

April 2023

Purton Magazine



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and information from and for the Parish of Purton, Wiltshire.

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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

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

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

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

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Front cover image: Year 8 and 9 students
participating in a BMX skills course.

Credit: Bradon Forest School

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From the Editors

April 2023
Volume 45 No.4
1st Published 1975

The changing of the clocks on the night of the last Saturday in March is a sure indication that Spring has arrived – or is really close at least! In this issue of your magazine, readers will find many references to springtime events and activities in the village and beyond, providing hope of warmer times ahead.

Our Nature Correspondent on page 54 has provided a handy “anticipating April” aide memoire listing what to look out on a week by week basis. For example, white and yellow flowers are themselves a sign of Spring and attract insects including hoverflies and bees to pollinate them. The yellow theme spreads into the second week with Brimstone and Orange Tip butterflies, especially when the sun is out. The crescendo of activity continues into the last week with the arrival of several summertime birds and the article concludes with the famous quote from Pippa’s Song by Robert Browning: “God’s in his heaven, all’s right with the world!”

Continuing the nature theme, we learn that snowdrops and cowslips remind one reader of their mother and spring flowers generally give hope for the future. The Easter story also provides much hope for many and the services

at St. Mary’s Church and the Methodist Church are listed on page 44.

Another sign of spring comes from our cricket club including the new season for the 5 to 8 year olds with the All Stars and Dynamo programmes now being available for booking – see page 57 for more details. Also looking forward there are more details about plans for the local activities to enjoy the Coronation celebrations. For example, St. Mary’s Church is organising a big screen projection of the historical occasion in probably the oldest building in the village – and all will be welcome, see page 22.

As usual we have several contributors writing their thanks and appreciations that confirm how fortunate we are to live in such a kind and caring village. It is with some sadness that we note that most of the thank you messages are in response to the condolences received after the recent death of a partner and parent.

The village has sadly lost some very well-known local friends recently. We sincerely hope that the relatives that remain can find plenty of comfort within our special community during these difficult days and are able to find some rays of hope beyond their personal darkneses.

5

Ways for St Mary’s Church to reduce their environmental impact
See page 26

7

Tonnes of wood chippings spread around Bradon Forest School.
See page 32

40k

Trek in Iceland in 2024 with the Prospect Hospice fundraising team.
See page 59

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 to 2 p.m. at the Village Centre
- Saturday 29th April – Coronation Bake Off, 10 a.m. to noon at the Village Hall
- Sunday 7th May – Coronation Garden Party, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Village Centre

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. This is your chance to raise any questions you may have to the council. 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

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

- Monday 3rd April – Annual Council Meeting

- Monday 17th April – Full Council Meeting
- Monday 8th May – Full Council Meeting
- Monday 12th June – Full Council Meeting
- Monday 10th July – Full Council Meeting

Agendas are posted on our four notice boards (Purton Council Office, Ridgeway Farm, Moulden View and Pavenhill Shops) and our website – www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Keep up to date

Further Council details and community information are available as follows:

- Call – 01793 771066
- Email – deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Follow us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/purtonparishcouncil/
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HAPPY
Easter

Annual Parish Meeting and Awards Evening

The Annual Parish Meeting is your chance to:
Meet councillors
Learn what they do
Hear about what has been achieved in the last year
And to raise any questions that you may have.

The Awards evening is our chance to recognise those who volunteer locally and make a special contribution to our village:
Monday 3rd April – 7 for 7.30pm @ Purton Village Hall
No booking necessary

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Complete this FREE Easter Egg hunt, to win your chocolate Easter Treat!
Saturday 8th April – Noon - 2pm @ the Village Centre
(starting at the Purton Red House Public House)
Free entry



@purtonparishcouncil



@PurtonPC



purtonparishcouncilwiltshire

Web: www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



RED HOUSE



Purton Parish Council 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 each 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 or in person

at Purton Parish Council, Council Offices, Village Hall, Station Road, Purton, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 4AJ.

New Applications Received January 2023

- PL/2022/09058 – 4 Church End, Purton, SN5 4EB. Installation of 8.1m by 1.8m solar panels on an existing south-facing slate roof. At the full council meeting on 13 February 2023, Purton Parish Council raised no objection to this application.
- PL/2022/00395 – Land at South Pavenhill Farm, Pavenhill, Purton, SN5 4DQ. Outline application for the erection of up to 60 dwellings (including affordable homes), point of connection of access road from Pavenhill and shared footpath/cycleway and emergency access from Ringsbury Close, open space, sustainable drainage system and associated landscaping and infrastructure with all other matters (relating to appearance, landscaping, scale and layout) reserved. At the full council meeting on 13 February 2023, Purton Parish Council resolved to object to this application on the following grounds:
 1. The proposal is for development outside the current limit of development and is contrary to Core Policy 1 of the Local Plan and retained Policy H4 from the North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011.
 2. This proposal is for 60 dwellings contrary to Core Policy 1 which states that any development in large villages should be limited to small development of 10 or less unless



Your FREE to attend Coronation Events in Purton Village this spring!

All Ages Coronation Bake Off

Show off your skills making cupcakes, shortbread or your own pear based recipe!
Completed entry forms must be returned by Friday 14th April at 4pm, to allow you to take part.
Baked entries will be judged on Saturday 29th April
9am drop off your entries – 10am-noon results of judging @ Purton Village Hall
Entry forms available on our website or by calling 01793 771824.

Senior Citizens Coronation Tea Party

A traditional afternoon tea with a free raffle.
Do wear your best hat and blue!
Friday 5th May 1-3pm
Limited places available. Call 01793 771066
Do let us know about any allergies, accessibility issues and who you wish to sit with.

**Sorry
This Event
Fully Booked**

Family Coronation Garden Party

A day of family fun including bouncy castle, face painting, balloon modelling, children's fair ground rides, hot food and music from The Beet Routes band.
Sunday 7th May 11am-8pm @ The Purton Village Centre
No booking or tickets
Bring your garden chairs and picnic blankets!

Please note that all events planned may be subject to change or cancellation beyond the organisers control.



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Web: www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



RED HOUSE



supported by a Neighbourhood Plan. This site is not an area of interest in the made Neighbourhood Plan.

3. This application is contrary to Purton Neighbourhood Plan Policy 5, although this N.P. is over two years old it does show the shared vision from Purton residents to shape and locate any future development. Purton is a large village and not a market town or service centre, therefore there is limited infrastructure and, as a general rule, residents have to commute to their place of employment. There is also a need to travel for leisure and retail. This proposed development would only exacerbate the traffic situation, and this should be discouraged. Wiltshire Core Strategy emphasises that developments of this size should be at larger conurbations with a better infrastructure, this reduces the levels of vehicle use, in turn helping to impact climate change reduction. This is Core Policies 60 and 61.
4. This application is outline only, defining location, extent of development and access to site, everything else is reserved matters which will probably mean, if approved, the appearance, housing style and landscaping will be entirely different.
5. The access is from Pavenhill, this area is narrow, with blind bends, no footpath for a considerable distance and, in areas, does not leave enough space for vehicles to pass each other. The most obvious of these pinch points is in front of South Pavenhill Farm where the road is 4.2 metres wide, too narrow, as stated, for two cars to pass and is located less than 40 metres to the west of the proposed access road and is where the road starts to descend down the escarpment. A lack of pavement makes pedestrian use extremely hazardous and there have been many near misses over the years, especially when farm traffic is using the road, being much wider than a standard vehicle.
6. The Transport Plan appears genuinely flawed; 26 vehicle movements at A.M. peak and 25 during P.M. peak. A recent application PL/2022/0093 shows figures of 139 over a five-day average and 130 for PM peak. The figures presented on this proposal would suggest a drastic understatement. There does not appear to be any traffic calming measures proposed to improve highway safety.
7. There is a bus service but only runs every 90 minutes, therefore it could be argued that car use from this site would be high and provide even more traffic in this area. Because of the rural nature of this development, it would automatically increase traffic and also the possibility of accidents on this stretch of road.
8. The village infrastructure/services are at breaking point, and they cannot handle another 60 houses. There has been a lot of Thames Water activity in the area and there is little, if any spare capacity.

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03/24

9. It is well known that Wiltshire cannot demonstrate a 5-year land supply at this time, but any shortfall should be allocated at market towns or service centres.
10. During a recent application in Calne the inspector stated the application was outside the limits of development of Calne (point 9). The proposal does not meet any other circumstance that could allow development (DP12), also there is a clear imbalance of housing and employment and Calne has exceeded its indicative housing requirement considerably, this is likely to prejudice its plan-led growth (DP 16).

In Summary:

The Application Site is not allocated in the existing development plan. The site lies outside the Village Limit of Development. The proposed site is not one of the exceptions to the strategy. The identified requirement for housing in the community area has already been exceeded. The proposal is in conflict with the development as a whole. The proposal fails to constitute and secure sustainable development as required under National Planning Policy Framework, specifically paragraphs 2,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15 and 47, and are contrary to the development strategy of the development plan.

The existing Neighbourhood Plan is currently being reviewed and amended and this site is not included.

- PL/2023/00396 – 2 Mustang Way, Swindon, SN5 5DY. Retrospective application for the retention of outbuilding structure attached to rear elevation. At the full council meeting on 13 February 2023, Purton Parish Council raised no objection to this application.
- PL/2023/00402 – 34 Highridge Close, Purton, SN5 4BS. Proposed single storey rear extension & carport. At the full council meeting on 13 February 2023, Purton Parish Council raised no objection to this application.
- PL/2022/08940 – Down Farm, The Pry, Purton, SN5 4JP. Change of use of land from movement/ storage of building materials to enable stationing of mobile double decker bus to provide a venue for workshops around wellbeing, menopause, mental and mental health. At the full council meeting on 13 February 2023, Purton Parish Council raised no objection to this application.
- PL/2023/00555 – Ellora, The Hyde, Purton, SN5 4DX. A new single storey rear extension containing a bedroom and facilities for an en-suite. At the full council meeting on 13 February 2023, Purton Parish Council raised no objection to this application.

Permission Granted

- PL/2022/06373 – Land at Packhorse Lane, Purton, SN5 4HU. Erection of a single dwelling house (outline application with all matters reserved). Approve with conditions.
- PL/2022/07397 – 23 Wood Lane, Braydon, SN5 0AH. Single storey rear extension 3.7m wide, 3.5m deep and 3.625m high. Approve with conditions.

- PL/2022/07748 – 15 Hoggs Lane, Purton. SN5 4HQ. Demolition of existing extension, proposed two storey side/rear extension and detached garage with home office over. Approve with conditions.
- PL/2022/07064 – Dudge Moor Farm, Hayes Knoll, Purton Stoke, SN5 4JJ. Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) to confirm the lawfulness of a proposed change of use from agricultural use to a flexible commercial use falling within Class B8 (storage or distribution) as permitted by Class R of Part 3, Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended). Approve.
- PL/2022/04626 – Park Farm Campsite, Braydon, SN5 0AQ. Proposed 20 pitches and 2 no. bell tents campsite for use between April and October with timber facilities building for 4 no. composting toilets and 2 no. showers. Approve with conditions.
- PL/2022/07967 – 103 Pavenhill, Purton, SN5 4DB. First floor front extension, amendment to previous approval PL/2022/03167 and two single garages.

