

February 2023

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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

Lucas Rodrigues

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

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

Priest: Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church

Father Michael Robertson

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

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# Purton Magazine

## **Purton Magazine committee:**

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

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

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**Advertising enquiries:** Richard McCarthy  
Email: [advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:advertising@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

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month, please to: Purton Magazine,  
c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College  
Road, Purton SN5 4AR

Tel: 01793 772954  
email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

## **Distribution & Delivery enquiries:**

Sandra Horsnall Tel: 01793 770157

Email:  
[distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

## **Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:**

The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close,  
Purton SN5 4DF

Also online at [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)

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Design & Print

# From the Editors

February 2023  
Volume 45 No.2  
1st Published 1975

As a country we have been warned that Wednesday 1st February will be the worst day for strike action in the UK. Widespread walkouts are expected involving teachers, train drivers, civil servants and university staff with nurses scheduled to strike a week later. Apparently we are not alone in this regard. At the time of writing, France is experiencing widespread strikes as the President tries to increase the retirement age from 62 to 64. On the Paris metro, it seems that the only the driver-less trains are running.

Here, although the cold hand of winter has recently returned, the days are noticeably getting longer – can Spring really be just around the corner? However, we start with a quick look back as this is the first chance for villagers to express their thanks for Christmas activities, including a special Christmas lunch at Pips. On page 56 we learn that St. Mary's Church was full of families on Christmas Eve for the Nativity Play and in addition to the usual array of children dressed up as 'instant' kings, angels and shepherds, there was a real, live and beautifully behaved baby in the manger. Perhaps the last of the Christmas reminders is that floral tributes will be

removed from the cemetery and displays wanted for keeping should be removed by 9th February, see page 6.

It appears that after the hot and dry summer, a period of cold winter weather and the continuing heavy rain, there are now many potholes across the county and on page 19 Wiltshire Council are working hard to fix them.

Looking forward, the Parish Council has announced on page 6 a series of events around the Coronation of King Charles III that include an Easter Egg hunt, a Coronation Bake Off, a Senior Citizens' Tea Party and a Coronation Garden Party – get the dates in your diaries now!

We close with the news that a local group has changed its name. There had always been the thought that, being called **After 8** simply meant that members could enjoy many those thin chocolate mints when carefully extracted from those equally thin individual wrappers (other brands are available). Not so, it seems. On page 40 we learn that the name would seem to refer to the starting time of the meeting but **After 7.30** sounds more like the time to catch a merchant banker in his office of a morning!

---

**-8**

Was not cold enough to stop the Cricklade Band from carolling!  
See page 23

**18**

Parish Stewards in Wiltshire have been tasked with mending potholes. See page 19

**74th**

Successive Remembered book article may be the last in the series.  
See page 45

# Purton Parish Council News



## **Save the date 2023**

With a programme of annual events and the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May, there's lots to look forward to in 2023! Key dates for your diary are:

- Monday 3rd April - Annual Parish Meeting and Awards Evening, 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall
- Saturday 8th April - Children's Easter Egg Hunt, noon - 2 p.m. at the Village Centre
- Saturday 29th April - Coronation Bake Off, 10 a.m. - noon at the Village Hall
- Friday 5th May - Senior Citizens Coronation Tea Party, 1 - 3 p.m. at the Village Hall
- Sunday 7th May - Coronation Garden Party, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. at the Village Centre
- Saturday 7th October - Community Safety Roadshow 10 a.m. - noon at the Village Hall.
- Saturday 2nd December - Light up Purton, Christmas Tree light switch on. 4.30 - 7.30 p.m. at Purton red House & Village Centre.
- Saturday 16th December - Children's Christmas Party

For further details follow us on Facebook, check out our website or contact us on 01793 771824.

## **Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards 2021/2**

You are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting and Awards Evening on Monday 3rd April at 7.30 p.m. at

the Village Hall. At this event, all those who have been nominated for an award will be welcomed, receive recognition and enjoy some light celebratory refreshments.

## **Council meetings 2023**

Council Meetings open to the public will be held at the Village Hall from 7 p.m. Full council meetings as follows:

- Monday 13th February
- Monday 13th March
- Monday 17th April
- Monday 8th May
- Monday 12th June
- Monday 10th July

Agendas are posted on our four notice boards (Purton Village Hall, Ridgeway, Maldon View and at the Pavenhill Shops) and our website: [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **Cemetery Christmas Wreaths**

We will be removing floral/Christmas tributes from the cemetery on the 9th February. If anyone wishes to keep their items, please collect them before this date as they will be removed, composted and disposed of.

## **Councillor Vacancies**

The Parish Council currently has the option to co-opt three Councillors. If you are interested in this community post, please complete forms which can be found at the link below. 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)

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### ***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)
- Follow us on Facebook – [www.facebook.com/purtonparishcouncil/](http://www.facebook.com/purtonparishcouncil/)
- Follow us on Twitter – @PurtonPC

### ***Safety inspections of memorials in council cemetery/churchyard***

#### ***Local authorities' cemeteries order 1977 health and safety at work act 1974***

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that inspections of memorials in Purton Cemetery, controlled by Purton Parish Council, are to be carried out to assess the safety of memorials.

The inspections will be carried out on a five year rolling programme to identify memorials that are an immediate hazard or unstable.

This inspection programme will start on Monday March 6th, 2023, and is anticipated to continue for

approximately 2 – 4 weeks from this date, pending weather

Where memorials are an immediate hazard the Council will place a notice at the grave and take action to remove the hazard by laying the memorial down.

Where memorials are unstable the Council will place a notice on the memorial and temporarily support them with wood stakes or bonding which meets the standards of the National Association of Memorial Mason and write to the memorial owner to carry out repairs to ensure the memorial is safe.

The Council will make every effort to recover the cost of making memorials safe when carrying out work in default, from the memorial owner. Where contact cannot be made, the headstone will be sunk into the grounds and made safe.

Full detail can be obtained by contacting the Clerk on 01793 771066 or emailing [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or in person at Purton Parish Council, Council Offices, Village Hall, Station Road, Purton, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 4AJ

---

## **Royal Wootton Bassett Community Cinema**

RWB and District Rotary Club runs a Community Cinema, based in the 6th Form Centre at RWB Academy. The aim is to be a friendly, welcoming and safe environment which anybody can come along to – for only £5.

### ***Our next film is on Friday February 3rd – The Lost King***

In 2012, having been lost for over 500 years, the remains of King Richard III were discovered beneath a carpark in Leicester. The Lost King is the life-

affirming true story of a woman who refused to be ignored and who took on the country's most eminent historians, forcing them to think again about one of the most controversial kings in England's history.

Watch the trailer at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bgv6KHeAFeY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bgv6KHeAFeY)

Doors open at 19:00. Film starts 19:30.

[www.facebook.com/RWBDRotaryCinema](http://www.facebook.com/RWBDRotaryCinema)

Friday March 3rd – Mrs Harris Goes To Paris

# Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



## ***A Message from the Surgery***

Over the past few weeks the Surgery has seen a huge increase in the demand for appointments, this has been compounded with practice staff sickness.

If you have a minor illness you can also visit [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) for advice on medical conditions and self-management information.

Pharmacies can also help as they have qualified healthcare professionals who can offer clinical advice and over-the-counter medicines for a range of minor illnesses, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, tummy trouble and aches and pains.

## ***Changes to our PPG***

Having been Chair of our PPG since 2014, Marietta Crockford has decided to stand down from this position but she will continue as a member of the committee. We thank her for all the hard work she has put into the position and we welcome committee member Nikki Lawrence as our new Chair.

Peter Berry has been a valued member of our Committee for a number of years. However as he is extremely busy in his role of Chair of Purton and District Age Concern, he has decided to stand down



from the PPG. We will miss him and thank him for all the work he has done as a PPG committee member.

## ***200 Club draw***

Thank you to all who are supporting the 200 Club. The January 2023 draw was done by Receptionist, Carole Welsh. The £100 winner was Janet Saunders and

the £15 winner was Nicola Lawrence.

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

A reminder that the tabletop is 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 us by email: [groupforpatients@gmail.com](mailto:groupforpatients@gmail.com)

*Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary*

# Purton & District Age Concern

Purton and District  
~~AGE~~ CONCERN

## ***2023 Here We Come!***

By the time you read this we will have had our Burns Night dinner and we will have well and truly started the New Year with a rush. How the time has flown already; Christmas is a distant memory and along with it, a most strange year for everybody. Let's hope 2023 will bring some long awaited encouragement and positivity.

I have to go back to Christmas Eve and our 'Carols under the Christmas Tree'. Well, the weather put paid to that being outside and near the Christmas tree. Instead, we retreated into the Red House and the band set up to play. A lot of manoeuvring took place as people who had come in for a drink moved away from the band, and the carol singers moved into what was already a busy area. Thanks go to James for allowing us to continue inside; we hope his takings increased accordingly.

The band, called Lockdown Brass and led by Mark Blackwell, did an excellent job and the singing gained in volume as people got into the swing of it. We have already discussed a new format for this year.

