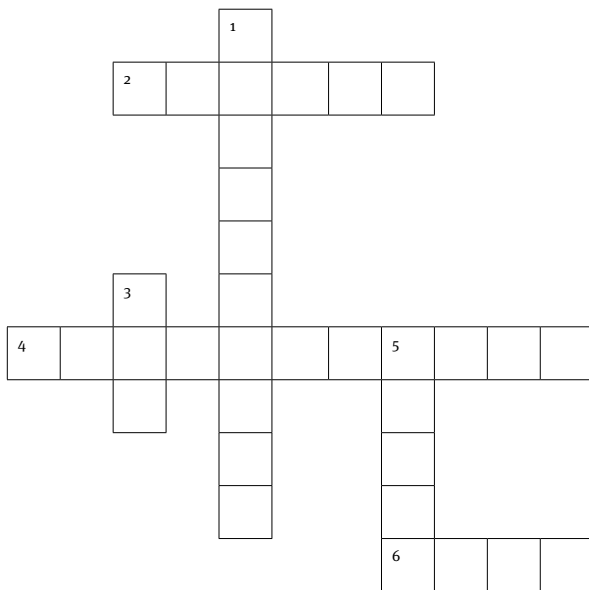
This month there are six clues.

- 2 across A score (6)
- 4 across Two little ducks plus one (6,5)
- 6 across Could be leap, light or gap (4)
- 1 down Promise (10)
- 3 down Novel (3)
- 5 down Joyful (5)

This is the next crossword created by Neil and Rob Miles to challenge villagers. Answers for this quiz will be in the February issue and if any reader would like to create their own mini crossword we would be delighted to include it in a future issue of your magazine.

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)



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# *A book I will always remember*

***The Shot takes us across the Atlantic to the United States in the lead-up to J.F. Kennedy's election in late 1960.***

*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.*

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# *The Shot*

*by Philip Kerr*

Readers of this column may recall I reviewed Kerr's Bernie Gunter series a couple of years ago. This particular novel I have somehow managed to overlook. It is actually from 1999 but has been re-released after the author's death. As a huge fan of Kerr's style of fiction, I found the book to be an outstanding example of his work. Yes, there may be some slow patches but all the essentials are there to make it an excellent novel.

The Shot takes us across the Atlantic to the United States in the lead-up to J.F.Kennedy's election as President in late 1960. As with the Bernie Gunter novels, Kerr writes around carefully-researched historical detail of the period, weaving a fascinating plot that involves Kennedy, Cuba, the Mafia and the FBI.

The novel opens with an introduction to the main character, Tom Jefferson, an Ex-Marine, Miami-based hitman. Used by the US government for untraceable executions of politically undesirables in foreign states or by the Mafia for very specific "hits", Jefferson exploits his skills as an outstanding sniper often with the aid of the FBI.

In 1960 in the US the Cold War was close to its peak and having Fidel Castro on the American doorstep was a thorn in the side for the Administration and the Mafia who had seen all their gambling clubs and upmarket lounges closed down at huge financial cost to them. The Mafia, represented by Sam Giancana, reach a consensus that Castro has to be eliminated and Jefferson is recruited by them to carry out the mission. He travels to Havana and completes



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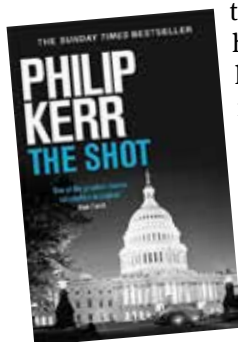
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Chris or Justyn on 01793 814888



a comprehensive reconnaissance. The plan is feasible and ready to be implemented.

It all starts to unravel when a member of the Mafia brags about a deal the Teamsters Union had made with Joe Kennedy, J.F.'s father, to secure support for J.F. in his Presidential campaign. They had in their possession compromising tapes of the future President in bed with Marilyn Monroe. Someone offers to show these, as entertainment, to Jefferson. While watching Jefferson clearly sees it is not Monroe but actually his wife, an enthusiastic Democrat party worker close to Kennedy.

Shortly afterwards Jefferson's wife is found dead and Jefferson has gone missing, with the Mafia's money. Together with a rogue FBI agent Alex Goldman, he begins to put together a plot to assassinate Kennedy when he visits Harvard early in the New Year.



What was initiated as a perfect solution to get the Mafia back in Havana, has turned into the perfect nightmare.

Jefferson goes underground, retreating to New York which becomes his base for developing his plan. He and Goldman make detailed preparations, identifying an ideal sniper position in student accommodation. The Mafia are desperate to find him and get their money back and protect the future President. They throw all their resources at the search, making very little progress as Jefferson remains out of their grasp.