Christian Aid Week 2023



Yes... we are already beginning to think about Christian Aid Week 2023, which takes place from 14 to 21 of May.

With the tragedies happening in Ukraine, as well as the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, there is so much work that needs to be done by each and every one of us, to help our neighbours in distress around the world.

Already we have made plans for a Breakfast at the Methodist Church to start the week, followed by a special Christian Aid Service... both on the 14th.

A Cake Trail around the village again, on May 20th:

There will also be the infamous quiz; and the little red envelopes will be posted through as many letterboxes as we can manage!

More details of all the activities will be in the May magazine.

Thank you for the support that we hope and pray we shall receive, as usual, in Purton.

For more details contact Libbie: 771018

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



Reminder about attending for appointments

When you make an appointment, please always make a note of the date and time and if you find you are unable to make it then please phone the Surgery in advance so that your appointment can be given to another patient.

Donation from Purton Parish Council

We are very pleased to let you know that we have received a grant from Purton Parish Council of £2,994.00 for the purchase of a Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide (FeNO) machine. This is a novel medical technology used to aid in the diagnosis of asthma. FeNO devices measure fractional exhaled nitric oxide in the breath of patients. Nitric oxide is a biomarker for asthma which provides an indication of the level of inflammation in the lungs. FeNO testing produces a FeNO score which gives a value to the level of inflammation and can therefore be used to aid clinicians in the diagnosis of asthma. Although the FeNO is primarily a diagnostic tool, it has an additional use in the ongoing monitoring of chronic asthma.



200 Club draw

Thank you again to those supporting the 200 Club. The March draw was done by Receptionist Kelly-Marie Stephens. The £100 winner was Lindsey Hall and the £15 winner was June Pitt. All members of the 200 Club are allocated a number to be used in the draw, if you wish to know your number then please email our Treasurer (treasurer.pspg@gmail.com) to ask for it.

Table Top and Books in Purton Surgery

The tabletop is up and running in the Purton Surgery waiting room. Please note that we are unable to accept any shoes for the table. There are books in the bookcase for purchase (50p each). If you wish to purchase from the tabletop, please hand your donation 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 via groupforpatients@gmail.com.

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

12/23

Community Spaces for Hire

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

Millennium Hall
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02/24

Purton & District Age Concern

Purton and District AGE CONCERN

Keep warm this winter

We have been informed that there are 'Warm Packs' available from Wiltshire Council which should be distributed from our library. If you need to find out more, then ring the Parish Council on 771066 for further information and availability as there are limited numbers. It's important to keep warm in this bad weather period, and there are various places in Purton which will allow access to sit in a warm place. Also lunch club at Pips on Tuesdays and Thursdays (see details in the magazine), and if necessary Age UK have a daily hot lunch delivery system available at a reasonable price, ring 01793 488348 for details.

Coach trips

We are starting our coach trips in May with a mystery trip with lunch (two courses) and we are hoping that you will be ready for an outing by then. The first date is Wednesday 10th May and will leave the village at 10 a.m., normally returning about 4 p.m. The cost will be £20 for village pensioners, £22.50 for non-pensioners and people who live outside the village.

We have provisionally booked dates for the rest of the year, and they are: 7th June; 26th July; 23rd August; 13th September; 18th October and 29th November so you have all got plenty of notice. The August trip, as always, will be to Weston and we are trying to organise a steam train trip for either the June or July dates. Prices will be subject to fuel and food costs which could affect the price quoted.

All pensioners will have received a £5 voucher for one trip, so make sure you use it when you book. All bookings can be made online by emailing events@purtonageconcern.com or by ringing Peter on 778119.

Quiz night

This year is going so fast that I ought to mention our Quiz Night with fish & chip supper which will be in June; look out next month for details.

Electric buggy

I shall mention each month that we have acquired a three-wheeled electric buggy, and you never know when it might be needed. It has had a new battery, 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

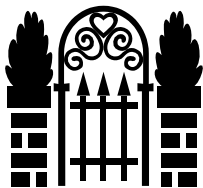
The Tai-Chi classes will continue weekly at 1.30 p.m. on Thursdays at the Millennium Hall, so come along and enjoy the benefits of this gentle exercise. We will be offering a FREE taster session for beginners. New members will have to fill in a health form at the first lesson. Cost is £5.00 per session, and classes run in term time only.

Minibus

If you need to use the Purton Age Concern transport for appointments or

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

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!

Social Media/Website – Why not check out our social media to keep up to date with our events and fund-raising? We have a website, Facebook, Twitter & Instagram. We'd love you to follow us, help us promote our events and keep in touch.

- www.purtonageconcern.com
- www.facebook.com/purtonageconcern
- https://twitter.com/Purton_AC
- Instagram @purtonageconcern

We still have a couple of wheelchairs for borrowing along with walkers, crutches and walking sticks, so if you think you might need any of these at any time then ring me on 778119. If you have any NHS equipment (not toiletry or boots) that you no longer require please contact Sue Richardson on 772581 so that she can return them to the surgery or hospital. Some of these are being disposed of, and that is not acceptable.

Peter Berry, Chairman

Purton Thursday Lunch Club

We meet every Thursday lunchtime at midday in Pips Community Café for food and friendship. If you'd like to join us we offer a roast dinner with a home-made pudding. Tea or coffee is included in the price of £5.

You need to book in advance to secure your place. Please contact myself, Chris

Seals, on 07884 212196 or Edna Bunce on 07811 157652.

The Age Concern minibus is available to book should you require transport. Please contact Hazel on 01793 770862.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Chris, Marie and Theresa

The Coronation

Big Screen Streaming to Purton's Most Authentically Atmospheric Venue

"I sometimes forgot where the screen ended and where the architecture of Westminster Abbey blended into the stone arches of St Mary's Church!"

That was the confession of one person recently watching the streaming of Queen Elizabeth's funeral in St Mary's Church – the two built in much the same period. "It seemed at times I was actually sitting in the Abbey"

Many reports of the last Coronation seemed to involve groups of people gathering around the one television set in the street – or at the home of the one family member lucky enough to own one. Being together seemed to form a key part of the memory.

Big screen projections are about as common today as the domestic TV set in 1953 and St Mary's church invites all who wish to do so to share theirs. It's an Open House for the community. There may be one or two others in the



village – but maybe not with the same feel for the scene of the actual event. And Coronation music is invariably worthy of a good sound system like that installed as part of the church renewal – along with comfortable upholstered seats.

Plans are presently in process – but it would be a surprise if the showing did not include some opportunity at least to raise a glass together to toast the new King as he leaves the Abbey – and later maybe some variation upon a plate of Coronation Chicken!

Full details will follow in the next edition of the magazine – for now, opportunity to get Saturday morning of 6th May at your Village Parish Church down in the diary. The King Awaits.

St Mary's Church – Seeking to resource the spiritual and cultural needs of the village.

David Martin

Purton is a wonderfully generous village!

The atmosphere in Pips Café on Saturday March 11th was so positive and cheerful!

People came in with cakes for the Cake Sale, to raise money for the Turkish/Syrian Earthquake DEC Appeal. People came in to buy! People came in to try and win a soft toy of their choice... a prize for all! Altogether the sale raised

about £600... an amazing total.

Thank you SO much to all who gave cakes, gave their time, and also to all who bought cakes on the day. We are also so grateful to the staff at Pips who coped magnificently with such a wonderful turn-out.

*Thank you from Peartree Pealers,
Purton's Handbell team.*

Pips Community Café



Lou's Hot Lunches

Hello everyone, welcome to April! Here's the menu for Tuesdays Lou's hot lunch at Pips Café in the Silver Threads Hall for this coming month.

4th April... Vegetable Lasagne, broccoflower cheese, carrots & garlic bread. Warm Apple and blackcurrant crumble and custard.

11th April... Lou's Easter Hot Lunch!!! Shepherds pie, cauliflower cheese, peas, swede and gravy. Warm Hot cross bun and butter pudding with custard or clotted cream. Bubbles to enjoy with your meal and a little choccy treat to take home!

18th April... Roast pork, roast potatoes, stuffing, Yorkshire pudding, cauliflower cheese, peas, carrots & gravy. Warm Honey sponge and custard.

25th April... Steak pie, mash, cauliflower cheese, cabbage, swede and gravy.

Warm Dorset apple sponge & 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 until we have run out. There are usually around 20-24 servings of each available on a first come first served basis. We have gradually been getting busier on a Tuesday for Lou's Hot Lunches so early arrival is advised to avoid disappointment. Takeaways are available if your own plates are supplied.

The usual delicious Pips menu is also available.

The Age Concern minibus can be booked if required, please contact Hazel on 01793 770862.

Look forward to seeing you soon!

Louise, Pips Community cafe volunteer

Marking the Ukrainian Easter

The Ukrainians celebrate Easter the week after we do. So after dark on Saturday and Sunday 15th/16th April, St Mary's Church will join Ukraine's celebrations by floodlighting the church in yellow and blue. Why not pop by to show your support and see the spectacle?

Dave Nettleton

Purton WI

From April 2023 our WI in Purton will be known as Purton WI. From June, the WI will meet on the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in The Silver Threads Hall.

In April and May the meetings will be on the 3rd Monday of the month at 10 a.m. due to the Bank Holidays. Readers will get regular updates in this magazine throughout the year about the WI.



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Ten Years Ago...

Purton Magazine for April 2013 contained less news than usual. If the weather then (described as “unseasonably cold”) was like it is at the time of writing, this is understandable. Instead, the magazine was full of ideas for the summer and even further ahead. These included another long extract from Ps & Qs with suggestions for the village, this time focussing on traffic management. Although it contained some interesting observations on yellow lines (too many and ineffective) it also dwelled on the concepts of “self-reading roads” and “psychological

traffic calming” as a means to moderate speed through the village. And it did not support the idea of re-opening the station as “the village character would change irreversibly”.

In the nearer future, plans were being laid for the Parish Council elections, the Church Annual Meeting and Christian Aid Week. Not to forget the carnival.

While the rest of the village must have been sheltering indoors, the youngsters at Bradon Forest were filling in for them. At the same time over half-term one group went ski-ing whilst another visited New



York. A further group went to Honda and learnt to use pneumatics – unfortunately we were not told why. To top it all, one Saturday the school entered the Magistrates’ Court Mock Trial competition which they narrowly failed to win.

And to finish on an even brighter note, after over fifty years Mud Lane had reopened.

We Record...