Ali and her team supplied mince pies and mulled wine, which were ferried in from the Bowls pavilion that was made available to us by the Parish Council. Thanks then to everybody who helped and to those who joined in. It was a good evening and a good pre-cursor to Christmas.

## ***Vouchers***

There were over 950 vouchers distributed that were valid from the 1st December until the 8th January and, at the time of producing the notes, we don't have a final figure on just how much this has cost us. We hope that you all enjoyed spending them, but don't forget we have to raise that money, so please support our events so that we can give them out in the future.

## ***Hampers***

Once again I am always amazed at what happens in this village and, yet again, we have not been disappointed. Cricklade Prep School were the first to contact me and offer mince pies and cream teas to over 20 households as part of a scheme they run to involve the children in local activities. This happened on the 2nd December and was organised by Lesley Bayliss, who is the business secretary and whose mum, Pam, is in the Cedars in Purton.

The team at White Lodge were the next to get in contact and they produced 15 beautiful hampers for us to distribute. They can be seen on our Facebook page and also White Lodge's Facebook page if you are interested. We asked our Street Wardens to nominate who they thought would appreciate these gifts and we duly delivered them out just a week before Christmas.

I have to say we have had a lot of lovely feedback from the recipients. So thank you to White Lodge, especially Romana and Lucy, we applaud your efforts.

### ***Electric Buggy***

We have acquired a three-wheeled electric buggy which has had a new battery fitted, has been serviced and is running well. If anybody is in need, perhaps through an accident or operation and needs this type of transport on a temporary basis, then please let me know by ringing 778119 for details. If anyone needs one on a permanent basis then an offer might be acceptable to purchase this from us.

### ***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. The 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. 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 Facebook and Twitter accounts which can be found at Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/purtonageconcern/> and Twitter: @Purton\_AC. Please visit our social media sites and let us know what you think.

We still have a couple of wheelchairs and walkers which can be borrowed, as well as crutches and walking sticks. If you think you might need any of these at any time then ring me on 778119.

*Peter Berry, Chairman*

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11/23

# Audrey Wheeler Obituary

Along with a fair few others, I attended the funeral of Audrey Wheeler on the Friday before Christmas. Audrey was another of Purton's stalwart residents.

I couldn't let her passing go by without writing a thank you to Audrey for all her work on both The Purton Helping Hand and Purton Carnival committees and the amount of effort that went into them.

Audrey was secretary to The Purton Helping Hand for many years, too many to remember. She only gave up this position in the final few years of its existence. In her role she not only took the minutes at our monthly meetings and other general secretarial tasks, but organised the lists and got the Christmas vouchers printed, which she passed on to the other members with the correct amount of envelopes to go around all pensioners and widows in Purton, Braydon, Greenhill, Purton Stoke and outlying area. She did the same for diabetics at Easter, all funded by the Purton Carnival.

I am sure many people remember receiving a bunch of flowers, a plant or a basket of fruit with a cheery note from Audrey wishing them well, all made possible by the numerous fundraising events organised by The Purton Helping Hand.

Audrey was a very quiet lady and, in my experience, she was always very happy and she had a wonderful smile, which she shared with us on so many

occasions. As we only lived a few houses apart I usually transported her to whatever was going on. I remember her saying more than once as I filled my car with items that she'd collected for a jumble sale, "I'm not bringing anything back!". Well it was never the same things, but the car was full on return with items she saw that were too good for jumble, "It will do for our next Table Top Sale!".

When we put on the Carnival lunch, we'd all pitch in to peel a sack of potatoes on the morning of the lunch, but one year another member, Gill Woolford and her husband Dave, took the sack and peeled all the potatoes in advance. After bringing them back, they were shaken to see Audrey checking them all, one by one, and removing the tiniest of eyes! I'm not too sure that they were pleased, but there were certainly no eyes in our mash that year!

Whether it was Audrey or one of the other committee members who popped a card or a voucher through a door, it was always from Audrey. If asked if people remember The Purton Helping Hand most people say, "Oh yes, Pauline Ward and Audrey Wheeler".

All our thoughts are with Penny, De and their families at this time. If only there were a few more Audreys in this world. Thank you Audrey and God bless.

*Pearl Lait*

# Purton & District Age Concern Minibus

Following my article in the last issue, I am delighted to announce on behalf of the Minibus Committee that Tracey Coombs will be joining us as our new Secretary as from February 1st, 2023, replacing Andy who has decided to retire.

The committee consists of four of us Dave Warren our Chairman, Graham Price Treasurer, me as Co-ordinator and Tracey as Secretary. Her email address will be [pac2secretary@gmail.com](mailto:pac2secretary@gmail.com)

I would like to thank Andy on behalf of all the Minibus crews and Age Concern as a whole, for his work and support over the last few years. Thank you!

The minibus provides a vital link for those over 60 years of age 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. Any time you can give is appreciated even if only very

occasionally, but that one time may get someone to a surgery appointment. You just need a clean driver's licence for a normal car. Shotguns need to be able to open and shut the sliding door and to deploy the steps.

Please note there are often spare seats for shopping trips on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. The first one is usually to Cirencester. Transport for Surgery appointments is one of our priorities so please avoid, if possible, the lunch period on Tuesdays and Thursdays (we do PIPS) and Fridays until after 2p.m.

Please call me - telephone 770862 to book or email me at [pac2bookings@gmail.com](mailto:pac2bookings@gmail.com)

Take care and stay safe.

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

---

## Millennium Garden

We've been surprised and delighted to receive donations from Pips and from fund-raising at the One Stop; many thanks to all involved. These donations mean work developing and maintaining the Millennium Garden can continue... once the weather improves!

We'll organise a work party date, but if you fancy popping into the garden for 10

minutes of weeding on your own, please feel free! Special thanks to John and Jill Beattie who have put so much time, expertise and effort into the project. They are moving on to pastures new, and will be much missed.

Thanks again to Pips and One Stop staff and customers for your support.

*Diana Meares*

# One Stop Fundraiser

The team at One Stop are pleased to report that we raised nearly £700 at our Christmas fundraiser. With money from our Community buckets situated at till point, we gave both The Jubilee Gardens Project and The Purton Memorial Garden Fund £370 each.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us; without you we would be unable to do what we do. While I am saying thank you, I would like to say thank you to everyone who sourced eggs for me to be able to bake as many cakes as I did, especially Rowie from Purton House who gave me two trays.

Thank you so much! Also thank you to a few generous people who donated raffle prizes, and also to Jean and Des Guppy for the loan of your tables and for Jean's lovely mince pies. Although my sister-in-law Deb Wicks is recovering from an operation to repair her broken arm, along with Neil, she made a lovely contribution to the cake table and as usual supplied one of the tables; thank you. We had a total of fifty prizes and congratulations to everyone who won. Hopefully by now you should all have received your prizes.

Although it was hard work for the few of us who baked and organised the event,



we enjoyed the morning, sharing a bit of festive cheer and a few laughs with our customers, which, along with a wonderful result, is reward enough for all our hard work.

We would also like to thank our customers for their generous donations in the community bucket as well as money for sales of Royal British Legion Poppies in November. A total of £165 went to their very worthy cause.

Thank you all again.

*Pearl Lait, on behalf of Zac (manager),  
Zita and Your One Stop Team.*

Pictured above: Zac, Pearl and Zita.



12/23

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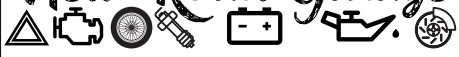
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02/23

# Outreach Purton *Community information from Wiltshire Council*

## ***Travel by ‘bus this winter – most single fares cut to just £2 or less***

Wiltshire bus users can now travel on most routes in the county for just £2 or less for a single fare until 31 March.

The fare price reduction has been funded by the Government, and is aimed at getting more people to use buses across the country during the current cost of living challenges.

As part of the promotion, many single bus fares in Wiltshire have been capped at just £2 for both adults and concessions. If the single fare was originally less than £2, it will remain at the reduced price and many day return tickets have also been reduced.

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: “This is a fantastic initiative to get more people using Wiltshire’s buses, as the £2 single fare cap offers an affordable and easy way to get around the county.

“If more people choose to leave their car at home and take the bus, it will help to maintain bus routes in Wiltshire, as well as reducing congestion and carbon emissions, and improving air quality.

“As we have set out in our Business Plan, we want to have vibrant, well-connected communities here in Wiltshire, and buses are a key part of that.

“Most bus services in Wiltshire are included in this great value offer, so I’d urge people to save money and explore Wiltshire by bus this year.”

Most normal bus services are included in the promotion, including services operated in Wiltshire by the following

bus companies:

- Beeline Coaches
- Coachstyle
- Damory Coaches
- Faresaver
- First Bus
- Fromebus
- Libra Travel
- MoreBus
- Stagecoach
- Salisbury Reds
- SouthWest Coaches
- Swindon’s Bus Company

To find out more about bus services and operators in Wiltshire, people should go to: [www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/getting-around/bus/](http://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/getting-around/bus/)

## ***Council focuses on potholes after cold snap and wet weather***

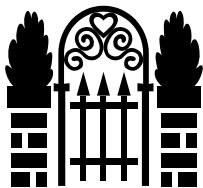
Following the hot and dry summer, a period of cold winter weather and the continuing heavy rain, Wiltshire Council and its contractors are working hard to fix cases of potholes on the county’s highways.

