

June 2023

Purton Magazine

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

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Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Tuesdays 2.00-7.00pm 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, <i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Pips Community Café	Duty volunteers	07498 526872
<i>(Tuesday-Friday 9am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm)</i> www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/		

Schools & Playgroups

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

Church of England - Parish Church of St Mary www.stmaryspurton.org.uk

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

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

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

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

Minister:	Tel: 853197, 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett
Revd Shirlyn Toppin	SN4 8LT

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

www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk

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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June 2023.

Credit: Heather Ponting-Bather

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Design & Print

From the Editors

June 2023

Volume 45 No.6

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There can only be a very select few who have been alive long enough to have witnessed more than one coronation. Televisions were rare in 1953 and maybe it could be said that the ability for churches to screen a live coronation on modern equipment is equally rare in 2023. However unusual, St. Mary's Purton stepped up to that opportunity on Saturday May 6th with a live screening of the coronation from Westminster Abbey. Perhaps the superb sound quality was the most memorable difference from watching at home. The trumpets especially, reverberated around our old church and listening to the singing seemed so apt in those surroundings. Refreshments afterwards created a fitting conclusion to that once (or twice) in a generation event – more details are on page 28.

The Village Hall was also the local venue for coronation celebrations with around 70 senior citizens enjoying a free Coronation Tea Party on the Friday. We learn on page 6 that the hall was fully decorated in red, white and blue in the form of bunting, flowers, table covers and vintage China, all ready and waiting for the special guests who arrived in best bib and tucker. Then the celebrations moved on to the Village Centre and the

Red House pub on the day after the coronation with 500 or so enjoying the whole day event.

The final event of the extended weekend was the Big Help Out across the country on the extra Bank Holiday Monday. In Purton plenty of volunteers braved the early rains and, after the safety briefing, were supplied with high visibility vests – as can be seen on page 14. Their equipment, including litter grabbers, gloves and vests were all supplied by the current contract holders for Wiltshire County Council.

Also in May, Purton came up trumps yet again for another busy and successful Christian Aid week. The early indications on page 16 suggest another very generous year with the annual frustrating quiz, breakfast in church and the cake sale all contributing very healthy proceeds – and that's even before the little red envelopes have been included. While a full figure is expected in the July issue of your magazine, it is already clear that Purton is still the most amazingly generous village.

There is one sadness to report on page 25 – after 31 years, Shear Success will finally close this month – even Sheer Success would have been appropriate!

5

Categories for churches to reduce their environmental impact. See page 35

31

Years of service to Purton as Shear Success close their scissors at the end of June. See page 25

1500+

Christian Aid envelopes delivered to most of the village. See page 16

Purton Parish Council News



The Purton Parish Council Coronation Tea Party

Around 70 senior citizens enjoyed a free Coronation Tea Party at Purton Village Hall on Friday 5th May.



Welcomed from 1.00 p.m., the VIPs all attired in the best bibs and tucker arrived to enjoy the festivities.

The hall was all decked out in red, white, and blue bunting, flowers, table covers, and vintage China was a welcome sight.

Tea, finger sandwiches, cake, and scones with cream and jam, were all served on three-tier cake plates to the very special visitors, for them to enjoy.

There was a free red, white, and blue chocolate raffle, with a donation of photography from local enthusiast Barry Davis.

The afternoon tea also welcomed the Peartree Pealers to play a selection of patriotic music including 'I Vow to Thee my Country', 'Pomp & Circumstance' and 'Rule Britannia', to set the patriotic and royal tone.

One attendee said:

"It's been lovely, and I've really enjoyed being able to enjoy celebrating the Coronation with my friends from Purton."

Purton Parish Council Celebrates King's Coronation

Purton Parish Council held a Coronation Garden Party at the Village Centre & Purton Red House Pub, on Sunday 7th May from 11.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

For the 500 or so who attended throughout the day the event included children's fairground rides, ice cream van, hot pizzas, free bouncy castle, free face painting, free balloon modeller, community stalls, BBQ, and a craft fair.

Purton Parish Council welcomed everyone at the start of the event with a cake cutting, by Cllr Ray Thomas, Chair of Purton Parish Council, who cut the celebratory cake and opened Purton's Coronation Big Lunch.

In the evening local band, the Beat

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Routes, played a set which got people up and dancing, with their lead singer attired in a Union Flag jacket and drummer playing on a Union Flag embellished drum kit.

All were keen to raise a glass and toast the new King with queues throughout the day until late into the evening.

Parish Clerk Deborah Lawrence said:

“It was wonderful to share this glorious, historic, national occasion with so many people from our wonderful community. It was lovely weather, and we hope everyone made some memories that will last a lifetime.”

The Purton Parish Council Coronation Bake-Off

Around 30 people attended the Purton Coronation Bake off, at the Village Hall, on Saturday 29th April, where local bakers showcased their home baking and helped to raise funds for the Community Fridge.

The event, organised to mark the King’s Coronation, took place in the Village Hall against a backdrop of red, white, and blue bunting and balloons.

At 9.00 a.m. entrants of age four and up brought their home baked shortbread, fairy cakes and pear-based bakes, ready for the WI, Church, community, and Council judges to evaluate.



Of note, were the children's entries, which featured some very apt Coronation designs including crowns, soldiers, and Union flags. One entry was even red, white, and blue when cut into!

For some 90 minutes judges tasted, cogitated and digested the 20 entries, often re-visiting sections where there was a close call to make! At 11.00 a.m. the doors were re-opened for entrants to see where they had been placed in the competition.

Cllr Ray Thomas, Chair of Purton Parish Council, presented the winners with their certificates and everyone with their medals. Entries were then raffled off to raise funds for the Community Fridge and raised £50.15.

Cllr Ray Thomas, Chair of Purton Parish Council said: *"It was a wonderful event to share with our community, as part of Purton's Coronation celebrations. We clearly have lots of very talented bakers in Purton!"*

Great Western Air Ambulance fundraiser strives to smash fundraising total!

On Saturday 3rd of June, Jude Sullivan will be opening her garden between 10.00 a.m. and noon, to raise funds to support the Great Western Air Ambulance, in hope that she smashes her previous year's total of over £1000!

The fundraising event, which will be held in Purton, will include a variety of stalls and activities to enjoy, from cake stall, bric-a-brac, raffle, tombola, pre-loved clothes, handmade greeting cards and guess the weight of the cake.

In line with the rescue theme of the event, there will also be a 'Guess where the helicopter will land' game, supplied

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by the Great Western Air Ambulance to support the fundraising efforts.

Motivated by her own experiences of having the Air Ambulance attend a family emergency, Jude Sullivan is committed to continuing to fundraise and to smash her 2022 total of £1067.70.

Jude said:

"The Great Western Ambulance provides a vital service that we hope we'll never need but cannot do without when things go wrong. They receive no government funding, so I'm keen to do all I can to help."

Those wishing to donate items for any of the stalls are welcome to bring them on the day.

New Village Planters

We are excited to share with you that our new planters around the village have all been installed! These have replaced



the old rotting wooden ones in existing locations.

In total we have 16 planters across Purton that have all now been planted up in line with our carbon neutral policy. We have carefully chosen plants that will be lower maintenance, cope with our cold winters and summer heatwaves, and be friendly to wildlife. There are shrubs, perennials and bulbs, so hopefully something will be in flower at most times of the year. With less reliance on bedding plants, the new plants might take some time to establish but will hopefully get bigger and better each year. Different textures and forms of leaf shapes and flower sizes should help as many varieties of insects as possible.

These plants will be beneficial for a variety of pollinators, such as the shrub *Sarcocolla* (known as the Christmas box), the scent of which attracts precocious bees and other pollinators in the winter months, when pollen is at its most scarce. Bees, butterflies, moths and other pollinators will be drawn to the sunny petals and deep brown centres of *Rudbeckia*, bright yellow open daisies planted for summer colour.

Colourful ground cover foliage from the purple leaf *Heuchera* will help provide winter shelter for insects and trailing *Campanula*, having purple

bell-shaped flowers, will be colourful all summer long and will be loved by bees and butterflies. And, at the front, an evergreen perennial with compact foliage and pea-shaped, purple-pink and yellow blooms should flower profusely from late spring through to late autumn, releasing a sweet tutti-frutti scent.

And then in Autumn we will put in some *Allium* bulbs (Bees love all members of the *Allium* family) and dwarf Daffodils, for spring colour in years to come.