Funeral at St Mary’s

16 February 2023 Brian John Broad (89)

Funeral at North Wiltshire Crematorium

20 February 2023 John Edwin Hodges (99)

Baptism at St Mary’s Church

12 March 2023 Chloe Rainbow

St Mary's as an eco-church

Did you know that the Church of England set a target for the church to reduce its net carbon emissions to zero by 2030? Work towards achieving this is being assisted by A Rocha, a global family of conservation organisations, through the eco-church award – <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>.

St Mary's is now registered as an eco-church and has started work to reduce the church's environmental impact in five ways:

- We are planning a Creation Season in June to give thanks to God for his amazing creation after our village has burst back into life after a cold winter and to remind us of our responsibility to care for God's Earth.
- We are working to manage our church building in a more environmentally sustainable way. This work includes auditing our current carbon emissions. We emitted 13.9 tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2022 (even though

all the electricity we used came from renewable sources). We are exploring how we can reduce these emissions by, for example, improving the insulation of the building (all our interior lighting already uses LEDs).

- We are considering how to manage the churchyard so that more local wildlife is found there.
- We hope to involve the community to consider environmental challenges by hosting local events on environmental issues in the church.
- We are seeking to reduce the environmental impact of our lives. The church already recycles much of its waste and encourages people to walk or cycle to church if they are able.

We will keep you informed on our eco-church activities and if our efforts lead to an Eco-church Award from A Roche.

Dave Nettleton

Purton Craft Market

We are delighted to welcome you to Purton Craft Market!

For many years our local Village Hall has held lots of events including artisan fairs, pantomimes, parties, charity events, classes and much more. So, for what feels like the first time, we thought it would be a lovely idea to host a craft market to share the talent and local crafts we have in and around the village, with everyone. The markets will be held on the following Sundays:

- 16th April
- 16th July
- 15th October
- 17th December

If you'd like to book a stall please contact:

Sue Richardson: 07927 964574
tonysuerichardson@gmail.com
Facebook Page: facebook.com/purtoncraftmarket



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.



Dear Purton Community

I would like to express my gratitude for the outpouring of kindness since the passing of my husband Paul. The number of beautiful messages expressed either in person, through cards or on social media has been truly uplifting. Paul would have been delighted to see how many people stated that he helped inspire an interest in history and truly respected his love and enthusiasm for the subject. Paul used to love bumping into his ex-pupils and hearing how they were progressing in life and discussing old times. The whole family has enjoyed reading the outpouring of respect to Paul and reading the various anecdotes, including some from the classroom of which we were unaware, that people have shared.

Many thanks for the comfort your kind words have brought at this difficult time.

Eve Booy



Brain Broad

Elizabeth, David and George would like to thank everyone for their kind words and messages of sympathy following the death of Brian, also to all of those who attended the funeral and the generous donations, in memory of Brian, to the Chedworth Silver Band.

Many thanks, Elizabeth Broad



The late Benjamin 'Ben' Gough

Angela, Robin, Trevor and all the family would like to say a huge thank you for the many cards, flowers and messages of sympathy and support received following the sad passing of their dad, Ben. They are all very much appreciated. Special thanks go to the Doctors, nurses and receptionists at Purton Surgery for their care. Especially Stephen who we had to call on several times. Also, Revd Judith Wells for her kindness, help and support during this difficult time. We are all very grateful.

Prayer for Purton

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



Paul Booy (1941-2023)

Paul was born in Corsham to parents Cyril and Berta in 1941. He had an older sister, Wendy. No great scholar in his early days, he gained minimal qualifications and joined the Royal Navy at 15. He was high on tales of Drake and Nelson, and also keen to see the world at a time when most people would not. His fondest naval posting was on HMS Cavalier, a ship upon which he sailed to Australia and the Far East. He met Evelyn in Plymouth and they were married in 1966. Purtonians will know Paul as a teacher and speaker of history, but he had a few brushes up with History itself during his service days. He served with the Navy in Europe when West Germany was being integrated into European defence strategy and protected British trawlers during the 'Cod war' with Iceland. Even his honeymoon with Eve fell victim to political events; they had planned to go to southern Ireland, but a strike by members of the Merchant Navy meant that all Royal Navy personnel were confined to the mainland. The happy couple honeymooned instead in a caravan on Breen Sands!

A son, Miles, was born to Paul and Eve in 1967, whilst in Singapore, followed by Malcolm in 1970. Paul left the Navy in 1969 and settled in Plymouth, working in the Fine Tubes factory (tubes made there were used on the newly-developed Concorde). In an industrial dispute, the workers at the factory went on strike. The dispute lasted three years (this was the early 1970s), the longest in British industrial history, and a book was written about it.

The striking workers needed financial support. Paul proved talented at addressing groups which might provide such support. Often these groups were based at colleges and universities, and Paul fancied the idea of student life. By the time the dispute was over, Paul had left

– he was a student at the college of St. Mark and St. John. He lacked the necessary qualifications; however, with typical diligence, he had started studying O-levels at night school. Whilst these would not normally get someone onto a degree course, the history department was run by a man, Godfrey Hainton, who, keen to develop talent wherever he found it, arranged that Paul be enrolled. For the rest of his life, Paul always credited Hainton as the man who allowed him to turn his life around. He worked hard at the college, and, still a naval man at heart, his dissertation was on the Dreadnought, the most prominent battleship of the early 20th Century. This involved research at the large specialist naval section of Plymouth Library. Staff there were so impressed by the work that they asked permission to bind two copies – one for Paul and one to be held by themselves for the benefit of future researchers. It remains there to this day.

Paul succeeded in gaining the first history job for which he applied, the post at Bradon Forest which he took up in September 1976. The head and deputy then were David Burden and John Williams. Both had served during the Second World War. They liked to appoint people with a forces background, but by 1976 such applicants were few, so they'd certainly have been attracted to Paul's naval background. Once appointed, he threw himself into the job with gusto. One particular project was to boost the History department's resources by approaching local industry to pay for textbooks. The experience of fund-raising during the Fine Tubes strike served him well here, but he also felt that the nature of the subject helped. When asked what he was going to do with the money, he'd reply that he would teach children how the industrial revolution had shaped British society ever since. Local manufacturers understood that language and probably thought it a noble aim.

Many pupils and their parents have testified not only to the popularity of Paul's lessons, but also to the wide range of extra activities and imaginative school trips. As soon as the school got a video camera, he was shooting Purton and the Landmarks of History, holding the camera whilst history pupils stood by the church, the war memorial etc. speaking about their role in the village's past. Paul disliked 'sponsored days' at school, when pupils would engage in activities to raise funds. On several occasions, he would instead organise a history trip which had a couple of pounds added on top for fundraising; bingo! Everyone involved is saved from the drudgery of sponsorship! Perhaps some will remember walking the Kennet & Avon canal. At one point, Paul considered applying for a position teaching A-level history at New College in Swindon. He decided not to as it would mean teaching those pupils who had chosen the subject and thus would have been preaching to the converted. Far better, he

decided to stay where he was, and build enthusiasm amongst 11 – 16 year olds.

In 1990, footage of Paul was used in a BBC Two documentary. Since the programme explored new and innovative ways of teaching history, Paul was used as an example of traditional teaching techniques. Filmed telling his class about the origins of the First World War, in the footage used, he reflected that the tensions in the Balkans had never been resolved and, now that the Soviet Union no longer imposed order by military force, they might flare up again. So, if you want to know who was the first person to go on tele predicting the Bosnian conflict – Paul had a good claim!

Needing projects to keep him active after retiring in 2000, Paul set himself up as a speaker, addressing a large number of local associations about an ever-growing list of historical topics. Most prominent amongst these groups were local Probus branches, of which he was a member, and Purton Historical Society. His contributions to the society were many, but the most prominent were the many six-week courses which he gave over the years, ably assisted by his wife Eve – they made a great team.

Paul was to have given a talk to the PHS on the 23rd February, but following a fall was admitted to hospital in the early hours of that morning. He had spent some of the 22nd going over details of the talk. Though not always aware of his own situation in the hospital, in his final hours he was happy to discuss historical topics, particularly the Cold War. He was/will be cremated along with a copy of “History of Europe” by A.J.P. Taylor so that he can check a few facts before speaking to whatever groups he is addressing now.

Do you like walking?

Would you like to walk with others? Why not join Purton Walking Group?

Purton Walking Group is a friendly, welcoming group of people who walk twice a month with walks of 5-6 miles. We currently have around 40 members.

The walk leaders email everyone about a week beforehand with details including stiles, the conditions underfoot (mud, etc) and the distance. The leaders also decide the start time, which is normally around 9.30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

All our communications are by email and members of the group share their contact information – home address, landline and mobile numbers. In addition, all our members live in Purton and are encouraged to volunteer to plan and lead walks.

We welcome new members and anyone living in Purton who is interested in joining should email purtonwalking@gmail.com

NHS Equipment Recycling

On occasions, due to injury or surgery, many of us will need some sort of mobility aid, i.e. crutches, sticks, zimmer frames etc. Once we're all properly repaired, what do we do with the equipment we no longer need? Very often, people aren't sure what to do with it and it gets pushed away in a cupboard somewhere and forgotten about.

This equipment, if returned, could save the NHS a lot of much needed money. Prior to covid, there was a scheme within Purton which facilitated the return of this equipment. Now that the covid situation seems a bit easier, we are reviving this scheme. So if you think you have any items which you no longer need, please dig them out from wherever you've hidden them and take them up to Purton Surgery. They will store them and we will return them to Great Western Hospital where they are setting up a scheme to sterilise and repair this equipment and put it back into circulation thus saving the purchase of new items.

Please be aware, any items bearing the name "Mediquip" need to be returned directly to the Mediquip company themselves and do not come under this scheme. Also, items such as the support boots which are used for broken limbs etc. do not come under this scheme and should be disposed of at the local tip.

A poster with a blue border. At the top, the NHS logo is displayed in white on a blue background, with the word "EQUIPMENT" in bold black text below it. The main text is in black and includes a request for help, instructions on where to return items, and contact information for Sue Richardson.

NHS
EQUIPMENT

Please help us to save the NHS money by returning loaned items such as crutches, walking aids, toilet aids etc.

Any equipment can be returned to Great Western Hospital physio department or the main reception.

If you are unable to get to the hospital, you can now leave any items at Purton surgery.

If you cannot get to the surgery, ring the Age Concern mini bus, or your street warden, for these items to be collected.

If your item has a Mediquip label on it - do not return it to the surgery - but ring the number on the label, and they will collect it. (NB If it is a single pair of crutches or single walking aid, you can still leave it at the surgery).

For further information,
please contact:
Sue Richardson on 01793 772581

Sue & Tony Richardson

Bradon Forest School



Representation Matters

In November we started working with Sharon Anderson and Shauna Stewart from Representation Matters, who joined the school community for a day so we could share with them the work we had been carrying out to promote EDI at Bradon Forest school. Sharon and Shauna involved themselves in a variety of activities in order to get to know our school including: visiting lessons, observing tutor times and talking to students and staff. Their findings enabled us to start to build on the work we have already been doing.