As well as its usual teams working to fix potholes where they occur, the council has also tasked its 18 Parish Stewards to solely focus on mending potholes that meet our defect criteria over the next few weeks to help get on top of the issue.

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: “Following the summer, the recent cold snap and the increasingly wet weather we have seen an increase in potholes on some of Wiltshire’s roads, and we’re working hard to respond to this, to ensure we have well-connected communities, as set out in our Business Plan.

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“The weather has provided the perfect conditions for potholes to form, and that’s why we’re seeing an increase in the number of road defects throughout the county.

“Our teams are responding to customer reports about potholes and other highways issues, and to help with this, we’ve tasked our 18 Parish Stewards to only work on patching potholes in their communities over the coming weeks.

“Because the weather is so wet, in many cases our teams will patch the hole as a temporary fix and then, later in the year, more permanent repairs will take place when conditions are more favourable.

“People can quickly and easily report potholes through our MyWilts app or website.”

In Wiltshire, the M4, A303, and A36 are all managed by National Highways, and so any issues on these roads should not be reported to Wiltshire Council.

If people see a pothole on Wiltshire’s roads, they should report it using the MyWilts reporting system – either through the MyWilts smartphone app for Apple or Android devices, or online at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts).

### ***Keep warm and well this winter***

As wintery and cold conditions become more adverse and frequent, Wiltshire Council is reminding people of some of the best things they can do to stay warm and well and help ease the pressure for health and care services as much as possible.

### ***Keep medicines well-stocked***

The weather can change quickly and even relatively small showers of snow or adverse weather can cause travel issues on roads. People should make sure they

have a reasonable stock of personal medicine during the winter months, especially if they have to take daily medication or medication for serious illness. People should contact their pharmacy who can help them to ensure they have an adequate personal supply of their medicine. Pharmacies also provide an excellent point of contact for any non-emergency health advice that may be required.

### ***Steps to avoid catching a cold, flu or COVID-19***

Catching a cold, flu or COVID-19 can leave an individual feeling run down. People should take these simple steps to best prevent catching a winter illness:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds

### ***Check eligibility for COVID-19 and flu jabs***

People should make sure their vaccinations for COVID-19 and flu are up to date to reduce the likelihood of catching them, or to minimise the symptoms if they do.

People can check their eligibility for vaccinations at:

Flu: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/)

Covid: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/)

## **Visit warm spaces**

Wiltshire Council libraries have officially become warm spaces for people this winter, providing a warm and friendly space where people can sit down and warm up with a hot drink\*. The council's friendly library staff will be able to assist residents seeking basic energy advice and make referrals to experienced energy advisors, in all but its smallest libraries. People can also pick up a Warm Pack for free which contains a fleece blanket, hot water bottle and thermos mug. There is no eligibility requirement.

Kate Blackburn, Director of Public Health, for Wiltshire, said: "Winter is always a challenging time for our health and care services so the more we can do to help ourselves the more we can help ease the pressure that those services are under. If we take some simple common sense steps then we can reduce the risk of getting poorly at a time when we want to be with our loved ones. I wish everyone a happy and healthy time."

The council also has a range of support and advice on its dedicated cost of living webpages. 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 interactive community directory can also be found there, which contains details of other warm spaces in

the county as well as community food providers. It can all be found at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living).

More health advice can be found at <https://bsw.icb.nhs.uk/>

## **Recycle your Christmas packaging**

Now that Christmas has been and gone, you might have lots of cardboard leftover that won't quite fit into your full blue-lidded bin.

Our Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) are open and operating during their usual working hours to help you get back to normal at home and hopefully see the carpet again!

If you're looking to recycle wrapping paper, please note that only paper wrapping paper can be recycled. To check if wrapping paper is made of paper, please use the scrunch test. Scrunch the paper and if it stays in a ball, it can be recycled in your blue-lidded bin or at your local HRC.

If you've signed up to garden waste collections, you can leave your real Christmas tree next to your green bin on your first scheduled collection in January and we will collect it for composting. Alternatively, you can make a small donation to charities that collect Christmas trees. You can also take your Christmas tree to your local HRC for recycling.

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

---

## *Prayer for Purton*

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Blacklands, Red Gables Close, Highridge Close, The Masons, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Upper Mill, Ray Close and The Buffer.*

# Pips Community Café



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

Hello everyone. I can't believe it's February already!

Here's the menu for Tuesdays Lou's hot lunch at Pips Cafe in the Silver Threads Hall for this month:

7th Home made cottage pie, broccoli, cauli cheese and carrots followed by something nice with custard for pudding.

14th Valentines Day Surprise Meal

21st Homemade chicken casserole, cabbage, cauli cheese and carrots followed by something nice with custard.

28th Roast pork, roast potatoes, stuffing, Yorkshire pudding, veg & gravy followed by something nice with custard.

Main meals are £5 each and puddings are £2. A free drink can be chosen if both courses are bought together.

Served on Tuesdays from 12 midday to 1.30 p.m. or until we have run out. There are usually around 20 to 24 servings of each available on a first come first served basis. Takeaways are available if your own plates are supplied. The usual full Pips menu is also available.

The Age Concern minibus is available to book, please contact Hazel on 01793 770862.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

*Louise, Pips Community cafe volunteer*

---

## **The Cricklade Band... kept on carolling!**

Didn't we just! We kept going through the snow and ice, through temperatures as low as minus 8°. Most of us kept going, even though we had six cases of Covid preventing people turning up and we had lots more who kept on going with that horrible cold!

We can only keep doing it with the help of so many people and as a community band we also thank the wider community for the part you played. You always support us by coming out to see us, tagging along with us, applauding and cheering, filming and photographing us. It all cheers us along as we make our way through our carol books!



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Most importantly, you dropped donations into our red buckets, which means that we have achieved our target of being able to afford the major forward expenses of 2023 with just a bit spare too. For a non-profit making organisation, where no-one gets paid and everyone volunteers their time and skills, it's a weight off our minds!

People who we'd like to specially thank for their help and support are Eric and Chris, Cricklade's town criers who were out and about with us. Also some of our band Vice Presidents who were accompanying us too. The arrival of bacon rolls on Christmas Morning is always so welcome, especially when the 'Wobble Doctor' provides them, with the bacon supplied by Harold James – thank you! We'd also like to thank the editors of Cricklade Chronicle, Purton Magazine and Ashton Keynes and Leigh Newsletter for allowing us to publicise all that we do in a printed and/or electronic form.

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

And then there was the Christmas Show! This was a Cricklade Town Hall sell-out and our publicity invited you to 'turn it into a party'. Didn't you just! What a night! Not only that, then you all checked whether you'd won a raffle prize contributed by local shops and businesses; thank you – and thanks to them!

As a final note, whole families were coming out into the streets as the band made its way round.

If you or your children found what we do inspirational and you'd like to have a go, or pick up where you left off, then just check out our Facebook page, drop us an email – and just come and have a go!

For now, we're all so grateful to everyone who played their own part, helping us to '...keep on carolling' – thank you!

*Paul, and everyone in the band*

#### DISCLAIMER

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

# Ten Years Ago...

Purton Magazine for February 2013 was full of stories of rain, mud and even a little snow. The Scouts had been to a winter camp and made the discovery that sleeping in a tent at that time of year resulted in a cold nose. On the other hand, a local pub was offering a “Summer of Fun”. But the seasons certainly are moving on; outside my window, in early January, the tree is coming into bud.

Planning applications are a constant theme. No sooner had the future of Mud Lane been settled by the authorities than another request was lodged, this time for

“central hearing” in a house in the High Street. Do we now have a Russian spy in the centre of our village? On another page was a statement: “If you do the same things, in the same way, you will get the same results”. Does this apply to decisions on planning applications, too?

On a broader planning front, it seems that the scheme for the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Cricklade/RWB area was falling apart. The two principal towns had left the process, leaving just a few villages, and Ps & Qs, having completed their own survey, believing that



we should not be involved with the remaining parishes.

On the other hand, if you wanted a say in the running of the whole country, Purton Evening WI suggested that you paid a subscription and join it. I know that the ladies always rule the household, but is this perhaps a bit ambitious?

---

## We Record...

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

23 December 2022 Audrey May Wheeler (96)

30 December 2022 Yvonne Maureen Cuss (88)

6 January 2023 Eric Dodson (93)

### **Funeral at North Wiltshire Crematorium**

3 January 2023 Terence Timms (90)



# 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.*

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## **Susan Caslaw**

We are sad to announce Susan Elizabeth Caslaw has passed away peacefully on 26th December 2022 at her home in Purton Stoke, at the age of 80. Her remaining family James, Andrew, Judith and Simon mourn her loss.

## **Fabulous Pips Christmas Lunch**

I would just like to thank everyone at Pips for the lovely Christmas meal we had on the 20th of December. The tables looked lovely with crackers and sparkle and a delicious punch drink when we arrived.

We had a group of singers in costume to entertain us, and a present to take home. A great afternoon all round.