There is a new Cherry tree planted in a new flowerpot at Pavenhill shops to complement the existing planters, underplanted with evergreen grasses for winter shelter.

Junior Football Pitch at The Village Centre

Work continues in line with plans to complete the refurbishment of the social kickabout area at the Village Centre.

Work commenced in May with the replacement of brand new goal posts at either end of the pitch.

Work progressed throughout early May on the goal mouth areas, to upgrade and enlarge the synthetic grass coverings.

Pending decisions by the council, it is hoped that the work will be completed later this year with enhancements to the natural grass, in the main body of the pitch, weather permitting.

Memorial Testing

Purton Parish Council continues to carry out Memorial Testing at Purton Cemetery.

Currently we have seven headstones that have failed a hand test and will require action. These have been safely staked and notices left on the headstone.

We will endeavour to make contact with

owners where available. However, if you know the family to whom these graves belong, we would be grateful if you could let them know.

Contact can be made via the office on 01793 771066 or via email to lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The current graves, failing safety testing are:

PC/Burial/357 – Eatwell

PC/Burial/342 – Chapman

PC/Burial/304 – Ardley

PC/Burial/262 – Matthews

If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to call the office.

These headstones will remain staked for one year and then action will be taken to sink them into the ground as a safety measure. The sinking will ensure the safety of visitors to the cemetery, and, where possible, will preserve the legibility of the inscription.

Planning Permission Granted

- PL/2023/00402 - 34 Highridge Close, Purton, SN5 4BS. Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension & car port. Decision: Approve with Condition.

Permission Refused

- PL/2022/07482 - 27 Waite Meads Close, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4ET. Proposal: Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. Decision: Refuse.

Appeals

- APP/Y3940/W/21/3275053 - Re-determination Decision, Land at Purton Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 4FR, Letter dated 23 January 2022 Following a High Court challenge to our Inspector's decision on this

appeal the Court has ordered that the appeal be re-determined.

Council Meetings 2023

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

- Monday 12th June – Full Council Meeting
- Monday 10th July – Full Council Meeting
- Monday 11th September – Full Council Meeting
- Monday 9th October – Full Council Meeting
- Monday 13th November – Full Council Meeting
- Monday 11th December – Full Council Meeting

Agendas are posted on our four notice boards (Purton Council Offices, Ridgeway, Moulden View and at the 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 – <https://www.facebook.com/purtonparishcouncil/>
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The Big Help Out for the King's Coronation

The Purton Litter Pick, held on Monday 8th May, was the contribution from the village towards The Big Help Out – a nationwide volunteering initiative, created to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The rainy start to the day failed to dampen the enthusiasm of 50 adults and 18 children – including local Guides and Rainbows – who all gave over an hour of their time to pick litter throughout Purton. Luckily, the rain stopped just after the safety briefing! The litter picking equipment, including gloves, high vis vests, bags and litter grabbers was supplied by Idverde, who currently hold the Streetscene Contract for Wiltshire Council, giving them responsibility for street cleaning, grounds maintenance etc.



Several of the children expressed their shock at the amount of items people throw on the ground. I am sure that they will share this greater awareness with their friends and family, which will be of benefit to us all.

A dumped amount of builders' rubble was found by one of the volunteers and a photo was taken and sent to Wiltshire Council, via the MyWilts smartphone app, so that collection can be arranged. Anyone can use this app to report on fly tipping etc.

The general feedback was that this should become a regular event in Purton, and indeed, one of the main aims of The Big Help Out, was that people would discover a community project that they would like to continue with. So, please watch this space for further details!

Sincere thanks to everyone who gave their time for this fun community activity – you all made a big difference.

Anne Maddison
email: purtonlitterpick@gmail.com

Number 53 Bus – Cricklade, Purton Stoke, Purton, Lydiard, Swindon.

There have been a number of rumours about the bus service ceasing and this has caused a lot of worry to vulnerable passengers. The current service is on a contract with Stagecoach. Wiltshire Council subsidises the service as a rural bus route and the current contract comes to an end by 24th May 2023. Tenders have been submitted for the next contract, which will still be subsidised by the Council. Stagecoach

are obliged by law to advise the Transport Commission that their current contract is ending, hence cancelling the current route. This doesn't mean that there will be no bus but it could be run by another operator or even Stagecoach. Hopefully by the time you are reading this a new contract will be in operation and there will be no disruption in the service.

Councillor Jacqui Lay

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



Surgery IT System

The Practice is changing its clinical IT system in early June ... please look out for communication from the Surgery about it nearer the time.

PPG Information

If you would like to know more about the PPG then look for the leaflets which will be available in the Surgery shortly.

200 Club draw

The May draw winners were: £100 Christine Shailes, £15 Jon Bellamy. 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.

A note from Kai Howard, Practice Manager

This month's draw was completed by Prescription Clerk, June, who amazingly turns 80 years of age in June!

June has been a loyal staff member of Purton Surgery for over 33 years, working in positions such as receptionist trainer and more recently as our

prescription clerk.

June enjoys walking her dogs before starting work at 7.30 a.m, she then processes all patient prescription

requests which are approximately 700 per week, as well as liaising with our GPs, nurses, pharmacists, the hospitals and numerous community pharmacies to resolve medication and prescription queries.

We're all very proud to have June in our team and very envious of the energy that she brings to work every day. We would all like to wish June a happy 80th Birthday! From all at Purton Surgery.

Cricklade Festival

We are planning to have a table at the Cricklade Festival on 18 June.

Table Top and Books in Purton Surgery

If you wish to make a purchase from the Tabletop in Purton Surgery Waiting Room, please hand your donation to



the reception team. We are unable to receive any shoes for the table. There are also books in the bookcase for purchase (50p each).

Covid Booster Vaccinations

NHS England will send information regarding Covid booster vaccinations

directly to patients. If you are eligible for a booster but haven't heard, then do check on the NHS website to see whether you can book your appointment. The Surgery will not be sending reminders.

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 email to secretary.pspgg@gmail.com.

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

Thank you from the Christian Aid Team in Purton



Thank you, to every one of you, who contributed to the success of Christian Aid Week here in Purton.

We had over 1,500 envelopes delivered through nearly all letterboxes in the village. We had cakes made, sold and bought in two main venues for our cake sale. We had an excruciatingly difficult quiz on the go for five weeks... and an ultimate winner! Breakfast was provided, on two separate mornings in two different venues. We had a Christian Aid Service with a guest speaker who travelled two hours to come and

talk to us. We had a double birthday celebration which brought a lot of fun and wonderful generosity! And the children in St Mary's Primary School welcomed us in to talk about the work of Christian Aid in Malawi, where we all learnt a lot about pigeon peas... a first for most of us! We still have hundreds of plants ...flowers and vegetables... on sale at Mary's, round by the Church, and, to crown it all, we had one Bakewell Tart cook who made well over 130 tarts and sold them all for Christian Aid. What an amazing village! Thank you to all of you.

12/23

Community Spaces for Hire

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

Millennium Hall
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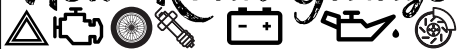
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Purton & District Age Concern

Purton and District ~~AGE~~ CONCERN

Dates for the diary

7th June Garden Centre coach trip

9th June Quiz Night with fish & chip supper

26th July Steam train trip, see next month's notes for details.

EASTER PARCELS

I had a lovely surprise the week after Easter when Wendy (sorry I don't know your last name) knocked on my door and left 11 Easter themed bags of goodies put together by the Purton Guides for me to share with some of our residents. Everyone who received one of these was delighted and I had phone calls and a card with thanks. So a big thank you from us, what a really nice thing to do!

10th MAY COACH TRIP

We ran our first coach trip of the year, which was a mystery trip with lunch provided in the price. Once again we were short on numbers and so only 26 people came along, but we had a really nice time and the feedback from those on board was very positive. We ended up in the Kings Head at Birdwood in Gloucestershire after a lovely trip through Tetbury and Thornbury, over the old Severn bridge into Wales and then following the river up through beautiful countryside on a three hour drive to our lunch venue. Afterwards, returning through Painswick to Stroud through as many country lanes as our driver could find so that we could enjoy the blossom and crops in the many farms that we passed. The Ellison drivers really know the best routes and Mark

(our driver) kept away from all the main routes. A really lovely day.