Our students were proactive in supporting our EDI values and ensuring that the Bradon Charter – finalised in December – included an impact statement about EDI. All students in the school were consulted on the Charter and our Student Advisor Group finalised the statement: “We celebrate and appreciate all races, abilities, sexualities, genders and beliefs by asking respectful questions and challenging negative views through celebratory events.”

Our January Teacher Development Day very much focussed on EDI with Aisha Thomas, Director of Representation Matters, giving the keynote speech to all staff followed by workshops on dealing with difficult conversations, the curriculum and opportunities to promote diversity as well as developing, promoting and using shared language, the latter being something we are working with the trust to develop and promote.

Other school events to support EDI at Bradon this term have included: Chinese New Year, LGBTQ+, History month and Progressive Masculinity.

We will continue our work on EDI throughout the year and report what we have been driving forward in our bi-weekly parental bulletins.

Horticulture and Site Management Course

We have developed a practical course for a small group of students where they can gain valuable skills working in an outside environment. The group has done an amazing job of clearing and preparing the Inclusion Centre garden to use as their classroom. They have distributed seven tonnes of wood chippings around the



school to help with the site development and make it look better. The old polytunnel has been mended and is now ready to use for growing their seedlings and tomatoes in the summer months.

BMX Sessions

This term, select Year 8 and 9 students will be participating in a BMX skills course at school, learning the basics of bike handling and essential skills to help build confidence and teamwork. All students are of varying ability and experience and over the course of the term will learn a variety of ‘flatland’ BMX skills, building confidence and teamwork skills.



The course is run by British Cycling Level 2 BMX and MTB coach, Jennifer Purcell, who commented: “What a fantastic first morning! Thanks to all the riders for giving everything a go, I’m looking forward to watching them progress over the next few weeks.”

Thanks so much to Mark from Hargroves Cycles in Swindon for giving the BMX bike fleet a once-over ahead of this exciting new project.

Theatre Target Talk

We were really excited to welcome ex-BFS student Oli Webb back to the school this month. Oli, who is now the Creative Learning Manager for the Wyvern Theatre, returned to tread the boards once more in



our Bradon theatre and delivered the latest target talk to students interested in the arts and drama.

Oli shared experiences and stories, whilst the audience listened with interest. Oli’s delivery was honest and superbly entertaining and our students had the opportunity to join in with small workshops, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Sports News

For all our exciting sports news, follow our social media pages or check out the website:

<https://bradonforest.org.uk/news/>
www.facebook.com/bradonforestscho
www.instagram.com/bradonforestschoo/
<https://twitter.com/BradonForestSch>

Carer Support Wiltshire

Would you like to learn new skills, or use your existing ones, helping others? Are you looking for a way to contribute positively to your community and to meet new people? If so, have you considered volunteering?

Carer Support Wiltshire are a local charity who support unpaid carers in the county. Someone is an unpaid carer if they support someone who is unwell, has a disability or is elderly. Many people support family members and they do so because they want the best for the person they care for. But caring for someone can be very difficult, emotionally, and physically, and can leave the person caring feeling worn out and isolated.

Carer Support Wiltshire are currently looking for volunteers to fill vacancies that directly support people who are

caring for someone. If you would like to find out more, or if you have a skill you feel could be put to use, they'd love to hear from you.

Vacancies in your area: Here to Talk Telephone Befriender

The Here to Talk service provides low level emotional support to carers across Wiltshire. You will be a friendly voice at the end of the phone, a listening ear and someone who will provide reassurance during challenging times. Successful applicants will have excellent listening skills and be empathetic and non-judgemental. You will be able to commit to a minimum of half an hour every two weeks. Full training is provided.

For more information on volunteering for Carer Support Wiltshire, email volunteer@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk or phone 01380 908158.

The Phoenix Players

***Swindon Arts Centre, Wednesday
26th - Saturday 29th April 2023***

The Business of Murder by Richard Harris

The Business of Murder takes place on a single day in London. Stone asks Hallett (a detective) to come to his flat ostensibly to meet and help his son, a supposed drug dealer. However, the son has apparently left the apartment and will not return until later that evening, so the detective also agrees to return later. After Hallett leaves, Dee, a

detective fiction writer, arrives and chats to Stone.

In the conversations and actions which follow, we witness a twisting and turning plot through a maze of false trails as the story reaches its surprising and shocking conclusion.

Tickets can now be purchased at www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-phoenix-players
Further information about our group can be found on our website:
www.phoenix-players.com

The Cirencester & District Model Aircraft Club

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

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



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

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

Church Floodlighting

- April 9 Easter Day: The Lord is risen: Halleluiah!
- April 15/16 Orthodox Easter Day in Ukraine: «Христос Воскрес»
- April 27 St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Norma Charlesworth**, a dear Wife to John and loving Mother to Sam. Forever in our hearts.



For April, 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.

Purton Village Diary - April 2023

2	Su		Palm Sunday
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Church for all with Messy Church at St Mary's
		10.30am	Morning Service at Purton Methodist Church
3	M	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting and Awards evening at the Village Hall
6	Th		Maundy Thursday
		7.30pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
7	F		Good Friday
		10.00am	Walk of Witness from Pavenhill shops
		2.00pm	Hour at the Cross at St Mary's Church
8	Sa	10.00am	Purton Bowls Club Easter Coffee Morning
9	Su		Easter Sunday
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Easter celebration with Family Holy Communion
		10.30am	Holy Communion at Purton Methodist Church
15	Sa		St Mary's Church will be floodlit to celebrate Ukrainian Easter (and 16th)
		2.00pm	Purton Bowls Club opening of the green
16	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Church for all at St Mary's
17	M	10.00am	Purton WI meet at Silver Threads Hall
		2.00pm	St. Mary's Fellowship meet at Purton Methodist Church. The speaker is Michael Gamble talking about 'The Queens Remarkable Life'
		7.00pm	Full Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
19	W	7.00pm	Talk on 'How Genealogists use DNA' at Lydiard House
22	Sa	7.00pm	Avebury Vocal Ensemble perform at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade
23	Su		St George's Day
			2023 London Marathon
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
27	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at Play Close Methodist Church for a talk about The Tregoze Family History Project
30	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church

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.
	7.00pm	to 8.30pm Purton Youth Club for school years 7+ at The Millennium 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

Avebury Vocal Ensemble Concert in St.Sampson's Church, Cricklade

Saturday 22nd April, 7 p.m.

The Avebury Vocal Ensemble (AVE) will be performing Vaughan Williams' Mass in G minor in St.Sampson's Church, Cricklade on Saturday 22nd April at 7 p.m. The programme will also include well-loved choruses from Handel's Messiah, three anthems from Tudor times and a variety of joyful seasonal numbers.

We will be conducted by Peter Tims, Director of Music at Archway School, Stroud who took over in 2016 from our founder, Sir Peter Beale, who continues to sing with us. As well as being an

orchestral cellist, jazz pianist and accompanist, Peter Tims also conducts and sings with several other choirs of all sizes. For this concert we are again pleased to be accompanied by Simon Dinsdale. Simon travels extensively throughout the UK as accompanist, continuo player and organist to a number of choirs as well as regularly playing at cathedrals up and down the country.

AVE is a chamber choir based in North Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire. Further details may be found at www.aveburyvocal.org.

London Marathon for Cancer Research UK

Having completed my first full marathon run (in Edinburgh) last year, I have gained a place in this year's London Marathon on April 23rd, together with our younger daughter Lucy. Last year running with Lucy and son-in-law Darron, we jointly raised in excess of £2,000 for Dementia UK, and this year the two of us have decided to support Cancer Research UK, the world's largest independent cancer research organisation. I am very grateful to those who kindly sponsored me last year and would again be most appreciative of any donations to the work of this vital charity – and also to motivate my last weeks of training! The link to an on-line fund-raising page is below, but alternatively if anyone would prefer to sponsor via a traditional paper pledge, please contact me on the number below, or speak directly to either myself or Fionna anytime. With many thanks for any support: <https://2023tcsllondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/lucy-and-paddy-griffiths-run-london>



Patrick/Fionna Griffiths t: 01793 772044



White Lodge celebrate Valentine's Day

Staff and residents at White Lodge care home in Braydon were treated to a fun-packed hour in the company of choir leader and vocal coach to the stars, Dan Cooper, who taught them to sing two classic love songs for Valentine's Day: 'All You Need Is Love' by The Beatles and 'Love Is In The Air' by John Paul Young. In partnership with Biiiah, Dan delivers regular singing events through their virtual platform which encourages people to sing for their wellbeing and is passionate about the positive impact that singing in a group has on wellbeing. "I have the best job in the world. I am never happier than when I am teaching people to sing and seeing how happy it makes them. It was an absolute privilege to spend Valentine's Day with the Barchester residents and teach them these classic love songs" Dan commented.

Lucy Tomlinson, Resident Experience Manager for Barchester Healthcare, adds: "We are excited to work with super-talented people like Dan to bring a wide range of different experiences into our homes for all to enjoy, it was wonderful to see the joy on all of our residents' faces as Dan taught them how to sing these feel-good love songs.

"Our varied life enrichment programme keeps residents active and socially connected, providing a daily choice of

engaging physical, mental and spiritual activities tailored to residents' interests and abilities," Lucy added.

The White Lodge care home, was filled with flowers, red hearts, cards and sweets in celebration of St Valentine's Day. Staff and residents celebrated the day of love by creating heart-shaped decorations for the home, making chocolate dipped strawberries for the afternoon valentine's tea party, arranging flowers and giving away to the community, having themed dining, followed by a tea party and sing along with family and friends.

Some of our residents went out to the High Street in Royal Wootton Bassett and spread love by giving away red roses with a note saying "Happy valentine's day from White Lodge" to the community. People were surprised and happy to receive roses from the residents.

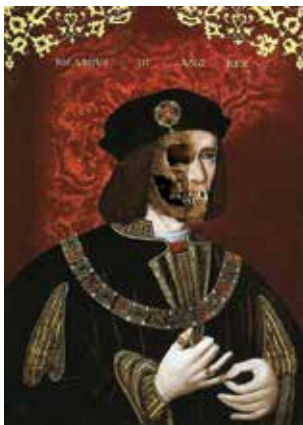
Ruth, a resident at White Lodge said: "It has been a lovely day. It was wonderful to go out on the high street of Royal Wootton Bassett and make people happy by giving away red roses, and I met my old neighbour as well which was not expected at all. Thanks to White lodge as everyone went to so much effort to get involved with the day's festivities. I really enjoyed the day out, the decorations and themed dining.

Upcoming talk ‘How Genealogists Use DNA’

To be held at Lydiard House at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 19th April 2023.

Have you ever thought about having your DNA tested? What might you discover? Sonia St. John, whose research into the St. John family of Lydiard Tregoze has brought so many intriguing stories to light, provides a layman’s guide to DNA testing from a family historian’s perspective.

Using data from the St. John family



in the early 17th century and up to the present day, Sonia shows how family connections can be proven. She also references the famous case of identifying the body of Richard III.