*Carole Glead*

## **Vasterne Close Christmas Lights**

Thank you to everyone who made donations to our Christmas lights display in aid of the Prospect Hospice, £76.40 has been passed on to this very worthy local charity.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2023.

*Sue and Barry, Vasterne Close*

---

## News from Purton Methodist Church

Our concert in December with The Chedworth Band, Gary Bamford and Susanna Bevington was a great success, with all tickets sold. We raised £391 on the night. Sylvia sold cakes throughout the month of November and raised another £207. Thank you to those of you who supported us.

We continue with our Sunday services at 10.30 a.m. and of course we welcome anyone who would like to join us.

We have formed a small Music Group of our own during the past few months and this enhances our services somewhat.

If there is anyone out there, especially a guitarist, who would like to get a bit of experience, please come along, or give Sylvia a call on 770686 for a chat.

Purton Churches' Lent Lunches begin on Wednesday 22nd February at the Methodist Church, and will follow the usual format. We hope to see you there!

Plans are in hand to restart our monthly Ladies' group on Wednesday 10th May and we will be in touch with our regular members in due course. Anyone interested who hasn't been before will be most welcome on the day.

# Purton Historical Society



Meeting Venue – Purton Methodist Church, Play Close

**Thursday 23rd February 2023, at 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, at 7.30 p.m. *Annual General Meeting Followed By: Photographs of Nostalgic Lydiard Vintage Car Rally 1989 and WW2 Legacy In The Channel Islands, Barry Davis.***

These photographic presentations will be accompanied by music.

**Thursday 27th April 2023, at 7.30 p.m. *Lydiard House, Local History and Families. Speaker: To Be Advised***

***Subscriptions for 2023***

Membership subscriptions for 2023 are now due, at the same rate, £15, as

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

Account name: Purton Historical Society  
Account number: 00662136  
Sort code: 30-98-41

If paying by bank transfer, please record your name in the reference field on the payment authorisation. If paying by cash, please include a note of your name.

The Committee would be very grateful if existing members could renew their membership as soon as possible.

New members are very welcome; please include a note of your postal and email addresses with your payment, or, if paying by bank transfer, please email Jim Mosley at J.Mosley1@btinternet.com with that information.

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

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## Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett & District

***Portable ultrasound scanner to Cherkassy Ukraine***

Using the funds raised from our charity events, The Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett & District purchased a portable ultrasound scanner unit to send to Cherkassy hospital in Ukraine.

The unit was transported to Ukraine and forwarded on to Nina,

secretary of the Rotary club in Cherkassy, with whom we correspond, to present to the hospital there on our behalf. The shipment also included dental restorative materials which were a total surprise for the Stomatology department at the hospital. Clothing, blankets, log burners and a generator all donated to our club by our local residents were also included in the shipment, which was to give to the local people in Cherkassy..

First picture attached is the main part of the scanner unit. The second picture is of Dr Zadorozhnyi, director of the hospital, Nina of Rotary Cherkassy is in the centre and the chief of Diagnostics at the hospital receiving the scanner unit. They were simply delighted with their Christmas presents.

### ***Rotary Santa Sleigh Royal Wootton Bassett***

It is with great pleasure that with the combined efforts of the Rotary clubs of Royal Wootton Bassett & District and Royal Wootton Bassett Town, the grand sum of £5584 was collected in December through the donations made by the residents of Royal Wootton Bassett, Lyneham and Lydiard Millicent.

What a magnificent sum raised and our sincere thanks is offered from both Rotary Clubs for the generosity of all who so kindly gave a donation. The funds raised will all be given to local charities. We hope that Santa did his work and managed to bring some cheer and excitement to the children in readiness for Christmas Day.

A happy and healthy New Year to you all with our very best wishes from ROTARY.

*Linda Locke, President,  
Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett & District*



# White Lodge donate Christmas hampers

Staff and residents at White Lodge care home in Braydon have a long running link with local charity Purton and District Age Concern. Staff members, residents and families kindly donated a range of Christmas foods that went into creating the beautiful hampers. The hampers were carefully put together by residents and the White Lodge team presented the hampers to Peter Berry, Chairman of Purton and District Age Concern.



Peter and his team distributed these to older people in the local community in time for Christmas.

Ramona Gherendi, General Manager at White Lodge care home said, “Residents, their relatives and staff have all been so supportive by donating items and the residents greatly enjoyed putting the hampers together. It meant that we

could donate a number of hampers to Purton and District Age Concern.”

White Lodge is run by Barchester Healthcare, one of the UK’s largest care providers, which is committed to delivering high-quality care across its care homes and hospitals. White Lodge provides nursing, residential and respite care.

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## Live Harpist – Malmesbury Abbey

***Saturday 4th February 11am – 12pm, Malmesbury Abbey***

Come and enjoy the wonderful sounds of the harp played live by Bristol performer Emmy Broughton.

This is a free concert, no booking required – just come along.

All welcome!

# February Nature Correspondent

A year ago I noticed that a Dipper was wintering along the River Kennet in Marlborough. Well, the bird has returned and is now regularly seen in the Town Mill area in the last hour of daylight. A displaced feather on its right flank identifies it as the same individual and occasional bursts of song suggest it is probably a male.



Whilst under water, the wings are covered by a thin, silvery film of air, due to small bubbles being trapped on the surface of the plumage, which is dense, with a large preen gland for waterproofing the feathers. Their eyes have well-developed

focus muscles that can change the curvature of the lens to enhance underwater vision, and nasal flaps to prevent water entering their nostrils.

Dippers are small, chunky, stout, short-tailed, short-winged, strong-legged birds living along fast-flowing upland waterways and slower lowland rivers broken by weirs. They hunt their largely invertebrate prey by diving, swimming (both on and below the surface) and walking on the bottom. The dipper's sober plumage helps it to blend into the riverside background until its penetrating "zit, zit" calls draw attention to its presence. The dark-brown plumage and white throat and upper breast makes it superficially similar to the Ring Ouzel (hence the nickname "water ouzel") but a binocular view reveals the head, nape and gorget (avian throat colouring) are a rich chestnut brown.

Dippers have a distinctive whirring flight due to their short wings and a characteristic bobbing, curtsying motion when perched beside the water, giving rise to the Latin name "cinclus, cinclus."

The Dipper is a scarce bird in Wiltshire mostly confined to the By Brook and parts of the Frome. Appearances on the River Kennet are very rare, hitherto confined to one or two winter sightings. I occasionally join the dedicated team of two or three enthusiastic watchers lined up on the bridge at Town Mill, waiting for the bird to appear for a few minutes before going to roost under the bridge. While they wait, a Grey Wagtail occasionally appears or perhaps a Kingfisher. One lady asked me what we were looking at as she passed by with her shopping. "It's a Dipper" I said and passed her my binoculars. This was the moment when the bird performed its party trick, disappearing underwater for a good 20 seconds. "Can't see any bird" she muttered, and moved on, convinced we were making it up!

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

# Purton Village Diary - February 2023

2	Th		Groundhog Day
5	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion Service at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Church for All at St Mary's Church
6	M	7.30pm	RWB Amateur Gardening Club meet at RWB Memorial Hall for a talk about Mediterranean wild flowers
7	Tu		Charles Dickens Day. This day celebrates one of Britain's greatest writers on his birthday. Enjoy Dicken's work as a novelist who brought social realism to the fore as his books reflected the real life of poor people in Victorian England.
			Safer Internet Day. A day to help raise awareness of online safety issues in your home, school, workplace or community.
11	Sa		International Day of Women & Girls in Science. A UN Day to encourage women and girls to fully participate in science, and strive for equality of opportunity in the sciences.
12	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
			Darwin Day. A celebration of scientist Charles Darwin, author of The Origin of Species. The day is used to highlight Darwin's contributions to science and to promote science in general.
13	M		Half Term week
		10.00am	Purton WI meet at Silver Threads Hall
		7.00pm	Full Parish Council meeting at Purton Village Hall
14	Tu		Galentines & Palentines Day. Held on the day before St. Valentine's Day, this is a day to celebrate your friendships.
			St Valentine's Day
		10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at Hook Village Hall for a talk on the RAF at 100
17	F	7.30am	Wessex Male Choir recruitment evening at RWB Rugby Club
			Random Acts of Kindness Day
19	Su	10.00am	Cake stall at Pips in aid of the Great Western Hospital Cancer unit
			Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
19	Su	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Church for All at St Mary's Church plus United Junior Church (age up to 11 years)
			St Marys's Fellowship of Women meet at 2pm, Purton Methodist Methodist Church. The speaker will be from the Richard Jeffries Museum
20	M	2.00pm	St Marys's Fellowship of Women meet at 2pm, Purton Methodist Methodist Church. The speaker will be from the Richard Jeffries Museum
21	Tu		Shrove Tuesday
22	W	12 noon	Lent Lunches at Purton Methodist Church
		7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Church
23	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at Purton Methodist Church



26 Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Church (for younger children and their families)
27 M		Fairtrade Fortnight starts
28 Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at Hook Village Hall for a talk on EKCO - Malmesbury's secret wartime factory.