GARDEN CENTRE TRIP

7th June is our Garden Centre trip, a good time of the year to top up your plants, especially as the coach has plenty of storage space. So, if you want to bring a trolley or carrier of some kind, that's no problem. There will also be some opportunity for retail therapy. We will visit Webbs of Wychbold garden centre with outlet shops and a nice restaurant for you to enjoy your lunch. The cost will be £12 for pensioners and £14 for non-pensioners and non-villagers, but will not include lunch as this is too difficult to arrange at these venues. The coach will leave the village at 10 a.m. Contact Peter on 778119 for tickets.

QUIZ NIGHT

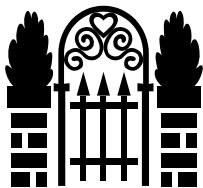
Our Quiz Night with fish & chip supper will be on the 9th June at the Village Hall, ticket prices are £10 per person, which includes supper and teams of up to six maximum will be allowed. Starting time will be 7 p.m., doors open from 6.30pm. Alan and Richard will once again be the quiz masters. Contact Georgina on events@purtonageconcern.com or 07966 222967 for tickets.

MORE COACH TRIPS

We have provisionally booked dates for the rest of the year, and they are: 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

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the July date. 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 at events@purtonageconcern.com or by ringing Peter on 778119.

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 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 or Debbie Lawrence, Clerk of the Parish Council, on 771066. Remember that Purton is a very special village and there is always somebody that can help and will help.

IF YOU NEED IT!

Bobby Van – If you need the Bobby Van for replacement batteries or if the smoke alarms are not working properly then call them on 01225 256867.

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.

Website: www.purtonageconcern.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/purtonageconcern

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Purton_AC

Instagram: @purtonageconcern

We still have a couple of wheelchairs and walkers for borrowing as well as 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, as some of these are being disposed of, which is not acceptable.

Peter Berry, Chairman

Purton & District Age Concern Minibus



Please can you help?

As many readers will know, our Age Concern minibus service is entirely manned by volunteer drivers and shotguns (driver's assistant). We take people to surgery appointments as well as various clubs and activities held in the village including Lunch Club at Pips on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Generally, it is within the village but occasionally to special events elsewhere, for example we have taken a group to the annual pantomime at the Wyvern Theatre. We don't, for example, do hospital appointments, as Phoenix covers this (details of their tel. number is elsewhere in this magazine). Most of the time, we operate from Monday to Friday and during the day, but occasionally in the evening for, say, a concert or on a Saturday for a Coffee Morning. We are also out most Fridays for shopping trips to local centres not easily accessible. We have also taken nearly 40 people for their Covid injections.

Most of our drivers are retired and in their 60s or 70s, but a few are in full-time work and either fit us in on a day off or in the evenings. Some of our older drivers now would rather not drive after dark. In recent months it has become increasingly difficult to maintain the service, as we pride ourselves that we never say no, meaning that some drivers are out on a very regular basis.

If you think you can spare just a few hours occasionally (or it might only be an hour taking someone for a surgery appointment) or maybe only at the weekend or an evening, perhaps, after reading this, either you or another family member might like to become a volunteer driver. All you need is a normal, clean car licence. We already have a few husband-and-wife teams and we warmly welcome any younger members of our wonderful village who would like to help. You will have the opportunity to practise driving a larger vehicle, but if you are already used to driving, say, a camper van, you will not find much difference. Our bus has a regular MOT style inspection every 10 weeks and can carry 8 passengers including the shotgun. The rear hoist helps our less ambulant passengers who find the steps difficult; training is given in the use of the lift although we no longer carry wheelchair bound passengers. The bus is parked centrally in the village and a parking pass is provided whilst you are on duty if you need to park a car.

Amazingly there are still people in the village who are not aware of the help they can be given to get around the village. If you need

transport, are over 60 and have a disability or mobility problem, please call me on 770862. It would be very much appreciated if you can possibly avoid making surgery appointments between 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays as we are covering the Lunch Clubs, however we realise this is not always possible, and we will do our very best to meet your appointment.

Please give me a call for an informal chat, even if you can only help occasionally, you would be made most welcome.

*Hazel Woodbridge BEM,
Mini Bus Co-ordinator 01793 770862 or
Email pac2bookings@gmail.com*

Information from Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Council continues fly-tipping crackdown

A Swindon resident has been issued with a £400 fixed penalty notice (FPN) for fly-tipping household waste in the Wiltshire Council authority area. The waste was deposited in a layby north of Cricklade. The person responsible was interviewed under caution by Wiltshire Council's Environmental Enforcement Officers and admitted to the offence.

The council has also issued a household duty of care FPN to another Swindon householder for failing to check the licence details of a person they paid to take waste away. They also did not obtain a receipt (commonly known as a waste transfer note) or record any details of the vehicle used by the fly-tipper, and they had no description of the persons removing the waste. The waste was subsequently found fly-tipped on a byway in Aldbourne. An unlicensed waste carrier was also fined

£300 (reduced to £180 if paid within 10 days) as part of the investigation into the waste found in Aldbourne.

The two people who received the fines cannot be named because an FPN is not a conviction in an open court.

Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport and Street Scene, said: "Fly tipping is a criminal offence, and we are taking a zero-tolerance approach to it by either issuing a fixed penalty notice or prosecuting anyone who commits environmental offences in Wiltshire.

"The person who fly-tipped in Cricklade could have easily taken their waste to the local household recycling centre or used their own household waste bins, which are collected fortnightly. This was an act of stupidity and there is no excuse.

"Householders also have a duty of care to prevent their waste being handed

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to unlicensed waste collectors and face £400 fines if their waste is found dumped, as was the case in the second FPN we issued.

“As we have set out in our Business Plan, we will take action against fly-tippers and we will prosecute. Our message is clear – We’re Targeting Fly-tippers and our dedicated Enforcement Officers will take action against the perpetrators of environmental crimes.”

People can report here: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting anyone that they suspect of being unlicensed online. If the information they report leads to the successful prosecution of an offender or the payment of an FPN, they could earn a reward of up to £200 in high street vouchers. To find out more and report offenders, people can go to our fly-tipping page: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fly-tipping

The final cut (and blow dry) for Shear Success

After 31 years of Shear Success, on the corner of Witts Lane, Purton, we will be closing our doors one last time on Saturday 24th June 2023.

Myself, Lesley and Belinda would like to say a big thank you to our clients for all of the support and friendship we have received over the years.

We will continue to see many of you in our new adventures.



News from Purton Methodist Church

Tickets are now on sale for our concert given by The Spotlight Choir led by Sharon Lloyd and Mary Rose. Tickets cost £5 and refreshments will be served. The date of the concert is Friday 14th July at 7.30 p.m. at Purton Methodist Church. A concert you shouldn't miss,

given by a group of young people having a great time.

Tickets can be obtained from Rose Stump (770564) and Sylvia Freemantle (770686). We can only sell 50 tickets so I suggest you get in quick. See you there.

Rose Stump

Pips Community Café



Lou's Hot Lunches

Hi there! We've had a smashing couple of months in Pips just lately, including a couple of very successful cake sales, a brilliant jigsaw puzzle sale, two very busy free Purton Community Fridge meals and, of course, the lovely Coronation bring and share lunch! Lovely to see so many friendly faces!

Just a heads up that there will sadly be no Lou's Lunches in Pips during June. We are a little short of volunteers for this month, so some of us are having to double up on shifts.

However, we will still have our usual selection of breakfasts, salads, snacks and light bites on offer as always. Our yummy quiche is back on the menu again made for us by Katherine at Delicious Delights and we also have a lovely selection of salads including egg, ham, cheese and tuna to tempt you with now the warmer weather is here.

Hope to see you soon!

Louise and the Pips Community cafe volunteers

Celebrating Age Wiltshire

Our "Royal" cream tea party and concert in April was well attended. We were very lucky that the parish council staff had decorated the hall with bunting prior to our event so everything looked very festive. Guests were entertained by Lucy and Becky, two talented violinists, who played a wide variety of music. There was plenty of opportunity for a sing along before a cream tea was served. As always, grateful thanks to everyone who helped on the day to make the event so enjoyable.

'Music and Storytelling' is the theme of our next event. Paul Hutchinson, Matt Norman and Hannah Moore will be performing traditional folk music and storytelling at The Memorial Hall in Royal Wootton Bassett on Tuesday 27th June, 2 to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served during the break. Booking is required.

Please contact Pat Hughes, Celebrating Age Wiltshire volunteer.

*Tel no: 01793 772382/07484748737 or
email patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com*

Ten Years Ago...