This will be the first of our 2023 talks and the ticket price includes a glass of wine or a soft drink if preferred.

Follow this link to book tickets: www.friendsoflydiardpark.org.uk/events/how-genealogists-use-dna/

www.friendsoflydiardpark.org.uk/events/how-genealogists-use-dna/

Wootton Bassett Amateur Gardening Club

The Memorial Hall, Station Road, Royal Wootton Bassett at 7.30 p.m. (Meetings are usually on the first Monday of the month unless otherwise stated)

Wootton Bassett Gardening Club celebrates its 45th anniversary in May this year and we are marking the occasion with an extra special meeting on Tuesday, 9th May 2023 featuring Nick Bailey as our guest speaker. Nick is a presenter on Gardeners’ World, RHS Chelsea Flower Show garden winner, garden designer and author.

Nick will talk to us about ‘365 Days of Colour in Your Garden’. This is a ticket only event. Tickets are complimentary for gardening club members and £10 per person for non-members. Tickets are available from Pat Perryman, email:

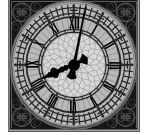
pat.perryman1@gmail.com or ring 07817 207047 or Jan Chambers on 07766 100034. We’d love you to come and join us for this special event at The Memorial Hall, Station Road, Wootton Bassett SN4 8EN. Raffle and refreshments, doors open at 6.30 p.m., meeting starts at 7.30 p.m.

Programme of speakers for April and May:

3rd April, Green manures, catch crops and cover crops, Lois Philipps

Tuesday 9th May, 365 Days of Colour in Your Garden, Nick Bailey, Gardeners’ World presenter, Chelsea Flower Show garden winner, garden designer and author. Tickets £10 for non-members – contact: pat.perryman1@gmail.com/07817 207047 or Jan Chambers, 01793 850466.

After 8



After 8 late Christmas meal at the Bell. It was seven years since we had our last meal at the Bell. It was a Tuesday night and the extended car park was full; we had a job to park! Here is a selection of comments from our members:

“Delicious food and great company,”

“It has changed so much since our last visit.”

“It was lovely to catch up and I learnt new things about people I have known for quite a while.”

“The company was great; the food lovely and the ambience very friendly.”

“Good food, excellent company, great friendly group.”

“Enjoyable evening, great to see so many old friends and a good chat.”

“We enjoyed good food, efficient and friendly service at the Bell, but above all our easy companionship together, sharing news and views, laughter, remembrances, and solemn moments.”

“Our first visit to the Bell since lockdown – what a pleasant surprise! – skittle alley converted to a lovely dining area.”

“The staff were friendly though very busy, never a gap in the conversation, the evening passed so quickly.”

We all had a great time.

Avril Ainscough

Poetry Corner

The Urisk

How would you feel if people thought you ugly and unsightly
And ran away each time you tried to hug them very tightly?
Well sometimes folk in fairyland might just appear alarming.
That doesn't mean their nature won't be courteous and charming.

The Urisk is a lonely sprite, he yearns to have a friend
And waits upon a single rock to see what fate might send.
He lives in pools and rushing streams and foaming waterfalls,
Enchanted with his natural world and all its forest walls.

He cannot help his quirky looks which some will find facetious
And others will be horrified and left distraught and speechless.

His balding head, his tufty beard, his large and pointed ears
His skinny arms and goat-like legs, his eyes so filled with tears.

He's sad when he's rejected but he knows that in the end
He'll find someone who loves him well and wants to be a friend.

The Urisk then will prove to all no matter what his features
He'll always be a faithful and most trustworthy of creatures.

Jacky Parker

Purton Historical Society



Meeting Venue – Purton Methodist Church, Play Close

Last month was a sad one for the Society in that three of our members died; Paul Booy, Ernie Paish and Hector McLean. The Society sends its deepest sympathy to their wives and families.

Marion Hobbs, Chairman

Thursday 27th April 2023, 7.30 p.m. The Lydiard Archives: Lydiard Tregoze Family History Project - Sarah Finch Crisp

Launched in September 2021, The Lydiard Archives is a freely accessible digital collection of items relating to Lydiard Park, its former owners, the St. John family and the people who lived and worked in the parish of Lydiard Tregoze. In just 18 months there are already over 1,000 items you can view including previously unseen photographs of local families, together with their stories. Sarah's talk will concentrate on the Lydiard Tregoze Family History Project, revealing some of the remarkable photographs and objects that have come to light.

Thursday 25th May 2023, 7.30 p.m. The Roman Invasion, Occupation And Colonisation Of Britain - Bill King

The talk outlines the reasons why the Romans chose to invade Britain and the strategies

adopted in progressively subjugating the population of the British Isles. The progression from invasion to occupation

and eventually to colonisation led to a Roman presence lasting some 400 years. The influence of the Romans lasted longer than their physical occupation, the evidence of which can still be seen in the course of the major road networks and the names and locations of the principal towns. Bill King will explain the progress of Roman influence throughout Britain and how Britannia became the northernmost province of the Roman Empire extending from the Straits of Dover to the River Tay and how its population became citizens of Rome.

The talk is illustrated with maps and images and shows examples of the way in which the impact of the period of Roman influence can still be seen around us today.

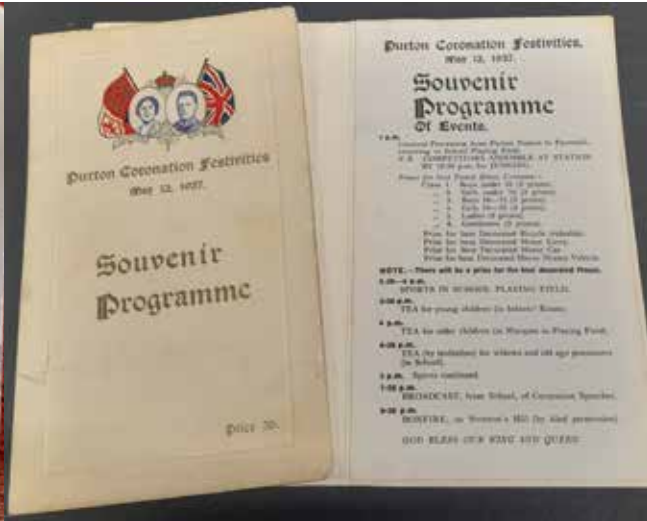
Saturday 17th June 2023 Visit To Marlborough - Nick Baxter: Further Details To Be Advised

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

Museum News

As we look forward to celebrating King Charles's III's Coronation, it is also interesting to look back at how Purton marked the coronations of King George VI in 1937 and Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

A Carnival Procession from Purton Station to Pavenhill started the festivities on the 12th May 1937, followed by an afternoon of sports on the School Playing Field. The 'Boys under 16, pillow fight on a pole' must have been



Our village has a great history of coronation celebrations with artefacts on display in Purton Museum from 1st April.

highly entertaining and the ‘Men and Women, thread-the-needle race’ quite a challenge! The Coronation gave the fledgling BBC Television Service its first major outside broadcast, although cameras were not permitted inside Westminster Abbey. The excitement in the school at 7.20 p.m. for the broadcast of the Coronation Speeches must have been palpable as for many Purtonians it was probably the first time they had heard their monarch’s voice. The festivities concluded with a bonfire at Stratton Hill, the field behind Stratton Court which is opposite the entrance to Willis Way in the High Street.

Sixteen years later and the programme of events for Queen Elizabeth II’s Coronation on the 2nd June 1953 are very similar but with the venues being the Red House and the Purton School Recreation Field. The sporting events of ‘Girls 11-13, 40 yds Department’ and ‘Boys 13-15, 60 yds Slow Bicycle’ are

intriguing and no doubt the ‘Greasy Pole’ and ‘Inter Village Tug of War’ were hotly contested! There must have been a great deal of merriment at the end of the day when villagers gathered to admire the bonfire and firework display. Unfortunately the photograph of the decorated Institute Building is the only image the museum has of this momentous day which is a shame as it would be wonderful to see photographs of entries in the ‘Best Decorated House and Garden’, Carnival Procession and of Old Folks enjoying their lunch of cold meat, pickles and creamed potatoes at the Red House Memorial Hall.

These Souvenir Programmes, and other coronation memorabilia, will be on display in Purton Museum until the end of June.

The Museum is open on Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. The museum will be closed on Saturday 6th May.

Lucy Lewis, Museum Archivist

Purton Churches

Easter 2023

Palm Sunday 2nd April 2023

8.00am Communion at St Mary's

10.30am Church for All with Messy Church at St Mary's

There will be a Procession and Easter activities, refreshments, crafts - children must bring an adult!

10.30am Morning Service at Purton Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday 6th April

7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's

Good Friday 7th April

10.00am Walk of Reflection and Witness (starting at Pavenhill Shops)

(Also at any time) Your own reflective walk Around Purton

Collect a Guide from outside St Mary's Church or from the Co-op or One Stop or download from the website

2.00pm Hour at the Cross United - Service at St Mary's. A time to reflect on what Christ did for us - with Bible Readings, Prayer, Hymns & Times of Quiet

Alleluia Christ is Risen! Easter Day - Sunday 9th April

8.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's

10.30am Easter Celebration with Family Communion at St Mary's

www.stmaryspurton.org.uk/easter23

10.30am Holy Communion at Purton Methodist Church

A very Happy Easter to everyone from Purton Churches

Snowdrops are the first flowers in my garden in the Spring. I always think the special ones are dead, because these tall, plump ones always emerge so very late! The smoky green shoots emerge near the window where I sit to work, yet they're the ones which last the longest. They were my mother's and I have been dividing them, so I have more clumps every year. They remind me of her. A truly loving, hardworking, gardening Christian lady. By the time you read this, her cowslips will be multiplying in yellows and reds on a bank in another corner. These remind me of her too. She lived a long time. She was always encouraging, warm and caring. She always gave me hope for the future, just like Spring flowers in our gardens.

God gives us Hope too, a better one! He gave us His Son Jesus to free us from the things we do wrong! Jesus died and He rose again for us! We have Hope through this rising from the dead, for eternal life. We just have to believe, (and that's no easy thing to do). But we only have

to hang on to this Hope because it's eternal. It's forever. Jesus stands alongside us now and if we believe, we will be with Him in the future too, forever! See what the Bible says:

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life”[John chapter 3 verse 16]

Revd Judith Wells (Associate Minister for St Mary's)

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

Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith 01793 770077

email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk

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

Or Revd Shirlyn Toppin 01793 853197 for Purton Methodist Church

Our normal Sunday pattern is as follows:

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

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

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

10.30am Service at Purton Methodist Church

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

For more Information see website www.stmaryspurton.org.uk

Facebook St. Mary's Church, Purton, Wiltshire

Coronation of King Charles III

Saturday 6th May 2023 - Live Streamed in St Mary's Church

Tickets are available first come first served - For a free ticket

please use www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/coronation-livestreaming-tickets-586046670367 or see the website or use the Vicarage contact details above

DISCLAIMER

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Outreach Purton *Community information from Wiltshire Council*

Night time safety measure helps to keep residents safe

Wiltshire Council and its partners are emphasising the importance of night time safety and the measures in place to provide people with help and reassurance should they need it.