### **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)

# Purton Placard

## **Purton WI**

On Monday 13th February our speaker is Sue Austin. She will be talking about Stem Cell Infusion being carried out at The Great Western Hospital. The meeting is at The Silver Threads Hall at 10a.m.

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## ***Peartree Pealers Handbell Ringers: recruits needed!***

We are looking for a new recruit to come and join us ringing handbells in Purton. We practice on Monday evenings from 7.30 - 9 pm. If you can already read music it is an advantage to the whole team.

For more information please contact Libbie: 771018

**PARKINSON'S**  
CHANGE ATTITUDES.  
FIND A CURE.  
JOIN US.



## **JOIN US FOR A PARKINSON'S UK EVENT**

Cricklade House Hotel, Common Hill, SN6 6HA, Thursday 23rd February 2023, 12-4pm

For people living with Parkinson's & their partners/carers. Lunch, then separate group discussions, looking to have regular carers & lived-experience groups in 2023

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL:** Please contact Jane on 0344 225 3694 or [jhenderson@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:jhenderson@parkinsons.org.uk) by Monday 13th February to register for the event

Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom. A charity registered in England and Wales (208187) and in Scotland (SC037554). © Parkinson's UK. Entered in RightMarket 19/12/2022 - 14.4630

## ***Cake Sale Pips on Friday 17th February, 10 a.m. until 12 noon.***

Money raised will go towards the redecoration of a room in the Dove Unit at Great Western Cancer Unit. This room is devoted to stem cell infusions.



## Lipreading Group in Swindon

This group is for anyone with a hearing loss and their partners too if they wish. We meet at the community room, Tesco on Ocotal Way in Swindon on the LAST TUESDAY each month, so the next meeting will be Tuesday January 31st from 1.45 - 3.15pm.

We have a cup of tea, practise lipreading skills and have a good time as well! Please come and join us! The first visit is free. After that we ask for £1.50 per visit to cover the cost of insurance.

For more details contact Libbie Sheppard: [libbie@sheppard.org](mailto:libbie@sheppard.org) or 07811 104910.

COME AND SING IN A MUSICAL!

SATURDAY 1st April

Commencing 12 noon, Cricklade United Church



JERUSALEM JOY

by Roger Jones

AN EVENT FOR ALL AGES AND LEVELS OF MUSICAL ABILITY (AND NONE!) - JUST A WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE!

A half day workshop starting at 12 noon with lunch together and ending with a performance at the end of the afternoon.

To find out more email [phillipa58@hotmail.com](mailto:phillipa58@hotmail.com) or tel 01793 750556



# Bag a Bargain.



NEARLY NEW  
DESIGNER  
CLOTHES SALE

Wellington Barn on Manor Farm,  
Calstone, Calne, SN11 8PY

28th February 2023, 4pm - 9pm, £5 entry  
1st March 2023, 9am - 12pm, free entry

Bar will be open for tea, coffee & drinks  
[www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/events](http://www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/events)



## Dodecantus chamber choir

Performing in St. Mary's Church,  
Purton on Saturday 18th March  
at 7.00. See [www.dodecantus.uk](http://www.dodecantus.uk)  
for further details.





## *Sports Awards Evening*



The 2022 Sports Presentation Evening was the first time we'd been able to hold the event face-to-face in four years. It was a fabulous evening celebrating individuals, teams, leadership, examination PE, National Standards and Sports Person of the Year. The performance of our students during the 2021/22 academic year was acknowledged during the evening and it was an absolute pleasure to see so many of our students receive awards. We were delighted to have John Lewis, the CEO of JL Mindset Performance, as our guest speaker. John spoke about the power of a positive mindset in sport and the influence this can have on performance. Thank you for your inspirational speech, John.

It was fantastic to have the parents, carers and families of our students in the audience to join in the celebration of all things sport. Although last year wasn't perfect due to covid, Team Bradon PE made the most of it and when we could, represented both themselves and

our school honourably. A massive thank you to the PE team who are so passionate about sport and taking our students on their sporting journey at Bradon Forest School. Team Bradon PE is back in business and, touch wood, so far we're having a phenomenal year. Please follow Bradon Forest on Facebook and Instagram for match reports and photos throughout the year.



### ***Free Porridge From New Caterers***

Bradon Forest School is pleased to start the new year off by announcing free breakfast porridge for the whole school community! From Wednesday 4 January, ABM Catering are delivering a new restaurant service called 'Mint'. In acknowledgement of the current cost of living crisis and to support the belief that everyone should start the day with a hearty breakfast, ABM are serving free porridge to all staff and students.

Headteacher, Mrs Sarah Haines, said, "We are delighted to welcome ABM to Bradon Forest. They have some excellent ideas to further encourage healthy eating, regular hydration and sustainability."

The vibrant new look canteen, together with a range of freshly prepared, innovative, seasonally influenced menus will be offered at breakfast, morning break and lunch.

# BRADON FOREST SCHOOL



## OPEN MORNINGS 2023

Tuesday 7 & Wednesday 8 March

9.15 - 10.30

Booking is essential:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/BradonForestEvents>

# Beneath the Wool

The last month has seen a dramatic change in the weather, with the sub zero cold snap before Christmas to the deluge of rain after it. I certainly preferred the cold snap, apart from the water pipes freezing up that is! January really is a miserable month on the farm, the joy of Christmas is over and it's usually wet and because the farm is low lying and on thick clay, so very muddy.

The chickens have gone off-lay at the moment, which is very normal at this time of year. The daylight is obviously shorter and the weather is colder, which generally means less time in the day to produce eggs. I find it very interesting that in the summer, when it's nice and warm, people don't use eggs as much, whereas when it's dark and cold, they use loads. I think it's becoming more noticeable at the moment how we are so used to being able to eat 'out of season' produce whether it's fruit, veg or, in this instance, eggs whenever we like. It might be something to think about this year, maybe looking for in season produce rather than the same old imported regulars.

Anyway onto the sheep: Most of the sheep are now on winter grazing, enjoying eating the nice grass. The sheep at the farm at the moment are the cull ewes. These are ewes which aren't good enough to breed from, so they need to go to market. It might seem a bit harsh, but they've done their job and done all they can, but their time has come. It's the unfortunate side of farming, as we can't keep everything forever and it still is a business.

In the next month the shearling ewes (ewes which are about to have their first lambs) will need their first injection of Heptavac, which is a vaccine all the ewes have before they lamb. They need two to start with six weeks apart, then a booster every year. I'm sure everyone will now understand this as we are all now experts on vaccines!

*Michael Woodward, Rogers Farm, Purton*



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## After 8



Our Christmas get together this year was a very select group. Due to holidays and illness, only nine members met at Mary's house.

As we arrived, we each hid our Secret Santa present in the sack provided and then added a bauble or two to Mary's Christmas tree.

Avril kicked off the evening by reading us the story of Scrooge according to Yorkshire myth.

Diane, our resident poet, read us two of her Christmas poems. One called 'Under the Mistletoe' and the following poem, which we all enjoyed.

### ***A Christmas Poem For Adults***

Trudging around the blo\*dy shops to find the perfect gift,  
Carol singers – sorry got no change – they are feeling miffed  
Up and down the crowded streets – while singers joyfully sing  
Searching among the Christmas displays – can't find a s\*dding thing  
Take gifts home – wrapping – tear the paper – what a funny shape,  
I need a drink – let's get merry – oh no! – I've run out of tape  
The Christmas tree's lost its needles – No sparkle or glisten  
Gifts for Christmas – what will they be - will he ever listen?  
Festive lights they're not working – could it be the plug  
Where's the sherry – things look better when I've had a glug  
Look at the time – must get dinner – is the turkey cooked  
Next year spoil myself – and get a restaurant booked  
Here comes the family – all look festive – children with a smile  
Presents and laughter – happy times – makes it all worthwhile  
Paper and ribbons everywhere – save some for next year  
Only another 364 days 'till more merriment and cheer

*Written by Diane Williams*

Time then for carol singing; "Let's start with a jolly one," was the cry, so we started off with 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' followed by several other favourites. With so few of us, our singing wasn't quite up to our usual standard, so it was suggested that some food and lubrication might be what was needed.

We enjoyed some very tasty vegetarian sausage rolls and a wonderful melted cheese dish which, along with vegetable crudites, went down very well. We mustn't forget Marion's 'nuts' which were very Moorish. We rounded off the evening with a few more carols ending with 'Away



in a Manger'. This was followed by the story 'A Wayne in a Manger' by Gervaise Phinn. The story is about a boy who thought Jesus was called Wayne because in assembly he'd sung 'A Wayne in a Manger'.

The highlight of the evening, as always, was our Secret Santa, producing a wide variety of gifts including serving dishes, candles, a spiral veg cutter and finally a book with the intriguing title 'The Cat that Could Open the Fridge: A Curmudgeon's Guide to Christmas Round Robin Letters' by Simon Hoggart.

We all had a wonderful time. Thanks must go to Mary for hosting us and to Marion and Barbara for accompanying us, not an easy task.

*Lorraine*

On Tuesday, 10th January, 11 members of After 8 (now starting at 7.30) met at the Methodist Chapel for our annual quiz.

Some of us were rightly nervous about testing our memories on the political and topical events of 2022.