Purton Magazine for June 2013 reported that the village flagpole at Harvest Water, Battlewell, had been dismantled. This was to make way for six houses to be built. Roman remains had been found on the site but the article did not tell us whether the Romans used the flagpole.

After 8 held an evening which “caused some serious thought” but which appeared to be an opportunity for members to criticise each other without knowing whom they were individually criticising. Each member

anonymously brought a bag of likes and dislikes and the group then commented on each others’ tastes. Eventually it descended into “the inevitable argument of Bovril versus Marmite.” Meanwhile, the WI was arranging a drum competition.

Sometimes when writing this column, it seems to me that things hardly change over the years. And yet, in the Museum Exhibit page, it is stated that “with the invention of the European Union it is almost inconceivable



that we could see another major European war.” How will we change over the next ten years?

So, just to cheer us up, the Brownies portrayed the story of St. George and the dragon in the style of The Only Way is Essex.

After 8

Film Night (in April)

We watched *The Purple Rose of Cairo* – a Woody Allen film from 1985.

“A young woman leading a life of drudgery is in the cinema again, when a young attractive man steps out of the silver screen.

They have fun together, but is this only in her fantasy world? She then meets the actor in the real world and so has two look-a-like boyfriends, maybe? The real actor proposes marriage, but she

sadly ends back where she began in her old life, though the cinema remains her refuge from reality. Was it all just wishful thinking or did some of it actually happen? An intriguing story.”

“Very enjoyable – an unusual film very different from the normal films of today. Pity about the sad ending!”

“Loved it, thoughtful, fun and sad. Great choice for our cinema evening”

“Very evocative of the era”



“Very different fantasy film. Well worth seeing”

We were trying to remember all the old actors: Mia Farrow was remembered by everybody for various reasons... married to Frank Sinatra for two years, Andre Previn for nine years and partnered with Woody Allen for 12 years. Had relationships with Peter Sellers, Ryan

O’Neal, Philip Roch, Tom Stoppard, Vidal Sassoon and many others; she gave birth to four children and adopted 10 more. Woody Allen went on to have a relationship and married and adopted two children with one of her adopted daughters... I will stop there although there is much more.

Avril Ainscough

The Coronation - The time, the place, the help

The wheels of the state coach rolled steadily to a standstill. The hooves of the horses stood silent. The Abbey door opened. The King entered. Trumpets sounded. The organ burst into life and choirs simultaneously struck up. The Coronation anthem rang out – Parry’s I was Glad When They said Let Us Go Into the House of the Lord. And the Norman arches of St Mary’s Purton reverberated – echoing to those of Westminster Abbey.

‘Knowing looks’ passed around those gathered as they glanced up at the roof-suspended loudspeakers. “You wouldn’t get sounds like that out of your telly at home would you!” It suddenly seemed that venturing out on a cool rainy morning to the edge of the village was just the right thing to do. Like being on The Red House lawn the following day, surrounded by freshly-into-leaf trees bespeckling rays of spring sunshine falling onto children playing, families picnicking and a live band tuning their instruments – the looks in the eyes spoke clearly “We are in the right place at the right time!”

For two hours on Saturday morning,

sound, picture and surroundings fused together into an

atmosphere that made fifty witnesses – from small children upwards – sit in self-imposed silence and ‘take in’. True – they had drunk fresh morning coffee and were looking forward to Prosecco, vol-au-vents and cake. But perhaps unexpectedly, until the corks popped, all seemed presently glued to watching an ancient ceremony performed with colour, pace and well-pitched explanation.

Spontaneity seemed the overarching guide. It was not that these people were accustomed to being in church. There seemed more present who were not, than were. But it seemed that all were drawn from one place of historic heritage seamlessly into another. And they enjoyed it Together.

‘Perhaps,’ the voice over the house PA concluded at the end, ‘You may have sensed something this morning that was somehow beyond the everyday and the ordinary. That is something on a rather lower scale and with far less resources



we seek to do in different ways every Sunday morning in this place.’

But on that day – as the church sought to contribute an element towards the village celebration of

The King and Queen’s Coronation, we wish to thank all those who helped us to help others – to The Pear Tree for providing all with some of their best Prosecco; to Purton Co-op for non-



alcoholic alternatives; to Asda West Swindon for food contributions; and to Butcher’s Electrical Services for some technical support – and especially to the caterers from St

Mary’s who put lots of things together to provide for all present – most fittingly – a Royal Feast!

David Martin for St Mary’s Church Ministry and PCC

Purton Walking Group

Some of the Purton Walking Group have had a busy couple of days recently. Starting on Thursday 27 April we visited Savernake Forest for a six mile walk using the forest trails and footpaths of White Road, Grand Avenue, Braydon Hook and Grey Road. It was a clear day and once away from the car parking area it was very quiet. We saw one deer on the way but otherwise there was not much wildlife in evidence – though from the talking among the group we probably gave everything advance warning that we were coming :-)



Members of Purton Walking Group at the Elan Valley Lodge

The very next day eight of us travelled to the Elan Valley in mid-Wales to join other walkers from Leicester and Coalville for a weekend of guided walking organised by Martin & Louise Tidman. Within an hour of arriving, the group, now numbering 22, set off on a short walk to take advantage of the fine weather. Just 3.5 miles in length, it was more than enough after the journey from Purton, especially as it featured a 700 foot ascent over little more than half a mile.

Accommodation was provided in the old Elan Valley School where the resident chefs worked hard to provide three course dinners and cooked breakfasts for all of us. Lunches were provided as do it yourself exercises. All the ingredients for sandwiches with various fillings were provided and it was left up to the individual walkers to assemble what he/she wanted. This was supplemented with fruit, chocolate and flapjacks.

On both Saturday and Sunday we had two local guides at our disposal and were able to choose between a long walk (12 miles) or a short walk (8 miles). The weather was ideal for walking. The temperature was cool and the visibility was excellent. In the event Purton walkers were in both groups though it would be several hours before we found that the distance estimates were rather short. Both groups set off from the village, passing fields of very young lambs before starting the ascent towards Crugyn Ci at 1,748 feet. Here the two groups went in different directions.

The shorter distance headed directly towards the dam at Pen-y-garreg and from there followed the west bank of the Garreg-ddu reservoir, crossing over the Garreg-ddu dam and returning to the village. By that time the route distance had increased to 11 miles.

From Crugyn Ci the longer group descended northwards before climbing again toward Waun Finn at 1,600 feet. A brief lunch stop on the side of Cwm Garw provided a well earned rest with excellent views of the Craig Goch reservoir.

Craig Goch reservoir



From there the route took us through the woods along the banks of the Pen-y-garreg reservoir to the Pen-y-garreg dam. Here the group was given the option of the west bank route or the slightly shorter, flatter east bank route. Both routes merged again at the Garreg-ddu dam for the return to the village. There we again found that the route estimates were slightly off. Instead of 12 miles, the shorter of the two

covered 14 miles, while the longer route was 15.6 miles. On our return to the lodge we were met with freshly made cakes and drinks.

We woke on Sunday to find that there had been heavy rain overnight with a forecast of more to come. With most adopting wet weather gear of some sort, we again split into two groups. The target was to finish by 2 pm ready for the drive back home. One group intended to do a fast, longer walk while the second group would be a shorter walk at a more leisurely pace.

In the event we all set off in light drizzle but that faded out within 30 minutes and we again had good weather for walking. Before long, wet weather gear was being stowed and not needed again. The shorter walk made a circular route through the woods and hills surrounding Caban-coch reservoir negotiating a couple of fords in the process with varying levels of success! After two hill climbs of 250 and 230 feet, we stopped for lunch at Coed Lan-fraith before continuing through the woods at Coed Gelynnen and Coed Aberelan. Crossing once more the Garreg ddu dam for the return back to the village. The longer walk was on a very similar route but higher in the hills and a loop through the woods at Cam Coel provided an additional mile and a half. Back in the village after covering 8 and 9½ miles respectively during the day it was time to change, pack the cars and head back to Purton after a most enjoyable couple of days with excellent company.

And then came Friday...

Five days later it was time for one of the group's regular monthly walks on 5th May. A slightly different group of walkers set out to walk along the River Wye just north of Tintern Abbey through the bluebells covered hills of Coed Beddick and Bargain Wood, with a small detour to see the Cleddon Falls behind Llandogo. Climbing to 780 feet we were afforded excellent views over the valley below. Continuing north to Whitebrook, we returned along the river bank on the opposite side of the river. Happily, the universal standard for weather forecasting applied and instead of rain 100% of the time it was restricted to about three miles on the homeward stretch. That meant that the outbound leg through the woods was without rain and, more often than not, the bluebells were in plenty of sunlight and we were afforded excellent views across the valley. Arriving back at the old Tintern Station slightly damp, it was time for a drink and more chat before returning to Purton.