After a member of the public entered a Trowbridge establishment to ‘Ask for Angela’, Wiltshire Council and its partners are emphasising the importance of night time safety and the measures in place to provide people with help and reassurance should they need it.

The safety initiative ‘Ask for Angela’ is used in bars, clubs and other licensed businesses and aims to reduce sexual violence, whereby people who feel unsafe, vulnerable or threatened can discreetly seek help by approaching venue staff and asking them for ‘Angela’. The phrase will indicate to staff that they require help in their situation and a trained staff member will assist them to safety. Any premises that have signed up for the scheme will display a poster, normally in the toilets.

The phrase was recently successfully used in Trowbridge when a male customer used it to get the attention of staff members. Staff immediately understood that the gentleman was asking for assistance and kept the man safe until the police arrived to deal with the situation.

Bars, restaurants, cinemas, and other night-time venues are also being encouraged to sign up to the Safety at Night Charter, developed by the Office of



the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon in partnership with Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council.

By voluntarily signing the charter, businesses are agreeing to proactively tackle the issue of safety within the night-time economy by taking on pledges, including taking responsibility for calling out disrespectful or harmful behaviour, appointing a champion for night-time safety, using initiatives such as ‘Ask for Angela’ and creating an environment to enable staff and public to report incidents.

Cllr Nick Holder, Cabinet Member for Public Protection said, “The safety of our residents is a key priority for us, and we want people to feel comfortable when visiting our night-time venues.

“We have been working with our partners in the OPCC and the Police to encourage businesses to sign up for initiatives such as the Safety at Night charter or asking them to display the Ask for Angela posters. This will help to reassure those working or enjoying a night out that they are in a safe environment with support available should it be required.

“We’ve now seen Ask for Angela work effectively in Wiltshire, and I hope this

brings some comfort to residents that should they need it, help is available quickly.”

Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Wilkinson, said, “The launch of our Safety at Night Charter is a positive affirmation that my office, and our partners, are committed to delivering safer nights for all across Wiltshire and Swindon. And I want to thank all the venues and organisations that are working with us by pledging to help us create safer nights out for everyone in Wiltshire and Swindon.

“By going to a venue or using a service that is participating in the Safety at Night Charter you’ll know that you are in a safe environment with fully-trained staff who take the responsibility of their customers seriously, with fully operational CCTV and other safety initiatives.

People can find out more about ‘Ask for Angela’ by going to: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1113/Ask-for-Angela

People can find out more about the Safety at Night charter at: www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/campaigns/safer-nights/

Bin hangers appearing on blue-lidded bins

We’re reminding everyone to check what can and can’t be recycled at home, as waste collection crews will be stepping up checks of blue-lidded bins.

The move is part of our new ‘Recycling - let’s sort it!’ www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/7159/Recycling-let-s-sort-it Wiltshire-Council-launches-new-

[campaign-to-increase-recycling-and-reduce-contaminationawareness](#) campaign to provide you with more information about what can and can’t be recycled using our kerbside collection services.

On their rounds, waste collection crews will attach an amber hanger to any recycling bins that are seen to have the wrong items in them. The hanger will advise you what these wrong items were, but that it was still emptied on that collection.

Then, from Monday 6 March, crews will use a red hanger to identify heavily contaminated bins that will explain what you have incorrectly recycled.

Bookstart Volunteer

Bookstart is a national programme that aims to encourage a love of books, stories and rhymes in children from as young an age as possible.

Trained volunteers visit families in their own homes/children’s centres and their local library to share rhymes and stories with the aim of increasing parents’ confidence and encourage families to develop a regular reading habit.

We are looking to recruit volunteers to support families in Royal Wootton Bassett, Cricklade and Malmesbury.

No experience necessary as full training will be provided, however, volunteers should feel comfortable reading stories and rhymes out loud.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Vicky Watt, Volunteer Co-ordinator for more details on 01249 464008 or vickyw@therisetrust.org.

Volunteer Youth Worker

We are looking to recruit volunteers to support our Youth sessions in Calne, Malmesbury, Purton and Royal Wootton Bassett.

- Can you engage young people in conversation or activities in a non-judgemental way?
- Are you a good listener?
- Do you have an awareness of the issues facing young people in today's society?
- Can you give 2/3 hours of an evening to support a RISE youth session?
- No experience needed as full training will be provided.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Vicky Watt, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01249 464008 or vickyw@therisetrust.org

The RISE Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all volunteers and staff to share in this commitment.

Eligible families encouraged to sign up for FUEL holiday camps

Wiltshire Council will be running FUEL camps during the Easter school holidays and is encouraging families with children eligible for benefit related free school meals to sign up.

The council will be delivering the Holiday Activity and Food programme, known locally as FUEL during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays in 2023. The FUEL programme is funded by the Department of Education and will deliver FUEL camps

in ten areas across the county where there is the greatest level of need.

At FUEL camps children receive a nutritious lunch each day and are given the opportunity to take part in a range of practical, physical and hands-on activities including robotics workshops, circus skills, sporting sessions, Olympic kit, talent shows, and arts and crafts workshops.

Two FUEL Easter camps for young people with special educational needs and/or a disability are also taking place at Springfield Community Campus in Corsham and at Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing Centre in Salisbury, where individuals will be able to take part in a range of activities such as dance, new age kurling, cricket, boccia and nutritional workshops.

In addition to a nutritious meal, children can enjoy fun healthy eating and food workshops, which are delivered in partnership with Learn By Design, Occasional Kitchen and Purely Nutrition in Wiltshire.

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cabinet Member for Leisure, said: "The FUEL programme supports the council's key priorities of early intervention, improving social mobility, tackling inequalities, understanding communities and working together. The camps not only provide hot food, healthy eating advice and a range of activities but also supports the development of character and wellbeing of participants.

"I am delighted the FUEL programme is continuing in 2023 as it embodies the council's support for our residents that are most in need, many of whom are

experiencing pressure from the increasing cost of living.

“When I have visited FUEL camps it is always great to see the participants having fun, enjoying a tasty meal as well as making friends and being active.”

The ten camps will take place in Amesbury, Calne, Chippenham, Devizes, Melksham, Royal Wootton Bassett, Salisbury, Trowbridge, Marlborough and Westbury.

Programme details and information on how to apply for a place will be promoted through all schools in Wiltshire and on FUEL programme – Wiltshire Council

For more information about the Holiday Activity and Food Programme in Wiltshire, families can email fuelprogramme@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Recycle the unrecyclable at your local swimming pool!

Wiltshire residents are being encouraged to recycle their previously unrecyclable pool accessories such as goggles and armbands, in an innovative way at swimming pools across the county.

It is estimated that the average pool will generate roughly 15 kg of waste every two to three months. With the installation of reusable 100 litre recycle points, pool equipment and accessories that would normally have been sent to UK landfills, can now be collected, recycled and reused into new products.

The Leisure Loop Recycling Scheme is now in place at four swimming pools across Wiltshire (Five Rivers Health & Wellbeing Centre in Salisbury, the Olympiad Leisure Centre in

Chippenham, Trowbridge Sports Centre and The Vale Community Campus in Pewsey), meaning that local residents can visit the centre to recycle used pool related objects such as flip flops, goggles, floats, armbands, kickboards, pull buoys and swim caps.

Once collected, the items are sorted and separated into material type (foam or plastic) and then by colour. The material is then shredded into tiny pieces and washed to create a new raw material. This raw material is then used to create new products for the industry such as flip flops – thus closing the ‘leisure loop’.

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cabinet Member for Leisure, said: “Swimming pools generate a large amount of pool waste, whether it’s broken goggles, punctured arm bands or used floats and pull buoys. Historically we have not been able to recycle these items, but by using the Leisure Loop Recycling Scheme people can get rid of their old, unused pool waste and help to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill.

“In Wiltshire, a key business plan priority of ours is to increase our recycling and reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill, so this new scheme is a great way to achieve this goal, with the added bonus that discarded items are being transformed into great new and unique products.”

For more information on swimming and other activities at Wiltshire Council leisure centres, people should visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure

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

Purton Placard

Fairford & District Choral Society

Will be performing Stainer's Crucifixion and Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B flat on Saturday 1 April at 19.30 in St Mary's Church, Fairford. The conductor is Marysia Gorska-Saj. The organist is Robin Baggs. The soloists are David McKee (tenor) and Nicholas Drew (bass). Tickets cost £15 and are on sale at Fairford Opticians.

Violin Duo Concert Royal Wotton Bassett Memorial Hall Tuesday 28th March, 2pm to 4pm



Come along and listen to our two wonderful musicians - Lucy and Becky.

They will play a selection of popular songs from opera to The Beatles and Dolly Parton - they play it all!

This is a free event, but booking is required.

Please contact Pat Hughes on 07484 748737 or 01793 772382 or patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com to book your place.



Wootton Bassett Gardening Club

Invite you to talk with

Nick Bailey

'365 days of colour in your garden'

Tuesday 9th May 2023



Gardeners' World Presenter, RHS Chelsea Flower Show winner, garden designer and author

Tickets £10 for non-members - contact: pat.perryman1@gmail.com or ring 07817 207047 or Jan Chambers on 07766 100034

Memorial Hall, Station Road, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8EN

Doors open 6.30pm, evening starts at 7.30pm

Refreshments & raffle

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www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/CAW

Championship Cat Show

Cricklade Town Hall, High St., Cricklade, Sat. April 15th. - open from 12.30 to 4.00 pm. Pedigree and non-pedigree cats, good food/refreshments, very varied stalls, raffle. Adults £4.00, concessions £2.00. Enquiries to Show Manager Barbara McEwan on 01362 562135.

The Avebury Vocal Ensemble (AVE)

Are performing in St.Sampson's Church, Cricklade on Saturday 22nd April at 7 p.m. The programme includes Vaughan Williams' Mass in G minor. Further details at www.aveburyvocal.org

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- MAR 26 WELCOME SPRING
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- MAY 21 WORM WORTH AND POND POTTERING
- JUN 25 PRINTING AND PIGMENTS IN NATURE
- JUL 30 BUTTERFLY JULY
- SEP 24 COMPOSTING FOR INSECT CONSERVATION
- OCT 29 WELCOME AUTUMN



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NO CASH, DONATIONS AND PRIZES TO BE WON AT THESE EVENTS WITH A SECOND ADULT

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Purton WI

Purton WI's meeting at Silver Threads Hall on April 17th at 10 a.m. is the AGM and Resolutions meeting with refreshments and a break for bingo. Visitors are most welcome.