In pairs, we initially scanned the questions with some panic and chastised ourselves for not paying more attention to the news.

With a lot of metaphorical head scratching we found that we could answer more questions than we first thought.

After a discrete process, a winning team emerged to claim victory. Kudos being the only prize, but well worth it for the competitive element of the group.

It may have been a challenge to some of us but we all agreed that we had definitely improved our general knowledge. No excuse now for us not to know: Jeremy Paxman's successor, the names of the four chancellors of the Exchequer during 2022, the oldest person ever to be shortlisted for the Booker Prize, and much more.

We resolved, yet again, to be more aware of events in 2023 ready for the quiz next year and more importantly, to try to remember some of it.

We finished with some well earned refreshments and a good old chat.

Thank you to Helen for another great quiz.

Our next events will be the late Christmas meal in February, and in March, the intriguing topic of 'Toilets we have known'.

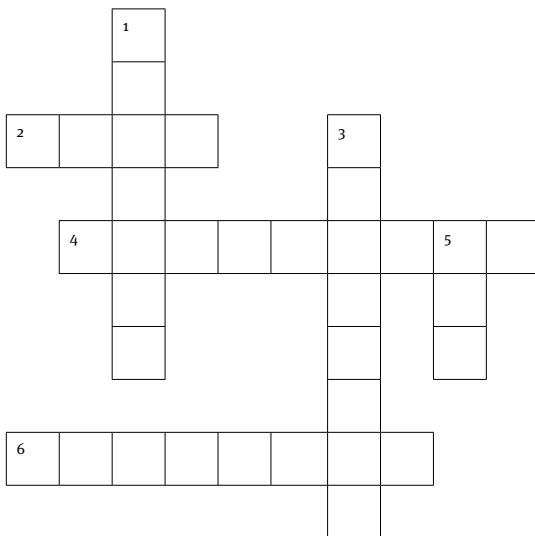
*Mary*

# 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 January's puzzle are 1D) Resolution 2A) Twenty 3D) New 4A) Twentythree 5D) Happy 6A) Year

This month there are six clues.

- 2 across Given temporarily (4)
- 4 across February Christian festival (9)
- 6 across Woodland flower (8)
- 1 down Served on Shrove Tuesday (7)
- 3 down Purple gemstone (8)
- 5 down Fire residue (3)



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



## ***Did you know Purton Magazine is available in large print?***

If you subscribe to Purton Magazine, you can read all the local news with ease in large print.

To request a large print copy to be delivered to you each month, please call Sandra on 01793 770157.

# A book I will always remember

**Enough intrigue here to  
earn the book a place  
on your bedside table.**

*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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## Echos from Far Lands: Stories on Cultures, Farming and Life

by Ridley Nelson

It was Socrates who said, “The unexamined life is not worth living”. In recent COVID times, many of us reflected on which of our activities determine our key values, give meaning to our lives and contribute to the well being of others. The writing of this hugely enjoyable and well-crafted book together with its acceptance for publication predated the onset of the virus, but it is both prescient and apposite.

The “Echos” are stories and more importantly reflections on cultures, farming and life drawn from the author’s life as an Agricultural Economist working on five continents and in ninety-five countries. He has worked for a UK Overseas Aid programme, two commercial companies and on many World Bank projects. However, this is no litany of investment appraisal or technical innovation. Rather, through

his sharp powers of observation, Nelson reveals a deep empathy for and understanding of the peoples he has worked amongst, and does so with great wit and humour.

This selection of chapter titles and subheadings tell you what to anticipate and savour.

### ***The African Farmer as Hedge Fund Manager***

“The rest of the world is fed because of the use of good seed and inorganic fertiliser... this technology has not been used in most of Africa” – Stephen Carr

### ***Aboriginal Dreaming Tracks***

“White man got no dreaming. Him go ‘nother way. White man, him go different. Him got road belong himself” – Muta (a Murinbata tribe man)

### ***On Englishness – Pubs, Churches***



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

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[facebook.com/pipscommunitycafe/](https://facebook.com/pipscommunitycafe/)

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For further details without any obligation simply ring:  
Chris or Justyn on 01793 814888

### ***and Tribal ceremony***

“In my heart an air that kills  
From yon far country blows:  
What are those blue remembered hills,  
What spires, what farms are those?” – A.  
E. Housman, A Shropshire Lad

### ***India the Brilliantly Mad***

“Be as intellectual as you like about it,  
but India is brilliantly mad. And if you  
want to love it, you have to hate it first.”  
– Simon Dring (1993. On the Road Again:  
Thirty Years on the Travellers Trail to  
India – BBC broadcast)

### ***America the Precarious***

“America, thou half-brother of the  
world; with something good and bad of  
every land.” – Philip James Bailey

### ***Fly Fishing Among Elephants***

“Our tradition is that of the first man  
who sneaked away to the creek when  
the tribe did not really need fish.” –  
Roderick Haig-Brown (1991. A River  
Never Sleeps)

Enough intrigue here to earn the book  
a place on your bedside table, but do  
not be surprised if you find this a “one  
sitting book.” However, be sure to  
allow enough time for a serious study of

the final chapter. It is a “philosophical  
wrap-up – a final glass of port”. In it,  
Nelson, hopefully flippantly, states that  
in the grand scheme of things his is an  
“inconsequential life”. This is one of  
many reasons why this is a book I will  
always remember.

Genghis Khan, Stalin, and Nye Bevan  
are undoubtedly examples of lives we  
can agree are consequential. Now and  
especially in recent covid times, our  
dependence on nurses, care workers,  
and those in our food supply chain  
redefines whose lives we now regard  
as consequential, as does the death  
of George Floyd and the subsequent  
worldwide demonstrations. This book  
tells of a life lived well and to the full  
and which (as with all our lives) is surely  
consequential and a role model for our  
generation.

*Tony Williams*

PS – The contributor of this article is  
a contemporary of Ridley Nelson at  
university, also achieving a Masters in  
Agricultural Economics and, as well,  
has worked abroad, mainly in Africa.  
Purton Magazine has a copy of the book  
available for lending (contact details on  
page 4).

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## **‘Books I Will Always Remember’ articles in Purton Magazine**

Since the January 2017 issue of your magazine, we have been  
delighted to include short articles from many contributors in Purton  
and beyond but now our collection has just been temporarily  
exhausted.

Until we receive further little stories about books that someone will  
always remember, below is the list of all 74 titles and each article, of  
course, can be read in the appropriate archive section of our website  
– [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)

**2017**

January Jane Eyre  
 February Swallows and Amazons  
 March Emma  
 April The Country Child  
 May King Solomon's Mines  
 June The light between Oceans  
 July Pride and Prejudice  
 August Giles  
 September Out With Romany  
 October The Complete Molesworth  
 November Greater London Plan of 1944  
 December Utopia

**2018**

January Treasure Island  
 February The Art of Coarse Rugby  
 March A Lucky Child  
 April The story of my life  
 by Helen Keller  
 May Rogue Male  
 June The Midnight Folk  
 July The Box of Delights  
 August The Humans  
 September Marvel's Mutants  
 October Mr Polly  
 November Birds without wings  
 December Guns, germs and steel

**2019**

January Last Days of Hitler  
 February Charlotte's web  
 March Under a Pole Star  
 April The Man I Think I Know  
 May The man who planted trees  
 June Tinker Taylor Soldier Spy  
 July Master and Commander  
 August Vulcan 607  
 September Brendon Chase  
 October John MacNab  
 November Russian Disco  
 December Cider with Rosie

**2020**

January Spy and the Traitor  
 February Byzantium

March 200 Not Out  
 April An Entirely Different Game  
 May A Climate of Fear  
 June Tony Price, Reflections part 1  
 July Tony Price, Reflections part 2  
 August Extra Time  
 September Traitor's Purse  
 October The Stonor Eagles  
 November North South – a programme  
 for survival  
 December Bernie Gunther Series

**2021**

January Putin never forgets & Red  
 Notice  
 February Ten cities that make an  
 Empire  
 March 8000 metres, Alan Hinkes  
 April The Secret Garden  
 May I Married the Klondike  
 June Le Grand Meaulnes  
 July The Thursday Murder Club  
 August The Fountains of Silence  
 September Pavane  
 October The Regeneration theory  
 November The Philosopher's Stone  
 December Far from the madding crowd

**2022**

January With Clive in India  
 February The Underground Railroad  
 March Threads of life  
 April The girl with the dragon  
 tattoo  
 May The house on the Strand  
 June Llama Drama  
 July Cider with Rosie  
 August Klara and the Sun  
 September A Time of Gifts  
 October God's Grandeur  
 November Code Name Verity  
 December Girl

**2023**

January The Shot  
 February Echoes from Far Lands

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# Purton Cricket Club



As we move into 2023, Purton Cricket Club has begun stepping up the pace ahead of next summer's cricket season.

In the last couple of weeks, the men's senior sides have begun their indoor winter training, and youth training has also begun, with the Purton Academy helping to develop the very best players within the youth setup. Those players who were selected have also just begun their Wiltshire training as well, either at county or development level. As ever it is fantastic to see Purton players coming through the county system and we look forward to watching their continued development this winter into next summer. Who knows? We may even have a future Craig Miles on our hands.