I wonder where we'll end up next?

The Walking Group meets the first Friday of the month with a view to walking between 8 and 12 miles anywhere in the region. Local walks of between 4 and 6 miles take place the second Saturday and fourth Thursday of each month.

Purton Village Diary - June 2023

3	Sa		World Bicycle Day
		10.00am	Fundraising event for Great Western Air Ambulance hosted by Jude Sullivan at 12 College Road
4	Su	8.00am	Holy communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion Service at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Church for all at St Mary's
		7.30pm	Music in the Mansion, a performance by Dodecantus Chamber Choir at Lydiard House
5	M		World Environment Day
		7.30pm	RWB Amateur Gardening Club meet at RWB Memorial Hall for a talk from Sally Oates on Dillycot Garden
7	W	10.00am	Purton Age Concern trip to Webbs of Wychbold garden centre
9	F	4.00pm	Fairford Literary Festival starts
		7.00pm	Purton Age Concern Quiz Night at the Village Hall
11	Su	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		1.00pm	Open afternoon of fun tennis at Purton Tennis Club
12	M	10.00am	Purton WI open meeting for women and men, at Silver Threads Hall. The talk is about survival experiences from a retired soldier.
		7.00pm	Full Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
13	Tu	10.00am	Purton and District Probus meet at Hook Village Hall for a talk about Nelson Mandela
14	W	2.30pm	Welcome to All Club at Purton Methodist Church
17	Sa		King Charles III's official birthday
		11.00am	Purton Historical Society tour of Marlborough with Nick Baxter
18	Su		Father's Day
		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
19	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women will meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk about the Family History Society from Jenny Pope.
21	W		Summer Solstice
24	Sa		Shear Success closes its doors for the final time
25	Su	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's
27	Tu	10.00am	Purton and District Probus meet at Hook Village Hall for a talk on the history of the telephone
		2.00pm	Celebrating Age Wiltshire afternoon of traditional folk music and storytelling at RWB Memorial Hall

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
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.
2nd Wednesday	(except Aug) 2.30pm Welcome to All Club at Purton Methodist Church
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
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

Purton Historical Society



Saturday 17th June 2023 - Discover Marlborough's history – a tour of Marlborough with Nick Baxter

Notable for its diverse range of building styles, the prevalence of Georgian reflects Marlborough's wealth during the golden age of coaching, which saw up to 44 changes of horses daily. Opposite the town hall, with its fancy stone facings, is Chandler's Yard. The ancient, timber-framed buildings here connect us with the medieval town. We can almost smell Marlborough's deep history. The 1653 great fire began in a tannery, now "The Wellington" inn, destroying most of the High Street. Marlborough had been sacked by a Royalist army in 1642 determined to teach Marlborough's "notoriously discontented" people a lesson. It was thanks to the Protector Cromwell that it was rebuilt after the fire. The walk finishes at St Peter's Church (SN8 1HQ) notable for its 15th century perpendicular gothic, T H Wyatt's restoration and the place where Thomas Wolsey was ordained priest.

Meet at St. Peter's Church at 11.00. Attendees will split into two groups. One group will do the town walk and the other group will climb the tower of the Church. After a refreshment break the groups will change over at 13.30.

Short walk (about ¾ mile) around Marlborough, £5 per person.

Climb to the top of St. Peter's Church tower, £4 per person

Money paid in advance via bank transfer or to Jim Mosley, 1 Jewels Ash, Witts Lane

Non-members welcome.

To book a place, or for further details contact Marion Hobbs, 01793 770185, roy.marion@btinternet.com

Saturday 1st July 2023 - Bradon boundary walk with Joe Wright

In this guided walk we will explore a section of the former Bradon Forest boundary at Cricklade, as it existed in the 13th century. The boundary was subject to many changes throughout its existence brought about by the politics of the time. Fortunately for us, these changes were documented sufficiently enough in the form of perambulations, allowing us to identify many of the boundary reference points. The walk will begin at 7 pm at the car park beside the Cricklade Rugby Club pitch, aiming to finish in the town itself at about 9 pm We will be walking on both unmade country footpaths and tarmac roads/paths.

Please note this is an evening walk.

Meet at Cricklade Rugby Pitch Car Park 7 pm, return by 9 pm (approx)

Next regular meeting - Thursday 28th September

History of building societies and Nationwide's own history and archives – a talk by sara kinsey

Keith Allsop, allsopk83@hotmail.com

Museum News

Purton Village Hall was officially opened on Saturday 11th October 1969 by Mr Charles Humphrey Beak, the nephew of Sarah Proud, née Beak, who lived at Purton Manor House. On her marriage to Mr Nicholas Proud, Sarah left the village but never forgot it, leaving over £60,000 to the Parish Council in her will. This gift was used to improve Purton Village Centre and War Memorial and build the Village Hall.

A variety of 'Opening Week Functions' followed:

- Sunday 12th – Band Concert by Cricklade Town Band – Popular Light Music
- Tuesday 14th – Free Children's Film Show
- Wednesday 15th – Coffee Morning organised by the Evening WI and an Art and Craft Exhibition by the Afternoon WI
- Thursday 16th – Bingo. Caller Mr P Comley

- Friday 17th – Grand Opening Dance and Buffet. Adge Cutler and The Wurzels and The Pentagon Show Band. Tickets £1
- Saturday 18th – Whist Drive arranged by Mrs S Ginn

Purton Museum has the original poster advertising this historic occasion as part of its Purton at Leisure Exhibition. Also on display are others promoting a Grand Bank Holiday Fete in August 1957 and the Royal British Legion Annual Two Day Show in August 1988. It's a fascinating glimpse of social events and activities that Purton has held over many years. Purton WI are showcasing their organisation too, bringing Purton's leisure activities to the present.

Purton Museum is open on Saturdays from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm and admission is free.

Lucy Lewis, Museum Archivist

Update on St Mary's as an Eco-Church

In the April magazine we told you about St Mary's Church registering as an eco-church, working to reduce our environmental impact. As a first step, we are targeting a bronze award from the A Rocha, who run the eco-church scheme. We will be judged against five categories:

Worship and teaching

We will run a Creation Season in June. Each Sunday service will explore a different aspect of our responsibility for God's creation, challenging us to recognise the damage caused to biodiversity and the climate. Under the common heading of A Wonderful World

- 4 June – Created and Inhabited – Genesis 1-2

- 11 June – Spoilt – But there is Hope – Genesis 3 and Romans 8: 18-23
- 18 June – Respected – As Faithful Stewards 1 Peter 4:10
- 25 June – Repaired – Genesis 12 1-8, Matthew 1, 1-21, Psalm 8

Our family Messy Church in June will have Caring for Creation as its theme. Our youth groups will also focus on Caring for Creation during the month. This will build on the awareness gained from Christian Aid week in May of how climate change is affecting many poorer nations. Holding a regular Creation Season will put us on track for a bronze award for this category.

Buildings

The recent renewal of the Church building has set us up for a bronze award for this category but there remains a significant challenge to reduce the carbon emissions from heating the Church. We are currently researching practical ways to reduce these emissions.

Land (Churchyard)

We are currently exploring with Purton Parish Council how the churchyard can be managed to provide an enhanced habitat for native wildlife. There is every opportunity for us to achieve a bronze award for this category and we hope to engage the wider community in this activity.

Community and Global engagement

We promote and support the work of Christian Aid and this has raised awareness of the consequences of climate change and the loss of biodiversity across the globe. We support and receive information on projects run by Africa Naturally in Mozambique. This charity teaches villagers there how to farm in a sustainable way (Farming God's Way), to produce food to support their families and community. We already use Fairtrade products for our refreshments but there are opportunities to do more. These activities should put us on track to achieve a bronze award for this category.

Lifestyle

This category is about helping us understand the environmental impact of our current lifestyle and to find ways to reduce it. We hope to recruit a volunteer Eco-champion to help us in this category. As Christians, we believe that God gave us responsibility to care for His creation of the Earth. It is clear we are currently failing to do this in a sustainable way. We see our work, through the eco-church scheme, as part of our worship of our creator God. We expect there to be opportunities for other villagers, concerned about environmental change, to join us in this endeavour. We will keep you updated on our progress.