What happens at Harvard and what exactly Jefferson did make an excellent, dramatic conclusion, a subtle twist that will catch the reader by surprise but well in keeping with an earlier conversation between Jefferson and Goldman.

*Paul Ballard*

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## Purton Cricket Club

Despite Christmas fast approaching, work in and around the cricket club hasn't slowed down with another busy month having passed. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the start of December. Work on the ground has continued in earnest for next summer and those involved received recognition for their efforts last season at a recent county wide awards evening. Meanwhile, the indoor team have

continued their season with another couple of games.

Starting off the field and with the AGM that was held on December 1st, the election of current and new officers was the main focus with a few changes across the board. Prashant Thati is the new Safeguarding Officer whilst Joe Kerslake was appointed Sunday Team Captain and Membership Secretary, whilst Alex Duffell was made



Communications Officer and Gavin Fry was elected Fixture Secretary.

The interim roles were filled by Trevor Carter (Honorary Secretary), Callum Wright (Director of Cricket) and Graham Wright (Social & Fundraising Officer), whilst the Vice Chair role remains open.

Peter Kinsman (Honorary Treasurer), Phil Duffell (Youth Development Officer), Tom Whittaker (First Team Captain) and Fraser Conway (Second Team Captain) were all re-elected alongside new Life Member appointments for Joe Dunn, Phil Duffell and Kenley Thomas, and Callum Wright staying as the Chair.

More information about membership and fees for the upcoming season will be revealed in due course after the Extraordinary General Meeting in the early months of 2023.

In the week before that, the Wiltshire Cricket Grassroots Award took place and there were a few nominations for those involved at Purton CC. Phil Duffell and Kenley Thomas were both recognised for their efforts in the Unsung Hero category (Those heroes who impact our game and help us make cricket happen). Whilst Graham and Karen Wright

were the only nominees in the Cricket Innovators category (Someone who has brought new ideas and/or implemented new systems to improve your club or community group). The club also received Clubmark reaccreditation for next season.

The work on the ground hasn't stopped with the winter ground maintenance schedule all on track. Recently the square and outfield has been cut as part of the preparations for the 2023 season.

On the field itself the indoor season has continued for the men's team in the Swindon Indoor Cricket Association Indoor League. After a mixed start in their first two games, a commanding win against Swindon Nalگو 2s followed, before two defeats against Swindon CC 2s and Swindon Titans. Adam Clatworthy is the top scorer for the team with 64 runs with Fraser Conway not far behind on 61. Luke Roche leads the wicket taking standings with six. They have one more game before the Christmas break in the SICA Knockout Cup against Coastal Cobras 3s.

*Harrison Burridge*

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## Purton Tennis Club



### ***Happy New Year!***

I wonder what the New Year will hold? 2022 was Extraordinary for lots of reasons – Three Prime Ministers, extremely hot weather and of course the sad loss of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Talking of Extraordinary – We had to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting

at the end of November, due to several of our key members stepping down from the committee and no one coming forward to fill the posts at the AGM. However, I am pleased to say that members stepped up to the plate and all the key posts are now filled. In fact, we had several members offering their



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services, which is heartening to hear. Thank you to everybody who took the trouble to attend the meetings or offer their services.

Leading up to Christmas, we had our fun tournament with mulled wine, mince pies and Santa Hats, and the club got-together, this year is a curry night at Royal Wootton Bassett. (We still miss going to the Maharajah in Purton – somewhere the Tennis Club went on a regular basis!)

On the court, our A team is doing really well in the winter league\*\*, and our B team is currently top in their division. The Purton men are also all top of the stats – so a lot of pride is at stake! The winter league runs until the end of February, and the summer season usually starts at the end of April. (Definitely something to look forward to!)

\*\*Winter league is mixed tennis with ladies/men's and mixed doubles.

Social tennis will continue after the Christmas break and organised sessions are on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings. All are welcome.

Our winter maintenance programme is ongoing. Thanks to Simon and Neil for battling against the continual flow of falling leaves on the courts. The courts are also going to have a deep clean and repaint very soon as it is very important to keep the courts in good condition.

Our pavilion, which has stood for many years, needs some TLC so that is also on the cards.

We will also be replacing some more perimeter fencing and this is a task where all members can help, as sometimes it's just a case of holding the fencing or painting a pole – and there is always coffee to be made!