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



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

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

For the latest information visit:
[facebook.com/pipscommunitycafe/](https://www.facebook.com/pipscommunitycafe/)

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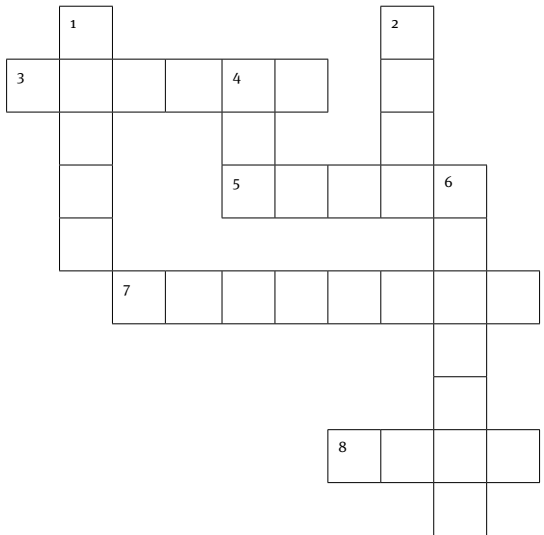
For further details without any obligation simply ring:
Chris or Justyn on 01793 814888

Mini crossword

Here is the next in our series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun. Again there are no prizes but the answers to March's puzzle are 1A) World 2D) Daffodil 3D) Time 4A) Book 5D) Day 6D) Summer 7A) Aquamarine 8A) British

This month there are six clues.

- 3 across Religious festival (6)
- 5 across Thousand pound piano (5)
- 7 across Of the state (8)
- 8 across Tickled colour (4)
- 1 down Chained flower (5)
- 2 down Happy when you are over it (4)
- 4 down Urge on (3)
- 6 down Gem or card (7)



This is the next crossword created by Neil and Rob Miles to challenge readers. Answers for this quiz will be in the April 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.



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.



April Nature Correspondent

Anticipating April

As the first days of Spring slip by in late March, I begin to anticipate April days and all that gradually begins to emerge and flourish in the natural world. In recent years some birds, butterflies and flowers have been appearing earlier than hitherto and things you expect to see in the last days of April arrive a week or so before. I have decided therefore to compile a sort of aide-memoire, listing what to look out for and when, though plans may be thwarted by our fickle weather. The maximum day temperature in Wiltshire in April is 13 degrees: there are 14 hours of daylight offering up to 5 hours of sunshine, but we can expect 13 days with some rainfall- 45 mm in total.

First Week: If not already seen Wild Daffodils will still be out, when standard ones are almost past their best. Golden-

yellow is a recurring colour with early spring flowers: primroses, lesser celandines, gorse and, amongst my favourites-marsh marigolds, commonly known as "Kingcups", since they resemble the goblet cups of Kings. White and yellow flowers attract insects such as hoverflies and bees to pollinate them. The first Chiff-Chaff begins his stuttering song in our village, while a visit to high ground at Liddington or Cley Hill might offer a sighting of a migrant Wheatear or Ring Ouzel.

Second Week: The brown trout season is underway on the Kennet, and with limited flies about anglers will be using Dark Olives, March Nymphs and Waterhen Spider flies to lure their prey. Meantime riverside walks will confirm the arrival of the commoner warblers: Blackcaps, more Chiff-Chaffs and the first Willow Warblers. If the sun is out the yellow theme continues with the Brimstone and the pretty Orange Tips butterflies, and there are Peacocks, Red Admirals and the

occasional Comma too.

Third Week: I must make a visit to Clattinger Farm in the Cotswold Water Park to see the Snake's Head Fritillaries and the first Green-winged Orchids, as well as abundant cowslips.

The Hirundines will have arrived: first the Sand Martin, then the Swallow and the House Martin, with the Swift yet to appear.

Fourth week: At this point things get hectic! If I know the various setts, earths and ponds, I might watch Badgers and Foxes with cubs in the twilight hours and the male smooth newts, looking superb with big black spots and a wavy crest, performing their courtship dances with the females. Further excitement will occur when I connect with Nightingales, Grasshopper Warblers, both Whitethroat species, plus Sedge and Reed Warblers. To quote Robert Browning: "God's in his heaven, all's right with the world!"

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

We are looking for volunteers to help at Purton Library

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

Opening times:

Tuesdays 2.00pm-7.00pm


Fridays 2.00pm-4.30pm

Contact: Jane Hunt, Library Service Volunteer Co-ordinator

Tel: 01225 713792 Email: jane.hunt@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Purton Cricket Club



As I write this, snow is falling outside and the thought of playing cricket in the near future seems unlikely. However, the season itself is only a handful of weeks away from beginning, and preparations throughout the club are in full swing.

The indoor season is already being packed up and put away till the next winter, with one league game remaining for the club on Sunday, March 12th against Swindon Titans. In the past month there have been impressive wins over Buscot Park CC and Swindon 2s as the season looks set to end on a highpoint.

Winter training for both the junior and adult sections at the club has continued in earnest over the past month with preparations for the move outdoors taking shape. These are happening on a weekly basis at the Cricklade Manor Prep School and we would once again like to thank them for letting us as a club use their excellent facilities over the winter months.

Despite the season fast approaching, we are always on the lookout for new members across either our junior or adult sections. More details can be found on our website (www.purton.play-cricket.com) or you get in contact with us via our social media channels, which are listed below.

Also, our All Stars and Dynamos programmes for 2023 are live and available for people to sign up to. The eight week All Stars programme begins on Friday, June 16th and runs until Friday, August 4th. The weekly sessions will take place between 17:00-18:00

and it is open to children between the ages of five and eight. Equally, Dynamos runs at the same time of day but begins from Friday, May 5th till Friday, June 23rd. These sessions are aimed at eight to 11 year olds. To sign up, you can visit the ClubSpark website or visit our social media pages for the direct links to sign up.

In other areas of the club, we are still searching for anyone interested in umpiring or scoring games for the club this summer. If this is something you are interested in or you know someone who might be interested in this, then please get in contact with us by the means already mentioned above or by emailing chair.purtoncc@gmail.com. The club would be happy to cover any fees for the necessary training courses whilst also offering a matchday rate.

In addition, the club remains on the hunt for new sponsors. The club has a range of sponsorship packages available, which can include your business/brand being displayed on one of our sponsorship boards up at the ground. Whilst the ground is mainly used for cricketing activities in the summer months, it is also a popular area for people to walk around and will ensure your business/brand receives a lot of exposure to the local community.

Twitter: @PurtonCC

Instagram: [purtoncricketclub](https://www.instagram.com/purtoncricketclub)

Facebook: Purton Cricket Club

Harrison Burridge

Purton Tennis Club



Last month a group of our members, led by Simon Burley, spent a very busy weekend taking down and replacing two lengths of perimeter fencing on our Red House courts. There was a lot of work to do in a very short time; take down old worn fencing, clear overgrown vegetation, sand posts, repaint posts, clear up, and then start on erecting the new fencing. Our grateful thanks go to everyone who came along and helped in any way (and especially to those who fed and watered us!). The new fencing looks very smart and should last for a few more years to come.

The following day, I played the last match of the winter season (which we won!) – and the courts looked fabulous – they had been brushed and brushed and brushed the previous day!

We will be hosting the first tournament of the year at the beginning of April with teams visiting from Devon and Somerset. Hopefully the weather will be nice and we will have some good tennis, good food and lots of fun. This

is a friendly tournament and all members are invited to take part.

At the end of April the summer league will be starting, as will our Saturday morning sessions for our younger players. This is a great time to join the club and all new members are welcome and invited to play in teams, tournaments and club nights. Alternatively, some members just like to play with friends, and being a member entitles you to unlimited access to the courts. At £100 per year for an adult member, and junior membership from £20, this is excellent value!

Should you or anyone you know wish to try or return to tennis, then please look at our website and follow the link to Clubspark. You can join and pay online for your membership, or you can hire a court by the hour if you do not have the time to play regularly.

Janet Saunders (secretary)
janetcsaunders@gmail.com



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

Purton Magazine is available online!

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

www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton Bowls Club



Looking for something new to try, then why not give bowls a go? You can start at any age, come along as a family, a group of friends or on your own; it makes no difference and you would be welcomed at our club to have a go. All you need is a flat pair of shoes, we can provide you with a set of bowls and all the guidance you need to get you started. There will even be tea and biscuits available too.

On Saturday 8th of April, we will be holding an Easter Coffee Morning from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Everyone is welcome and it's always great to meet new people, so please feel free to pop along.

We are opening our green on the 15th April 2023 at 2 p.m. and, weather permitting, will be having our first roll up of the season. New members are always welcome at our club.

Our green is situated at the Village Centre alongside the football pitch and we can boast it's one of the best in the county.

For any further information please contact Alison on 01793 770015 or check out our website www.purtonbowlsclub.co.uk.

Alison Fail – Secretary, Tel: 770015

Prospect Hospice Iceland Trek

Challenge yourself on a 40 km trek in Iceland from 16 to 20 March 2024.

See the awe-inspiring southern coast, navigate through fields of geothermal activity with their bubbling mud pools, dip in the hot springs in the valley of Solfataras and Reykjadlur and reward yourself with the views from the highest point in the Hengill heritage site.

The Prospect Hospice fundraising team will be by your side while you help raise vital funds to support the care of local people at the end of their lives.

Perhaps you would like to take on this trek in memory of a loved one? Or maybe you want to challenge yourself, do something different or tick this iconic trip off your bucket list? Whatever the reason, the dedicated team at Prospect Hospice will support you every step of the way. For more information, please visit: <https://www.prospect-hospice.net/iceland>

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

A place I will always remember

Attempting to assimilate the vibrant colours, the extravagant potpourri of smells and the screeching of hundreds of caged exotic birds...

Mumbai

A rich recipe of experiences for any traveller

Take the richest commercial capital of the most populous democracy in the world, coalesce its archipelago of islands through a vast 19th century reclamation project, give it a tropical climate and a deepwater natural harbour, stir in spices and air pollution, mix in a billion-dollar film industry and juxtapose dramatic extremes of poverty and wealth... and you might just have an inkling of which extraordinary megalopolis we are visiting!

This is the mega-city which never sleeps, one which leaves an indelible impression on anyone adventurous enough to explore outside the air-conditioned comfort of their Ola cab. Enjoy these experiences as a taster of one of the most exhilarating and provocative urban sprawls in the world. Welcome to the melting pot of sights, sounds and cultures that is modern-day Mumbai!

Seeing, aghast, small boys with expectant grins, zipping between cars and lorries, narrowly avoiding being squashed whilst holding up to the coach window bundles of gaudily coloured plastic flowers for sale. Sympathising with a black-bearded and sweating tuk-tuk driver, lying fast asleep in the midday heat, head propped against the single front wheel.

Feeling at a loss when seeing an elderly lady in a faded red sari, bent double as she carries all her worldly belongings in a heavily soiled sling, attempting to pick up scraps from beneath the fuel tank of a

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..



multi-coloured fish lorry. Dodging the omni-present, antique Leyland buses and lorries, trundling along the teeming city roads, emitting clouds of black exhaust as they weave their way through the daily congestion of cars, tuk-tuks, bicycles, jay-walkers... and cows.