Dave Nettleton

June Nature Correspondent

Nature's Inspiration

England's green and pleasant land is at its most bountiful and beautiful in the month of June, when our wild birds and animals are tending their young, butterflies are fluttering over downland rides, spotted orchids are in profusion and trees in full leaf.

Composers have always sought inspiration from the natural world: some, like Beethoven and Benjamin Britten found that regular walks in the Vienna Woods or along the shingle beach in Aldeburgh unlocked ideas, themes, sometimes whole musical passages, ready to be scribbled down later.

Antonio Vivaldi, despite his urban existence in the heart of 18th century Venice, created a pastoral idyll in his celebrated set of Concertos "The Four Seasons," prefaced by a set of four charming sonnets. In between the orchestral refrains there are interludes illustrating phrases from the text, marked above the music with letters.

In "Spring" three violins approximate the calls of Blackbird, Goldfinch and Nightingale, briefly interrupted by string pyrotechnics representing thunder and lightning. The violas imitate the sleeping shepherd's faithful dog barking at his feet, then nymphs and shepherds dance under a glorious spring sky.

Haydn wrote his oratorio "The Creation"

in his late 60's, a tribute to the natural world, highly inventive and sometimes humorous. There is a Representation of Chaos, both the Sun and the Moon have their moments and in one Bass aria there are musical tributes to a stag and a horse, cattle and sheep, insects and, "in long dimensions, with sinuous trace, the worm!"



Eurasian Skylark Such music has the power to express the inexpressible when we consider the beauty and magic of the natural world.

His pupil Beethoven produced a "Pastoral" Symphony in the slow movement of which a gentle cadenza, played twice, mimics the sounds of Nightingale (flute), Quail (oboe) and Cuckoo (clarinet) one by one.

We are lucky to have good numbers of Skylarks locally, despite its drastic decline in many parts of the U.K. Its continuous liquid song, which I hear above Windmill Hill near Avebury, inspired Meredith's "The Lark Ascending" and Vaughan Williams's beautiful composition of that name.

Written at the start of the Great War, its

opening orchestral chords seem to evoke an aura of sadness and impending loss before the solo violin takes wing, its music circling, ascending and gradually disappearing into the heavens. At the heart of the piece the orchestra takes a more active, conversational role: the players are warmed and inspired by the

soloist's rhapsodising and begin to join the melodic line as both volume and intensity increase.

Such music has the power to express the inexpressible when we consider the beauty and magic of the natural world.

Robin Nelson, Commissioned by Tower & Town, Marlborough

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 July issue. Our copy deadline is the 10th June, please email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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 supplied. However, these details may be withheld from publication if requested.



Peter Smirles

Jean, Catherine, Alison and the rest of the family would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral of Peter Kent Smirles who died peacefully at Ashgrove house in April. You were able to share so many lovely memories of him with us and your support and generosity are a great comfort to us. We would also like to thank all the staff of Ashgrove House for the love and outstanding care that Peter received. The hugs and the sandwiches during the last days as we sat with him will never be forgotten.

Many thanks, Catherine Smirles



Purton Coronation Celebrations

A big thank you to everyone in the village that was involved in the King's Coronation celebrations, I attended three events and enjoyed them all. So thank you Purton and all its people for what you did.

Bernice Seviour



Netball Success

I'd like to say huge congratulations to my granddaughter Ayren Walker, from Purton, who has just played for the Wales Development Squad in the European Netball Open Challenge. A great achievement well deserved.

Christine Jefferies

White Lodge Coronation celebrations - fit for a King!



Excitement was in the air at White Lodge Care Home in Braydon where residents and staff were busy making Coronation-themed decorations in preparation for the King's Coronation on May 6.

Staff and residents at the home put their heads together and came up with a plan for their celebrations fit for a King. Over the bank holiday weekend the home held what should have been a garden party but due to the wet weather we had to move our celebrations inside. We still had our BBQ under a gazebo so our residents and their families could enjoy the food, we also had sandwiches which of course included Coronation chicken and for dessert we had mini Victoria sponges and scones with clotted cream and jam and not forgetting our Pimms station complete with a tower of glasses. We were also joined by the D-Day Dollies who sang for us which everyone really enjoyed, singing along to the songs and dancing. The whole home came together to celebrate our new King and talk about the new era the country is entering.

Ramona Gherendi General Manager at White Lodge said: "We've all had such a brilliant time celebrating the Coronation, such a

momentous occasion. Our staff and residents love the Royals so they were all so excited to take part. It has been a real collaborative process - thinking about how we wanted to celebrate, planning our activities, decorating the home and creating all the party food. It was so lovely to be able to invite our friends and family to come and join us for a proper celebration too. We have such a great team here at White Lodge and they all work so hard to make these sort of events such an amazing day for our residents and their friends and families.”

A few of our residents at White Lodge said that they can remember the Queen’s Coronation, watching it on a black and white TV. “We all wanted to pay our respects to the new King and create new memories, it is such an important occasion to mark.”

Our varied life enrichment programme keeps residents active and provides a daily choice of engaging physical, mental and spiritual activities tailored to residents’ interests and abilities.

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

Church Floodlighting

May 6 St Mary’s was floodlit on Coronation Day! Long Live the King!



For June, the floodlighting bookings will start at 8.30pm and the lights will stay on until 11pm. 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.

Putting on the Glitz

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We Record...



Funerals at North Wiltshire Crematorium

13 April 2023 Lesley Anne Wall (79)
26 April 2023 Peter Kent Smirles (87)

Correction:

In the “We Record” section in the May issue, we now understand that there was a spelling error: it should have read:

Funeral at North Wiltshire Crematorium, 5th April 2023 Marian Cotton (86).

Poetry Corner

The Coronation Of King Charles III

Celebration time once more as monarch takes the crown
With people cheering strong and clear in counties up and down
And Charles who waited in the wings with patient dignity
Ascends at last and takes the path of Royal Destiny.
With all the pomp and pageantry that only England knows
The rituals of tradition surge as fervour grows and grows
The richness of the music and the splendour of the day
Are symbols of the heritage in history’s power play.
The opulence of grandeur is important at this stage
And all who gaze in wonder will in sympathy engage.
The coronation rules go back to well a thousand years
As Charles has joined his lineage of bygone stately peers.
The king has sworn to keep the law as sovereign of the state
And guard the sanctity of church as holy laws dictate
And all will pay him homage as he sits upon the throne
While consort stands beside him, he will never stand alone.
The day has been momentous so let all stand up and sing
In splendour Charles ascends the throne and so God save the king

Jacky Parker

Purton Profferings

- For anyone needing support with walking. 2 x 4-wheel folding roller wheeled walker with brakes, seat and attached carrying bag. Please ring 01793 771331.

Purton Placard

Purton Craft Market

Sunday July 16th, Purton
Village Hall, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Contact:

rebeccarose.rrs@gmail.com

Friends of Lydiard Park

Sunday 4th June - Music in a Mansion

The acclaimed Dodecantus chamber choir will perform in the elegant surroundings of Lydiard House Main Hall.

www.friendsoflydiardpark.org.uk/events/music-in-a-mansion-a-celebratory-concert-with-the-dodecantus-choir/

Sunday 9th July - Exploring Archaeology at Lydiard Park - a walking tour with professional archaeologist Chris Ellis

www.friendsoflydiardpark.org.uk/events/exploring-archaeology-at-lydiard-park-a-walking-tour-with-professional-archaeologist-chris-ellis/

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Avebury Vocal ENSEMBLE

Conductor: Peter Tims
Organist: Simon Dinsdale

English Choral Classics

Sunday 2 July 2023
6.00 pm
St Mary the Virgin Church
Ashbury

Handel *Zadok the Priest*
Parry *I was Glad*
and music by
WH Harris, Elgar, Sullivan and Byrd



Tickets £10
in advance/
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on the door
under 18s
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Purton WI

On Monday 12th June there is an Purton WI Open Meeting for men and ladies to attend. The speaker is Jeremy Holt, a retired soldier. He is speaking about his Survival experiences. 10am at the Silver Threads Hall.

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



Join us for an open afternoon of fun tennis at Purton Tennis Club

The Red House Courts, Purton, SN5 4DT.
Sunday 11th June 2023, 1-4 pm.
All members, non-members, & visitors of all ages welcome

- Balls & rackets provided
- Have a social game
- Fun tennis & games with prizes
- Target practice
- Hit with a team player
- Refreshments provided
- Please wear trainers & hope to see you there!