January is a time when we renew our memberships and the notices will be sent out very soon by Jo, our new membership secretary. It is also a time of year when people set themselves little goals. Tennis is a game that can be enjoyed by anyone of all ages, ability, disability and standards. We have 2 fantastic coaches, Jon Bastin and Sid Falconer (who is deaf). Both coaches have excellent pedigrees and are LTA accredited. Please see our website if you would like to book a few lessons with either coach or should you be interested in joining Purton Tennis Club, then please get in touch.

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

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# Pips Community Café



## ***Lou's Hot Lunches***

Happy New Year to you all!

We hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and are ready to welcome in 2023.

Here's a list of what we have each Tuesday in January at Pips Cafe for Lou's Hot Lunches.

- Tuesday January 3rd - Home-made chicken casserole, mash, cauli cheese, broccoli & carrots. For pudding we will have something yummy with custard!
- Tuesday January 10th - Steak Pie, mash, cabbage, cauli cheese, carrots and gravy. For pudding we will have something yummy with custard!
- Tuesday January 17th - Sausages, mash, green beans, carrots and cauli cheese. For pudding we will have something yummy with custard!
- Tuesday January 24th - Home-made Lasagne, tenderstem broccoli, carrots & garlic bread. For pudding we will have something yummy with custard!
- Tuesday January 31st - Roast gammon, roast potatoes, stuffing, roast parsnips, cauli cheese, broccoli, carrots, Yorkshire pud and gravy. For pudding we will have something yummy with custard!

These are generous servings so please bring your empty tummies!

Main meals cost £5, and puds are only £2... you get a free drink when you buy both together!

Served from 12 noon until 1.30 p.m., approx 20 servings of each are available and once they're gone they're gone! Takeaways are available but please supply your own plates and dishes. Deliveries could be available but will need to be arranged prior to the day.

Anyone needing a lift on the day can use the Age Concern minibus, please contact Hazel on 01793 770862 to book. Each booked mini bus space guarantees you a meal.

The usual delicious Pips menu will also be available too!

Look forward to seeing you soon.

*Louise, Pips Community cafe volunteer*

# *A place I will always remember*

***...Then I did potentially the most stupid thing I have ever done with all that jungle around...***

*No matter how big or short a trip, travel often creates long lasting memories and allows us to share experiences with others. Research confirms that travel also makes us better citizens. We would be delighted to publish little stories from readers about places that you will always remember and especially why you will remember each place. Please feel free to contact us for further information, our details are on page 4..*

## *Pucallpa, Peru – May 1979*

Almost at the end of a six-week journey around Peru, Chile and Bolivia by bus, train and the occasional open truck, a small group of us arrived back in Lima. All that was left to do was to have a look at Amazonia. To do this, we needed to fly and we landed at Pucallpa in the evening.

Taking the bus to the hotel, it became evident that the town had the largest potholes on earth; driving was a real hazard. In fact, there was nothing smart about anything there. Naturally, three of us found a bar only to discover that the barman was worse for wear. We ordered three bottles and soon struck up a conversation with three locals. They then bought us a round and, so that the barman didn't have to think later, picked up our three empties and put them on their table. This continued back-and-forth for some time.

The next morning we bought essential supplies for a journey along the river into the rainforest. Although Pucallpa is on the Ucayali, a headwater of the

Amazon, when we reached the riverside there was no quay, just a few small open boats tied to the bank. We chartered two, with boatmen. The first stop was at an indigenous settlement (I am certain it wasn't a tourist spot; there were no other tourists in town). It was totally untouched by what we call civilisation. The ladies' garb was extremely revealing and there was a row of dead monkeys hanging up ready for supper.

On to our al fresco overnight "hotel". The first place we stopped at, one of the boatmen alighted with a heavy stick. Suddenly he was beating the ground and rushed back calling: "snakes". We moved on to a snakeless hotel. This consisted of a wall-less (but roofed) large wooden hut with the floor a metre above ground (remember the snakes!). And so passed a night in the middle of nowhere, cosy under our mosquito nets.

It was an uneventful cruise back to Pucallpa but on arrival I said that I would like to stay another night. So the rest of the group went back to Lima on



the evening plane while I went for a beer and got talking to two locals of about my age. Then I did potentially the most stupid thing I have ever done especially with all that jungle around – I accepted their invitation to drive to another bar. No problem, we had a pleasant evening and they dropped me back at my hotel.

On my extra day I had a good look around town and, in a supermarket, bought a souvenir, a glass bearing the shop's name Autoservicio Los Andes. It carries a picture of a young lady paddling in the river (mind the piranhas!) with the mountains in the background, though they are nowhere

near Pucallpa. Then I took a walk along the riverbank and out of town. I came to an inlet. There was a small boat there so I hopped in and it promptly sank. So I sat and let the forest enfold me. Then it was time to go back for the evening plane.