We would like to thank Cricklade Manor Prep for the use of their sports hall to train this winter. The club is actively looking for new members and if you want to start playing cricket or you would like your children to start playing this year please do get in touch. Adult senior training is held every Tuesday evening 7:30 - 9 p.m. at Cricklade Manor Prep and we would be thrilled to see some new members join us there. For more details on how to join the club please head to our website: <https://purton.play-cricket.com/>

As we edge closer to the season, the club is also actively searching for cricket officials – umpires and scorers – ahead of the coming season. If you, or someone you know, are keen to get involved and become an umpire or scorer, please get in contact with us. The club is happy to cover any fees for coaching courses and

would also offer a matchday rate. Cricket is facing a nationwide shortage of cricket officials at the grassroots level, particularly umpires, so any help with this would be very much appreciated by all at the club.

Off the field, the club are also seeking sponsors for the new season. We have a variety of sponsorship packages available, including our popular sponsorship boards which are placed across the club and cost £200 each. If you or your business are looking to advertise in the local area this is a great way to do so. Not only is the club extremely busy and popular in the summer, but it is also next to a very popular dog walking route, which sees a high number of locals walk up at and around the cricket club each day. By sponsoring the cricket club, we would place a board up at the ground which would increase exposure and awareness of your business, helping to grow our local community together.

Finally, indoor cricket has resumed after the festive period. The Purton indoor side began 2023 with a fantastic victory over Coastal Cobras 3s in the Swindon Indoor Cricket Association Knock Out Cup. Fraser Conway's 42 off 20 balls helped the team complete a 32 run victory in the round one cup tie. We have been drawn against White Horse Cricket Club in round two of the cup. That fixture will take place on Sunday 5th February at 14:00 at Croft Sports Centre in Swindon.

*Harrison Burridge*

# Purton Tennis Club



Firstly, a belated congratulations to Rosemary and Joe Gardner on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Rosemary has been a long-standing member and has played tennis at Purton for many years, and the Gardner family have been active members and keen supporters of many of the sporting clubs in the village. We hope they enjoyed their celebrations.

Also celebrating is Sam, one of our senior members, who turns 80 at the end of January. He still plays regularly and enjoys a competitive game – in fact he will be playing in the sunshine on his birthday, as he will be in Tenerife. Happy Birthday Sam!

As you can see, tennis is a game for everyone, regardless of age, ability or disability or standards. We have two fantastic coaches at Purton – Jon Bastin (who is also an excellent photographer!) and Sid Falconer (who is deaf). Both coaches have excellent sporting pedigrees and are LTA accredited. Should you fancy dusting off that old racquet and having a few lessons with

either coach, then see our website for details.

Our membership forms should be going out around now and new members are always welcome. It is fantastic value; if you join Purton as a member, you will have unlimited access to the courts and can join in with club sessions, play in tournaments and represent the club in league tennis. Jo Adams is our membership secretary and can help you with any queries. (Contact details are on the website).

With spring just around the corner, our club captains Nicola and Shane will be busy organising the teams for the summer league. However, before that, the winter league needs to be decided. At the moment the A team are mid-table, but the B team are currently top and looking for promotion and silverware, so good luck to them.

Please get in touch if you would like to know more about tennis at Purton; we would be pleased to hear from you.

*Janet Saunders (secretary)*  
*janetcsaunders@gmail.com*

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## Prospect Hospice

This year sees the return of two of the most popular fundraising events for Prospect Hospice – the Spring Run and Starlight Walk. The Spring Run takes place on Sunday 12 March at Stanton Country Park, with three options to choose from; a 2.5km fun run, or 5km or 10km multi-terrain routes, both of which are chip timed. All runners will receive

a medal, with entry costing £7 for the 2.5km run, £15 for the 5km run, and £18 for the 10km run.

The Starlight Walk also makes its return on Saturday 24 June, with 10km and 15km routes and a ‘festival fever’ theme. Signing up before 1 April gives you the early bird price of £12; after then, entry is £15. For more information on both of these events and more, visit: [www.prospect-hospice.net](http://www.prospect-hospice.net)

# Purton Football Club

With not an awful lot of football action during December due to adverse weather and the Christmas period, I thought it would be a good idea to channel my efforts into raising some money for the club and arrange another Sporting Dinner after the success of the Peter Shilton and Bruce Grobbelaar dinners and so I have booked Dean Saunders, the ex-Liverpool and Aston Villa player, who has been capped 75 times by Wales and is regarded as one of the top football speakers on the circuit. Our host for the evening will again be Phil King, who rates Dean in his "Top Three" of football speakers.



The dinner will be on March 20th at the Purton Club with a cost of £30, which includes a fish and chip supper. Again, this is not a male-only dinner and the ladies most welcome and we hope some of our Purton Ladies FC will be in attendance. Please pass the word around to support your local football club in these days of even increasing costs of running local sports teams.

*Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer  
of Purton FC*

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## Girlguiding in Purton

Purton Girlguiding members who've received awards over the last year attended a celebratory event hosted by Girlguiding Wiltshire North last month. Congratulations to Jo and Julie from 2nd Purton Brownies for their 30-year long service awards, to Arabella, who achieved the Guide Gold award, and to both Rachel from 1st Purton Guides and Jane from 1st Purton Brownies who have each clocked up 20 years of volunteering.

Fancy giving it a go yourself? There's no obligation to stay as long as 20 or 30 years! No matter how much time you have to give, there's an opportunity for you to volunteer. Find out more at the following link:

[www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/)



Pictured l-r: Jo and Julie from 2nd Purton Brownies; Arabella, who achieved her Guide Gold Award; Rachel from 1st Purton Guides, and Jane from 1st Purton Brownies.

# *A place I will always remember*

*Sam was always a bit of mystery; as children we never knew about Sam's life. All we knew he had served in the war, but he never said any more, even under our severe and persistent questioning.*

*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..*

## *A North Riding Childhood in the 1950s*

### **Sam the bus driver**

Our small village was served by a local bus service that trundled around the villages to take us to the 'big town' that was Northallerton. It was our lifeline to 'the outside world' as very few people had cars (apart from the farmers!).

Like many other country bus services, it carried people and goods – how else could locals get their goods to market? Travelling on these buses was 'an experience' as it bounced and rattled along – but it always got you there safely.

The star of our village service was the driver – Sam – as children we never knew his full name. Sam was a consummate driver – no accidents over the many years of steering his bus along the narrow country lanes. On the other hand, if you were driving along and saw Sam's bus coming towards you, it was the 'diplomatic' thing to do to move to the side and let the bus rattle by!

Thinking back, Sam, like all other drivers of buses and lorries, must have been a fit man, for in those days, power

assisted driving and synchronised gears were still in the future. Can you remember your father having to double de-clutch? (Sorry ladies, but back then it was fathers who drove – how times have changed!) In those days drivers had to have strong legs, arms and nerves of steel.

Every village had two stops, but that did not bother Sam. If you were 'getting on a bit' or a lady of any age, or were loaded down with shopping or children, he would stop near to your house and, with a hearty "come on lads," ask us younger generation to give a hand, or even help with the shopping. Today all this may sound sexist, ageist, demeaning, but that's how things were in the 1950s. Mind you, it was always a mystery to us that, with all those extra stops, Sam was always on time for the next stop. We never knew if it was the bus timetable or Sam's speedy driving that made up the time – perhaps it was better not to know!

Sam was always a bit of a mystery; as children we never knew about Sam's life. All we knew he had served in the war, but he never said any more, even under

our severe and persistent questioning. Like many other men of his age, Sam never talked about the war in detail and he was an expert at changing the subject. Sam had seen so much and there was so much to forget – there was so much he thought we would not understand.

It was only at his funeral that we found that he reached the rank of Sergeant, served as a tank driver, had been ‘shot up’ a number of times and served in North Africa, arriving in France a few weeks after D-Day, then onwards to Germany. He was awarded medals, but only his closest friends knew the full story.

Sam was like many men who never boasted about anything – I suppose he did not want to bring up what could be painful memories.

Today, our local country bus services are under threat as we use our cars to live our lives, but in the 50s and 60s, buses were always packed out, especially on market days and weekends. As children and teenagers, our local bus was our route to our favourite fantasy world – Saturday afternoons was ‘cinema time’. It may have taken 40 minutes to reach Northallerton with its one and only cinema, but it offered a trip to new and different worlds.

OK, many of the films were in black and white. Those films in colour invariably came from the USA but that gave us a view into this new world – was the USA really only populated by cowboys, gangsters, big cars and lots of appetising food? Our afternoons included comedy shorts (The 3 Stooges, Abbot and Lou Costello, not forgetting Laurel and Hardy), plus cartoons (what would

our life have been without Looney Tunes etc?). News Reels and factual programmes were sometimes included – but we were waiting for the ‘main event’ - we wanted entertainment not knowledge! By the way, thinking about ‘knowledge’, us younger children often wondered why so many teenagers sat in the ‘back seats’ with their girlfriends – sometimes ‘things’ were quiet, sometimes there were raised voices, we did not appreciate what ‘get off’ meant (but we do now!).