Contact Simon: 07913 599696
s.g.lincoln@talk21.com

CELEBRATING Age Wellbeing

Music & Storytelling

Royal Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall
Tuesday 27th June, 2 – 4pm

Come and enjoy the very best in traditional folk music and storytelling from Paul Hutchinson, Matt Norman and Hannah Moore.

An event that will be medicine for the soul!

Tea and cake will be served during the break.

Booking is required for this free event. Please contact Pat Hughes on 01793 772382/07484748737 or email patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com

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Subaru, Seat, Skoda, Suzuki, Toyota, Vauxhall, Volvo, VW, all 4WD & Vans.

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

Purton Annual Flower, Arts, Craft & Produce Show 2023

This year's show schedules have been finalised and are now available; see contact details. The committee would like to thank Heather for her help with this. Grateful thanks also to advertisers and sponsors for their support.

Schedules will be available from committee members, local shops and businesses in due course. In the meantime the show classes are listed below:

Vegetables

- Collection of vegetables – 4 distinct kinds, space allowed 3ft
- 3 Potatoes – White
- 3 Potatoes – Coloured
- 2 Carrots
- 3 Courgettes
- 6 French Beans
- 6 Runner Beans
- Vine of Cherry Tomatoes (red or green)
- 2 Cucumber
- 2 Peppers – Hot or sweet
- 1 Pair of Marrows
- 3 Beetroot – Round
- 6 Tomatoes
- 2 Vegetable not in schedule
- 6 Shallots – Large
- 4 Onions (grown from sets)

Flowers

- Collection of cut flowers - one vase - Six distinct kinds
- Roses – Hybrid tea
- Asters
- Marigolds (African)
- Marigolds (French)
- Dahlias (cactus variety)

- Dahlias (decorative)
- Dahlias (pom-pom 2" diameter)
- Gladioli
- Zinnias
- Vase of flowers one variety not in schedule
- Sweet Peas
- Chrysanthemums
- Pot plant – flowering
- Pot plant – foliage
- Fuchsia – single plant in a pot

Floral Art

- A flower arrangement of one colour, foliage of exhibitor's choice
- Decorative basket of mixed flowers
- Petite table decoration – not more than 9"/23cm in any direction
- Arrangement in an unusual container – not exceeding 18"/46cm

Children's Classes - Age 6 years and under

- A Crown fit for a King
- Decorate 3 biscuits suitable for a Coronation Tea Party (biscuits need not be handmade)

Age 7 to 11 years

- A Crown fit for a King
- A Lego model of a house, must fit onto a 31 cm/12" square and not more than 31 cm/12" high

All Ages

- A red, white and blue flower arrangement in a jam jar

Industrial

- Fruit scones
- Fruit cake – from recipe
- Ginger cake – from recipe

Swindon Croquet Club

Industrial continued

- Victoria sponge – from recipe
- Lemon drizzle cake
- Cheese Scones
- Chocolate Brownies – men/boys only
- One jar of jam – 1lb/454g jar to be used
- One pot of chutney – 1lb/454g jar to be used

Arts & Crafts

- Tapestry, cross stitch or embroidery
- Picture – any medium no bigger than A4 including frame
- Toy – knitted or crochet
- Knitting
- A Piece of crochet
- A Piece of Hand-Crafted Jewellery
- Any hard handicraft – metal/wood/pottery
- Card Making – a celebration card

Photography

- Coronation Celebrations
- My Favourite Village View
- Wildlife in My Garden
- Going Green
- Family Pets

We hope that the events to mark the Coronation will have given inspiration for entries to the show. We would love to see some photographs of Coronation celebrations, children's biscuit decorating and crowns.

For further information please contact Pat Hughes. Tel no: 01793 772382 or email patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com

Swindon Croquet Club played their first match of the season in the South West Federation handicap league (northern section) against Nailsea on Friday 28th April.

Nailsea fielded a team with several low handicap players but the Swindon team responded well and did brilliantly to hold a 7-4 lead at the lunch break. Nailsea fought back strongly in the afternoon, during which there were several closely contested matches. The final result was a 10-10 draw with both sides securing one point.

Swindon's Captain Colin Bailey said, "Everyone played exceptionally well against a strong Nailsea team with our most successful players in the singles being Dave Booth, Steven Hares and Terry Clements, with three wins, two wins, and two wins respectively."



Photo (L-R): Dave Booth, Colin Bailey (Captain), Terry Clements, Steve Williams, Steve Hares

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

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

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Mini crossword

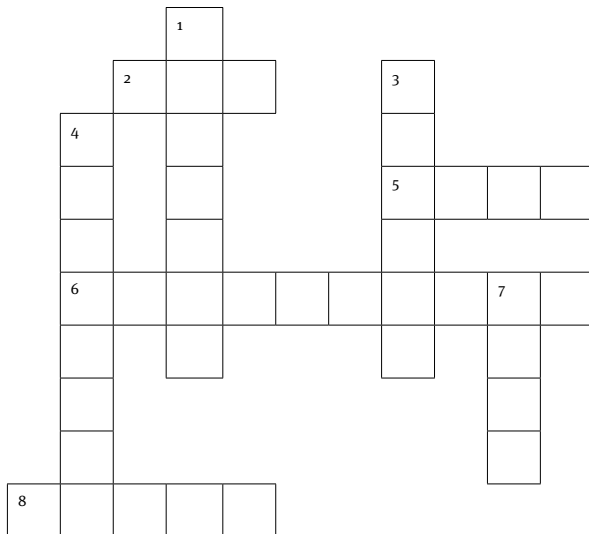
Here is the next in our series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun. Again there are no prizes but the answers to May's puzzle are 1A) Succession 2D) Coronation 3D) Orb 4A) Abbey 5D) Sceptre 6D) Oath 7D) Crown 8A) Westminster 9A) Throne 10A) King

This month there are eight clues.

- 2 across Dawn to dusk (3)
- 5 across Earth's natural satellite (4)
- 6 across Fruit in fields forever (10)
- 8 across Oyster gem (5)
- 1 down Male parents (7)
- 3 and 4 down Celebrated at Stonehenge (6,7)
- 4 down see 3 down
- 7 down June birth flower (4)

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

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Purton Stoke, Bentham, Hayes Knoll, Braydon, Cross Lanes, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Hill View, Newman's View and Upper Oxhill*

Purton & District Probus Club



Wildlife & Farming: Chris Rumming (April 11th, 2023)

Chris Rumming is a local farmer based close to Lydiard Park, the West Park Industrial Park and adjacent to the M4. His was a very different presentation to many that have been given to members of Purton Probus and the information that we received proved relevant to the interests of everyone in attendance as can be judged by the raft of questions from the members following his talk.

Following his student days, Chris had no initial interest in farming. In fact, his passion for the first 15 years was in ornamental fish and this became his career during that time. It was through the work Chris was involved in (cleaning ornamental ponds and other related activities) that he developed a growing interest in wildlife and became aware of the importance of preserving the wildlife around the family farm. The main business on the farm is beef, but there are also sheep and beehives. The most recent interest is in turkey farming and the current flock has grown from 50 to 600 although, as Chris pointed out, this a 'miniscule' number compared to some the farms focussing fully on turkey rearing.

The efforts made by Chris in enhancing the wildlife on the farm are truly impressive. Most of the fields are permanent pastures, not having been ploughed for the past 20 years. Permanent pasture land encourages a very diverse mixture of grasses and plants. Chris mentioned at this stage of the talk that maize is particularly destructive to the environment as the fields lay bare for the whole of the winter thus providing no shelter or food sources. One role that Chris has undertaken is to be responsible for the controlled cutting of long grass on behalf of some of the local councils and to ensure that tracts of longer grass remain untouched.

Chris's efforts have paid dividends as a range of wildlife is to be observed on his farmland. He spoke of the number of hares he has spotted. He did suggest that if anyone noted evidence of hare coursing taking place it should be reported to the authorities. For example, he recently reported evidence of this occurring, with those involved having a number of lurchers with them. Chris has also noted that the number of starlings on his fields has grown significantly; important because starling numbers in general are in decline. Interestingly, Chris makes efforts to ensure that dung beetles are protected on the farm as they are not only a food source for birds, but the mites they lay eat the larvae of flies thus keeping the number of flies under control.