Today Pucallpa is a city of over 200,000 people. The streets are paved properly and there are posh monuments. Was it as small as I remember? Well, the supermarket on my glass has a three-digit phone number. And the people were so friendly.

*Peter Sharp*

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## Purton & District Probus Club



On Tuesday, 8th November, Peter Petrie from the Cheltenham Probus Club, gave us a talk on “The Man who Built Britain”. Thomas Telford was a self-taught, Scottish-born civil engineer, who, though he engaged himself in a greater range of engineering projects than any of his contemporaries, is not as easily called to mind as Brunel or Stephenson.

Born in 1757, in a hamlet near Dumfries, he began his career at 14 years old as an apprentice to a stonemason. However, with self-tuition and the help of contracts from wealthy patrons, such as William Pulteney and the Duke of Somerset, he eventually became a founder member and President of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

Telford's greatest achievement was and is the world's first suspension bridge sited across the Menai Strait, from near Bangor in North Wales to a village on the island of Anglesey, which now goes by the name of Menai Bridge. Completed in 1826 and still in use today, after almost 200 years, the bridge is a remarkable piece of engineering construction. Prior to its construction, crossing the Menai Strait had always been a dangerous endeavour. The four daily tides create treacherous waters in the Strait. In 1785 a ferry, in the face of a gale, sank with the loss of 54 lives from a headcount of fifty five. The swimming of cattle across the Strait, to the mainland, was yet being attempted, often with some loss.

In 1800, Ireland was joined to Great Britain by the Act of Union. The rapid increase in travellers between London and Dublin, via the ferry from Holyhead, encouraged the government, in 1815, to pass an Act of Parliament to build the Holyhead road. Telford, known for his civil engineering in roads and bridges, was awarded the contract. After surveying the route from London to Holyhead, despite some mountainous country (Snowdonia & near Dublin), he proposed bridging the Menai Strait and designed a spectacular piece of Architecture.

Telford's contribution to transport, in the building of roads, bridges and canals, mark the early years of the Industrial Revolution. Examples of his work, almost immeasurable in number, are spread throughout the length and breadth of the United Kingdom. His early years were spent in Scotland, developing and improving the roads and bridges to open up the more Mountainous Areas. At 25 years of age he was working in London to improve Saint Catherine's Dock and designed extensions to Somerset House. Two years later, at Portsmouth Dockyard, already being a Freemason, he created a Lodge-Room for the local Chapter. Pulteney bridge in Bath is named after Telford's friend and sponsor. In 1788, he was elected Surveyor of Public Works in Shropshire with a remit to connect the canals and link up with those in Cheshire. On the Llangollen/Ellesmere canal he constructed the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, (the 'stream in the sky'). In 1790 he built Montford Bridge to carry the Holyhead road over the Severn, one of many bridges in Shropshire. The same year he returned to Scotland to work with the British Fisheries Society on harbours and piers. It was here that he began the task of developing the Caledonian Canal, connecting lochs and designing a staircase of canal locks rising from near Fort William. The universal nature of Thomas Telford's work is celebrated in a bridge over the river Conwy at Betws-y-Coed, often referred to as the Waterloo Bridge because it carries the date of the year 1815. Cast into its iron structure are the emblems of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland; rose, thistle, leek and shamrock.

In 1817, in the role of Consultant Engineer to the Exchequer-Bill Loan Commissioners, he reorganised the completion of the Gloucester-Sharpness Canal and saw it connected to the Stroudwater canal.

After a lifetime of dedication to civil engineering, Telford found his last resting place in Westminster Abbey, alongside the poets. In 1963, the new town of 'Telford' was given his name.

At our second meeting in November, on the 22nd, John McCartney, who had worked as an Executive Manager to Lord Stokes of British Leyland, gave a talk entitled "Days that got a Whole Lot Worse".

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John gave us half-a-dozen or so amusing stories about some of the more unfortunate occasions in the motor industry when things did not always go according to plan, for example: An early computer-generated component list, from a well-proportioned lady keyboard operator, which resulted in the production of a Triumph Spitfire motor-car with wire wheels in the front and solid wheels at the back; an “End of the Assembly Line” car-wash enthusiast who accelerated through a solid brick wall; a Massey Ferguson combine harvester which harvested the exhibition tent (fortunately no-one was hurt), and a top-end Rover saloon that ripped up the new carpet of the Dorchester hotel in Park Lane. It was a very entertaining morning!

Anyone who has experience of the Birmingham-area car industry of the 60s and 70s will take pleasure in remembering the satisfaction of being employed in Production Engineering at that time.