Reconciling (somehow) the incongruous sight of smart, Gothic-Revival style detached houses with lush tropical gardens and latticed windows on one side of the road with, on the other side, a vast expanse of corrugated metal roofs, interminable washing lines and scantily clad children carefully picking through the ubiquitous piles of rubbish alongside the open sewer running down the middle of each line of single-story slum dwellings.



Attempting to assimilate the vibrant colours, the extravagant potpourri of smells and the screeching of hundreds of caged exotic birds in the bustling aisles of Crawford covered market. Wandering into the luxurious lobby of one of the most famous hotels in the world; the Taj Mahal Palace and trying not to think of the deadly terrorist attack, within these very walls, some fourteen years ago.

Enduring the constant cacophony of car horns, body-swerving the febrile antics of the multitudinous two-wheelers, ingesting the heady aroma of overworked two-stroke engines and, for once, wishing I was a cow when trying to cross the road! Being wowed by the Victorian Gothic splendour of the Chatrapathi Shivaji railway Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) and the colossal basalt 'Gateway of India', iconic structures both and (whisper please) the legacy of the Raj.

Joining in with Mumbaikers to enjoy street food including Vada Pav, Bombay Sandwich, Pani Puri and Bhel puri, (but remembering the well-known mantra; only if freshly cooked or prepared in front of me). Feeling wary of the thousands of feral cats and mangy dogs prowling



the overflowing metal rubbish skips and the heaps of assorted food waste in the street and watching them compete with the grey-necked Indian Crow for the tastiest morsels.

Walking the stone causeway to the impressive Haji Ali Dargah, a renowned Islamic shrine, but feeling slightly queasy at the sight of beggars of all ages openly exhibiting their variously grotesque deformities to elicit pity and cash from pilgrims and passers-by. Observing a colourful array of said pilgrims, in their 'Sunday best', paddling the rock pools below the Haji Ali Mosque and all deciding to give me a friendly thumbs up!

Peering up at the 60 story Imperial, a modernist, blue and white twin-tower residential skyscraper complex of supreme opulence in Tardeo, the billionaires row of South Mumbai. Admiring the gleaming bonnet of a brand new, multi-million Rupee Bentley 'Flying Spur' in a South Mumbai showroom window, a price more than ten times the entire life's income of three generations of one family living under canvas on nearby Chowpatty Beach.

Smiling at a cheerful, insouciant band of off-duty office workers and porters, shirt tails hanging out, paddling their barely-seaworthy dinghy through the murky black waters off Cuffe Parade and offering their 'scissor salutes' to passers-by. Watching the heavy wooden bow of a weather-beaten fishing trawler edging its way into Sassoon Dock before dawn, after an all-night fishing trip, its tired but jubilant Koli crew standing on deck surrounded by colourful nets with their catch of Bombil (Bombay Duck) and Red Snapper fish still writhing on the gunwales. Pure white Egrets stand on the jetty roof, silhouetted by the rising sun and waiting for the moment to try for their own catch.

Being greeted by a line of smiling, waistcoated and be-suited reception staff, ready to serve one's every need, at the 5 star Taj President Hotel on the upscale Colaba peninsular. Attending a black-tie concert of Verdi's Requiem by the Symphony Orchestra of India, with a visiting choir from England, at the National Centre for Performing Arts at Nariman Point.

Witnessing the filming of a popular Indian 'soap' at SJ Studios, one

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of 16 studio complexes that make up Mumbai's Hindi film industry, popularly known as Bollywood. Taking an hour's ferry ride out to Elephanta Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site, known for its ancient caves and temples dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva... as well as for its marauding monkeys, always ready to snatch away your packed lunch!

Getting lost in the labyrinthine passages of the Goathan urban villages and the Koliwada fishing communities, both living links to the city's past, where one can experience a unique way of life dating back many centuries to when they housed Mumbai's original inhabitants. These 'hidden' communities are off the tourist trail, you can find them only if you are looking for them or by happy accident. Watching the hundreds of amateur cricketers playing friendly matches on the open green spaces of The Maidan ('The heartbeat of Indian cricket'), surrounded by the madness of modern Mumbai.

Staring agog at the Mumbai Dhobi Ghat, close by Mahalaxmi railway station, reputed to be the largest open-air laundry in the world. The 700 concrete wash pens, each with its own 'flogging stone' (for beating the clothes when wet) have provided consistent work for hundreds of washermen (Dhobis) and their families since the start of British rule. An enormous quantity of clothes and linens are collected daily by the Dhobi Wallahs from hotels, office blocks and hospitals from all around Mumbai and laundered to perfection, still largely by hand.

Promenading the 3 kilometre 'Queen's Necklace' (Marine Drive), a great place for people-watching (especially when the promenaders are wearing their finest saris), for admiring the Art Deco style residences that look out onto the bay and for gaping open-mouthed at the sunsets over the Arabian Sea. Wondering just how a family of five, living on the street with a makeshift polythene shelter, manage to keep clean, to maintain their pride and to offer me, a tourist with a very obvious camera, warm and generous smiles of welcome.

Humbling indeed, but just one facet of this confusing, contradictory confection of a city where the richest resident (Mukesh Ambani) can live in a billion dollar, 27 floor skyscraper home with its nine high-speed lifts, its own helipads, a 50 seat movie theatre and a staff of 600, while so many other Mumbaikers, living 568 feet below him, have to make do with a miniscule family living space with rudimentary sanitation and the hand-to-mouth existence of the very poor. Such are the mind-blowing realities of this extraordinary city, where all aspects of humanity are on show and from where I departed, my emotions profoundly stirred.

PBL Feb. 2023



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

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12/23



The RAF at 100

At our meeting on 14th February, Bill King returned to the Club to deliver a talk entitled “RAF 100”; a comprehensive journey through the founding and development of the Royal Air Force from the First World War to the present day force which now embraces drones with “armchair pilots” on the ground. The talk illustrated how, driven by conflict, the progress of the RAF is inseparable from that of flying machines (first flight, Wright Brothers – 1903).

As early as the Boer Wars of the late 19th Century, balloons were used for observing the enemy’s trench layouts and gun positions, and until the start of WW1, the Royal Engineers, solely a ground force, were responsible for aerial activities. “Nulli Secundus”, the British Army Dirigible, which first flew from Farnborough in September 1907, was a significant step, but by early in the war, Zeppelins were already threatening Great Britain.

The Royal Flying Corps (RFC), founded in 1912, was the first Independent Air Service, flying BE2 biplanes built at Farnborough. One of the first earliest RFC airfields, established in 1913 and still in use to launch D-Day gliders in 1944, was at Netheravon on Salisbury Plain. When the RFC was deployed to France early in WW1, it had 56 aircraft plus a squadron of balloons. In July 1914, the Royal Naval Air Service broke from the RFC to become the Naval Wing of the Admiralty under the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill. At this time it had 63 aircraft together with balloons and airships. The

RAF was founded on 1st April 1918, towards the end of WW1, and in spite of heavy losses to the combined RFC & RNAS, throughout the war, (e.g. 972 aircraft in 4.5 months at the Somme), constituted 20,000 aeroplanes and almost one third of a million personnel.

Bill's PowerPoint presentation included pictures including a high percentage of all the iconic aircraft, thus marking progressive steps in the creation of today's Royal Air Force (see below):-

- The Sopwith Pup, Baron Von Richthofen (the Red Baron), the Fokker interrupter mechanism and the Bristol F2 Fighter were all features of WW1.
- In the 1920s, air-shows, record attempts and competitions influenced flying. The outright winning of the Schneider Trophy (3 times) in 1931 by R J Mitchell progressed to the Spitfire joining the Hurricanes, which together won the Battle of Britain. Early bomber geodetic wood and canvas aeroplanes included the Whitley and the Wellingtons. The Lancaster that carried Barnes Wallis' bouncing bomb was a little more robust. Mosquitoes were made of wood with a plywood skin but were fast enough to flip the doodlebugs and were used extensively for target marking. Frank Whittle's jet engine and the Meteor first flew in 1941 but did not enter service until 1944.
- The Avro York transporter played a vital role in the Berlin Airlift. The Javelin delta fighter and swing-wing aircraft also came on stream throughout the Cold War. The so-called V Bombers: Vulcan, Valiant and Victor, flying 24/7, carried nuclear deterrents.
- Victors, Vulcans plus the VC10s were employed during the Falklands War and the Harrier with vertical take-off (VTOL) came into its own.
- Typhoons, Tornados and Hercules transports were all essential during the Gulf Wars.

Altogether an Impressive history and a memorable presentation.

Bob Stephens

Malmesbury Secret War Factory (28/02/2023)

This talk was given by Bill Reed on behalf of the Athelstan Museum, Malmesbury. Bill's talk was an interesting mix of the background to some of the major characters involved in developing the 'secret war factory', the important contribution to the World War 2 effort of the radar system developed to defeat the Axis Powers at Malmesbury and a social history of the people and events of the time. Bill Reed has been involved in what he called a spoken history project, called 'Malmesbury Voices', since 2015.

Bill's presentation included voice recordings before, during and after the development of the war factory, time-lines, passages that he read out from a number of sources including some of his own, and videoed excerpts. It was an interesting and entertaining combination.

The factory actually was built on the site of Cowbridge House in Malmesbury and was taken over by the Ecko company, which had been developed by Eric Kirkham Cole from whence the acronym EcKo was created. The company was originally based in Southend-on-Sea. It was here, in 1928 that a young Leeds University graduate, Michael Lipman, joined the company. Lipman's family had emigrated to England from what is now Belarus to escape from oppression having changed their name to 'Lipman', and Michael was born in Leeds in 1902. When he joined, Lipman had a role in developing radios and more specifically large speakers.

Just prior to the outbreak of war in 1939, Ecko and specifically Lipman were commandeered by the RAF to find factory premises capable of producing unspecified radio equipment with not more than 200 workers. It was then that Lipman began leading the team developing Radio Direction Finding (RDFs) equipment – essentially radar to detect and combat the threat of the Luftwaffe bombing raids as well as enemy U-boats and surface ships. It was soon realised that the factory was very vulnerable to being bombed because of its south-east coast location and so Cowbridge was acquired. The advantage was that a factory already existed at the site that could quickly be re-developed and a ready-made workforce was at hand. The whole EcKo operation was thus moved en masse to Malmesbury and was operated by local workers supervised by Michael Lipman.

This whole episode became the subject of a book – War Factory - by Celia Fremlin, published in 1943, that outlined some of the efforts made by Lipman to overcome the problems of morale amongst the workers in Cowbridge, which he did by inviting the social anthropology group Mass Observation to secretly study the workforce. Some of the voice recordings used during Bill Reed's talk were accounts given by local Malmesbury workers and residents relating to their experiences and the tedium of much of the work as well as the absolute need to keep what was being done at the War Factory completely secret.

In sum, the factory made one of the most important contributions to the defeat of Hitler and led to Lipman being awarded the MBE in 1944.

John Slaght



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