The interval was the chance to buy an ice cream or move your seat from the cheapest ones to the more expensive (Yorkshire people always look for a good deal!). When we got older we took this opportunity to try to sit next to a girl we had our eyes on.

All this led to the ‘main feature’ – a longer film much appreciated by those on the back seats. It could be a Western (Hi Ho Silver away) or Science Fiction (will robots rule the world? Was Superman a real person? Are there such things as ray guns?). After 30 minutes or so, it was all over. But wait, there was always a clever ruse to attract us back next week; the film invariably stopped just as our hero was about to fall off a cliff, be captured or even worse. All we heard was ‘What will happen next? – Will he escape? – Find out next week!’

We spilled out of the cinema and rushed to get the bus home. If you were walking down the wide High Street you would know all about the main feature. If it was a Western, we would rush to the bus stop shooting at each other with our ‘finger pistols’. If it was science fiction, it would be ray guns.

Our Saturday journey into our fantasy

world ended when we got on Sam's bus, for he made sure we were not too noisy – I'm sure his army training was put to good use. We then 'enjoyed' our bumpy bus ride home. In 1955 I left the village as I won a scholarship to a boarding school in York and my father, who was

the village policeman, was promoted and posted to a larger village on the border with County Durham.

So, everything changed and life moved on – but memories are always strong.

*Brian Wilson*

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## Purton & District Probus Club



On Tuesday 6th December, the Annual President's Lunch was held at La Flambe restaurant in Sutton Benger. 44 diners – members, partners and friends – attended to enjoy a three-course Christmas meal, followed by coffee and chocolates. The Guest of Honour was Mr Andrew Meek, president of the Royal Wootton Bassett Probus Club, accompanied by his wife, Alison.

Mr John Slaght, our president, thanked the members of the current committee for their dedication in organising the club's recovery from the Covid lockdown; in particular, to Trevor Domm – General Secretary, Maurice Ponting – programme and membership secretary, Nick Yerbury – vice president, David Horne – treasurer, Mike Housley – speaker verification and Mike Bosher for the monthly draw. He also thanked Janet for refreshments and the Christmas hamper (members' raffle), and Anne Marie for her general help and organising the tickets and prizes for the raffle at the lunch. John then concluded with a short speech recalling the extended year of his presidency and the subjects of one or two of our most entertaining speakers during that time. David Sweet then raised the Royal Toast to the new monarch.

Our guest, Andrew Meek, replied to our president with a resume of his own experiences as president and commented on the health and strengths of Probus Clubs in our area. Finally, he proposed a toast to the Purton and District Probus Club, wishing us good fortune for the new year and beyond.

John closed by wishing all members and guests a merry Christmas and a happy new year. The President's Lunch this year saw plenty of social exchange; a memorable occasion, much like the old days!

Our meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 .a.m in Hook Village Hall. On Tuesday 14th February, we have a talk on the RAF at 100, and, on the 28th, it's EKCO – Malmesbury's secret Wartime factory. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

*Bob Stevens*

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# Christmas Eve Nativity Play Service

It was wonderful to see St Mary's Church full of families on Christmas Eve for the Nativity Play Service. What a way to start the Christmas weekend!

The Cricklade Band played for all the carol singing; the children were dressed as 'instant' kings, shepherds and angels in traditional fashion and we even had a real, beautifully behaved baby in the manger!

Our beautiful Angel brought messages of hope and the wicked Herod was boo-ed as the baddy!

The congregation was asked to participate throughout, as the story of

the Nativity was re-told in front of us all.

Many parents and teachers from United Junior Church helped to make the service go smoothly; we couldn't have managed without them!

Thank you all so much for coming. And if the children would like more involvement at St Mary's there is Messy Church each month – full of action and tea provided! – as well as United Junior Church, which is our version of Sunday School.

For more details please contact Mary: 770505.

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## The Wessex Recruitment Evening 14th February 2023

February 14th isn't just a day to show your love for your partner. Perhaps, like us, you have a love for music, or maybe Valentine's is just not your thing! Why not take up something totally different and join our AWARD WINNING male choir!

The Wessex is recruiting new members and holding a recruitment evening on Tuesday 14th of February, 19:30-21:30 at Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club, SN4 8DS.

If you are over 18 years old and can hold a tune, WE WANT YOU!

You don't need any previous experience, nor be able to read sheet music. We will support you through your audition and learning for your first concert in front of an audience with the rest of the lads!

The Wessex is a registered charity and holds several fundraising concerts throughout the year, as well as the occasional choral competition!

Visit our website to get in touch and for more details:  
[www.thewessex.org.uk](http://www.thewessex.org.uk)





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

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12/23

# Royal Wootton Bassett Academy Sixth Form

## ***Experiencing Life Outside of Sixth Form***

Royal Wootton Bassett Academy Sixth Form has had an exciting start to the New Year with their students given an opportunity to experience life outside of Sixth Form.

The Sixth Form has had offers such as work experience, apprenticeships and study days from companies including BBC Wiltshire Radio, NHS Allied Healthcare, the University of Bath, University College Oxford, St James Place Wealth Management, Dental Mentor and even big brands such as Jaguar Land Rover and BP.



On Sunday 8th January, RWBA Sixth Form the students were invited to a work experience session with NHS Allied Healthcare, giving them the opportunity to gain healthcare work experience. It is the largest programme offered for students looking to go into careers such as Nursing, Midwifery, Physiotherapy and more.

RWBA Sixth Form is committed and passionate about preparing students for higher education and employment and

takes great pride in the opportunities it can share with the students. This is something that is widely celebrated in the school newsletter and continues to be offered in school to help the Sixth Form students strive to reach their goals.

## ***RWBA Sixth Form Bake Off***

Inspired by 'The Great British Bake Off', hosted on Channel 4, Royal Wootton Bassett Academy Sixth Form hosted a Bake Off to raise money.

Students entered their cakes and baked goods for a very competitive competition to win the Bake Off title, all cakes were sold at the end of last term for the final judging. There was a wide variety of



shortbread, cupcakes and cookies all donated by students for the competition.

A massive congratulations to Andrea, our Bake Off Champion.

The judges were very impressed with all of the entries and really struggled to pick a winner, the attention to detail of each and every entry was impressive. The school hopes to do more competitions such as this one in the future due to the high number of entries.



### **Sixth Form University Taster Days**

Royal Wootton Bassett Academy Sixth Form students have the very exciting opportunity to attend University College Taster Days.

University College is a constituent college of the University of Oxford in England and the Sixth Form takes great pride in being able to offer the students these taster days.

Some of the taster days on offer include Law and PPE, Classics, English and History, Medical Sciences, Philosophy Plus Science Programme, Physics, Department of Physics Y12 Online Masterclass.

The University also offers a programme run from April to December to help students prepare for university and explore any subjects that may interest them.

At Royal Wootton Bassett Academy Sixth Form higher education and employment is of the utmost importance and is at the forefront of everything it does. The Sixth Form feels that opportunities such as this are among the advantages that we offer our students.

## Church Floodlighting



- Jan 17      The Church was floodlit in loving memory of our Dear Mum, Nan and Great Nan **Mary Woolford**, who would have been 100. Loved and missed every day by Sue and family.
- Feb 14      St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Maureen VALENTINE Quincey** on what would have been her 86th birthday.

*For February, 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.*

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

# Poetry Corner

## **Ben Nevis**

*A multi-million years ago explosion tore the earth  
And in that flaming folding mass a mountain range gave birth  
While mid the blazing blistering heat a mighty peak burst through  
It towered forth above the rest and disappeared from view  
But turbulence and tumult caused great havoc in the ether  
While fury of the elements betrayed each fractious feature  
Volcanic lava swiftly spewed its fierce and angry embers  
Disgorging all its residue like banished mad offenders.  
And then the glacial hold of ice spread forth her frozen fingers  
And moulded mountain's craggy peaks in eerie mist that lingers  
Till weather took a gentler path and time could now reflect  
As mountains stood in calm repose and gracious splendour decked.  
But foremost of the Grampian Range stood tall the mighty Ben  
It soared in towering majesty above the world of men  
And though the mount is held in awe and looked upon in wonder  
Some stories told are subject to reflection from out yonder.  
For some will tell that Beira who rules this ancient land  
Has used Ben Nevis as her throne controlled in regal stand  
And with her power, she conjured up a cycle of the seasons  
And gripped the earth in icy cold beyond all natural reasons  
And stranger still the Fearlas Mor a man of curious profile  
Meanders through the Grampian Range with warnings dark and hostile  
You cannot see, you cannot touch and yet you know he's there  
But conscious of this phantom shade invokes a dread despair.  
While at the base of Nevis you will find a Highland malt  
The nectar from this brewing is without a single fault  
And here it was that Long John gave the Glen a famous whisky  
Although at first distilling was condemned as highly risky  
But then its fame spread far afield and way beyond the Ben  
And thousands came to sample the rich magic of the Glen  
And still today the Ben stands tall and shrouded in the mists  
Where legends from a mystic world through space and time exists.*

*Jacky Parker*



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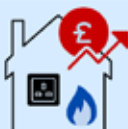
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