The Purton and District Probus Club meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in Hook Village Hall. January ‘23 Programme: 10th – The Mighty DC3. 24th – Amusing & Amazing Moments dealing with Disaster. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

*Bob Stevens*

## Church Floodlighting



Dec 3 St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of **Jake Smith** on his 32nd birthday. Very much loved and missed by all his family and friends.

Dec 31/Jan 1 Happy New Year to all Purtonians

Jan 8 St Mary's will be floodlit for **Bob Wightman MBE**, on the 111th anniversary of his birth and in celebration of his life. Dearly loved and sadly missed by Roderick, Mark and Ben and all the Wightman family.

Jan 20 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **John Cook**. Very much loved and missed by Sue, Emma, Lucy, Jonathan and their families.

*For January, 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.*



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# Eyes down for Scout Bingo

As this year's Children in Need night fundraiser, 1st Purton and Lydiard Scout troop hosted a bingo night for the Scouts and their families on Friday the 18th November.

The evening started off with the guests being greeted by Peter at the door and donating £5 for a Scout and one adult, and an extra £1 per additional guest. Some Scouts just bought the one parent, but one Scout came along with both their parents, their sibling and their sibling's partner!

Alongside the Bingo fundraising element, parents were invited to bring along raffle prize donations, with tickets being sold for £1 a strip by Caleb whilst everyone was waiting for the bingo cards to be handed out. These generous donations ranged from a wooden cheese plate to three feet of Oreos, and from a mini chest of drawers to scented candles.

Once everyone was seated, the first of the evening's three different bingo cards were distributed by bingo callers Boyd and Chrissie. With the first round promptly getting underway for a line, everyone was focussed on their cards, except the leaders who were separating and folding the 400 raffle tickets in the kitchen. Using a downloaded bingo app, Boyd called out the numbers until the

first row was completed, verified, and the happy winner was rewarded with a bag of Quality Street. The first full house was soon won with the winner given free choice of the raffle prizes, probably the best prize of the night! The next two games continued with no single person winning more than one prize. The tension in the hall grew as one game went down to the last few numbers before someone finally called "BINGO!"

After the bingo there was a short hot drink, biscuit and squash break prepared by Liz and Marie, which the guests enjoyed while admiring the bingo prizes on offer. A few more tickets were sold then the draw got underway. Some families did particularly well on the 'choose your prize' raffle, with some winning up to five prizes, but it appeared that the vast majority of ticket holders won at least one of the 30+ prizes up for grabs. After the draw while the parents were admiring their bountiful gains, the Scouts helped to put the chairs and tables away neatly and efficiently, and tidied away any rubbish. The evening was a great success with £185 being raised for Children in Need, and everyone had an enjoyable evening at the bingo.

*Caleb Williams, Scout Sectional Assistant*

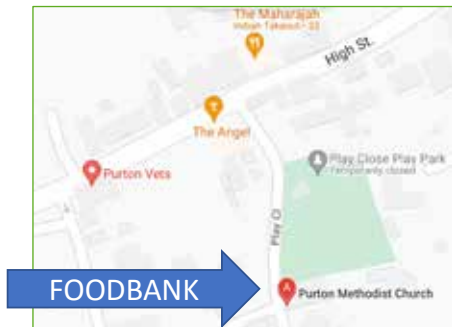
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# Poetry Corner

## ***The Road in the Clouds***

The Bealach nam Bo a lonely road which starts at Applecross  
It rises gently at the start all verged with bush and moss.  
We took the road in all good faith, the day was misty grey.  
The single lane made travel slow and often hid the way.  
As slowly winding to the crest all sombre was our view,  
We circled slowly up and up, the passers-by were few.  
The darkened sky, the colour changed from grey to midnight blue,  
And ever deepening purple shades that seep in murky hue.

The misty clouds hung soft on high and broke the sombre lift.  
They lingered in diluted shrouds that nature could not shift.  
But still the winding road we took. Our world began to fade.  
Yet constant in our upward course more wonders were displayed.  
At last, the pinnacle was reached. We trembled now in space,  
And time had ceased to make its mark. We'd left the human race.  
The world below had disappeared, diminished, lost in time.  
The magnetism of the heights a blessed paradigm.

As eagles soar in open space so did our spirits fly,  
Rhetoric has no words to tell the joy that passed us by.  
And then, as if a gracious hand had made the dark drift by,  
We saw the hills of Applecross, the Cuillins too of Skye.  
Such beauty was magnificent a mesmerising sight.  
We gazed in silence from afar until the waning light.  
The long way down now lay ahead with sharply twisted bends.  
We traversed slowly back to earth, our dreams now secret friends.

*Jacky Parker*

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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.





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