One part of the presentation focussed on the maintenance of hedges and headlands. If properly maintained, they attract flowers and birds. In particular, there are large flocks of goldfinches on the farm as a result. It was explained how hedges are much more effective than electric fences. Chris explained that hedges should never be trimmed during summer so that shelter and berries are in abundance for the birds and butterflies seen on the farm. He mentioned the wealth of marbled white butterflies as an example. Cutting of hedges should only be carried out between Christmas and February. The art of 'hedge-laying' was also described. This involves cutting the hedge to the stem and then folding the stem over still connected with the roots which, in turn, increases the hedge density. He also recommended avoiding cutting a hedge for the first 6 years. The hedge cutting approach on the farm has seen the appearance of a range of birdlife such as the rare black cap as well as hedge sparrows (another subspecies in decline), coal tits and even sparrow hawks.

Chris finished off his talk by describing the farm ponds he has been developing. This project has provided considerable success and includes two brooks running across the property. There are now fish in these areas of water; in particular, there was mention of sticklebacks. The presence of fish has encouraged sightings of kingfishers and the banks of the brooks and ponds have had burrows purposely dug into them so that this beautiful bird can nest. There are also otters, newts, dragon flies, water stick insects plus moorhens and coots.

Finally, Chris Rumming spoke about the open days held on the farm, the monthly newsletter that he publishes explaining about wildlife and the farm shop. He encouraged Purton Probus to organise a trip to the farm.

John Slaght

At our 2nd meeting of the month, Tuesday 25th April, Arthur Kingdongave an illustrated talk entitled "A Camera Underwater". This was a very impressive and colourful presentation of our speaker's award-winning experience of underwater photography, taken at a dozen different locations around the world.

Arthur's career began at 16 years old in the RAF as a photographer, but he soon qualified as a loadmaster and retired, almost 40 years later, to continue his hobby of photography. In 2010 he won first place in the UK Category of the British Society of Underwater

Photographers. His entry in the competition was a close-up, in stunning colour, of a blue faced blenny fish. More recently, in 2019, he took top prize, in the Wide Angle Category with a shot of jewel anemones found on a reef off the Scilly Isles. For this, he used his Nikon camera within an aquatic dry - housing, which boasts a 20-inch viewing porthole.

Our speaker began by explaining some of the difficulties of taking pictures underwater, particularly with problems of light and colour. At a depth of 20-40 feet below the surface, colours can completely disappear to become shades of grey. Of the spectrum, red is the first colour to be lost. 'Flash' can be used to restore the colour differentials of a subject and is best used against a background of infinite water, giving black to pale grey. As Arthur explained, "get low and shoot upwards" can often be a successful technique. Close-ups give the most effective colours but need patience.

The presentation began with early shots of exploring wrecks, some in black and white and some in pale blues. An unusual photo featured the repair shop of a vessel with a propeller screw mounted on the bench for repair. Arthur continued his talk by taking us on a tour of the many and varied diving sites wherein he has captured images of sea-water plants and animals. A popular sight for divers is the Red Sea. Here we saw pilot fish clinging closely to a shark, moray eels with wrasse, lionfish against coral, anemones, sea urchins and starfish. A particularly interesting shot was of a long toothed grouper with a mouthful of fertilised eggs that, Arthur assured us, were incubating there.

Around Sumatra and Sulawesi we saw manta rays and stargazers, an octopus squeezing into a discarded plastic football, a squid in the neck of a sauce bottle, a blue winged octopus, sea slugs and shrimp hitch hikers, rhinopias which mimic plants and examples of harlequin ghost fish which are imperceptible against coral and vegetation. There are numerous sea horses in these waters and a clever enlargement of a sea horse which, in reality, was no bigger than a grain of rice, allowed us to discern its outline against the background coral.

In the Caribbean his photos included manatees, goliath groupers, tiger sharks and lemon sharks. Nearby on the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico there are many sinkholes (cenote). Some of which connect to the sea by subterranean tunnels. These present a novel opportunity for diving and Arthur showed some eerie shots of a sink hole with stalactites and stalagmites in a weird underwater light. In the waters of the Cayman Islands a sinister array of four large stingrays was pictured on video. In a Cuban reef, the Jardines de la Reina, with

a half-water shot, Arthur had captured a wonderful sunset. These waters have saltwater crocodiles which divers need to be aware of, ideal for jaw-dropping moments! There were also large groupers, reef sharks and turtles.

On Vancouver Island, the Pacific can be as cold as minus 1 degree C. Here were some jellyfish, anemones, sea slugs, a decorated war bonnet fish, a frog fish, salmon and sea lions were photographed. Gozo and Malta in the Mediterranean have clear, much favoured seas for photography. The talk included shots of the coral-dwelling creatures and some wrecks. At home, from Scottish waters we saw large Jelly fish and Dalia Anemones. Off Babbacombe, cuttle fish and from around the Scilly Isles, lobster, hermit crabs, scallops, scorpion fish, a John Dory, sturgeon and a blue shark were shot with Arthur's camera. For over an hour Arthur held our attention with his unbelievable collection of unexpected images from a lifetime of dedication to his art.

Bob Stevens

Purton and District PROBUS Club meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 10am in the Hook Village Hall. Programme for June: Tues 13th - "Nelson Mandela" Tues 27th - "History of the Telephone". Visitors and New Members Welcome.

Purton Football Club

Upon writing this on May 8th we have one Development game left to play to conclude the 2022/2023 season and the Ladies team have league games left, plus a Cup Final fixture versus Salisbury after beating Durrington 3 -1 in an exciting semi-final at the Red House.

As mentioned in the previous issue in May, they were on the brink of winning their league and this was achieved with two games to go, so the football club trophy cabinet will not be bare this season, although I am afraid the Men's team cannot say they contributed towards that.

Again, as mentioned in last month's

issue, we can now announce our management team for the 2023/2024 season, which will consist of Matty Bennett and Peter McGunigall as joint first team managers, Jon Cousins the Development manager, with Tom Heal assisting him on the coaching side.

Matty and Peter have vast experience of playing at this level and higher. Matty has just completed the season at RWB in their first team in the Hellenic Premier division and will be bringing plenty of new faces on board to give us a more competitive first team. He will also be helping the younger lads develop to



hopefully give the team good back up as and when required. The enthusiasm the younger lads are showing is brilliant with up to 20 turning up for training each week, which bodes well for the future.

When writing this section for the football club, I will keep up the reminder of our next Sporting dinner with Mark Lawrenson and comedian Bob Webb, The confirmed date is now October 2nd (Monday), and a lot of people have shown interest following on from the

last magazine article, so please contact me by email to terry.crumbie@gmail.com to make a booking or for more details.

Let's hope that in the next issues of Purton Magazine I can bring you news of a cup and league double for the ladies and, although we cannot quite afford an open top bus at the moment, it will bring a feel good factor to the club for better times ahead.

*Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer
of Purton FC*

Purton Tennis Club



On Sunday 11th June we will be hosting an Open Day for visitors, members and guests of all ages to come along and have a fun afternoon of tennis. There will be social tennis, hitting practice and some fun games with little prizes. This is a great opportunity for people who always thought about 'having a go' at tennis. Rackets and balls are provided; all you will need is to wear sports shoes/trainers and comfortable clothes. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining us, then please get in touch, or come to the Red House courts between 1.00 and 4.00 pm on the day.

The summer league kicked off with several postponements due to rain (!) but hopefully the weather will continue to improve and we will get all the matches played. We have entered two men's, two ladies and three mixed teams in the Swindon & District league, so good luck to all the players and I hope

they all have an enjoyable summer of tennis.

Likewise, the juniors take to the courts on Saturday mornings and enjoy the coaching provided by Nicola and her team. All our junior members can attend these sessions as part of their membership.

We have some work on the courts planned towards the end of May, so our courts by the pavilion will be out of action for a week or two, until the paint has completely dried, but the end result will mean that the life of the courts is prolonged and they will be nicer to play on.

For more information about Purton Tennis Club, please contact Jo Adams, our membership secretary, she will be happy to help you: jo.adams7@live.co.uk

*Janet Saunders (secretary)
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Purton Cricket Club



Like every club in the area, the wet weather of late has hampered preparations for the season and caused the first round of men's league games to be cancelled. But with the sun back shining and games being played, it is fair to say the cricket season has properly started.

On the field, the club's new overseas player Nisaar Cook scored a century in a friendly win over Tilehurst CC and nearly made another one with a score of 90 in the league defeat to Marlborough CC for the 1st XI. Saqib Javed returned figures of 5-39 in that game as Cole Crumbie picked up a four wicket haul of his own in the 2nd XI's defeat to Corsham CC's 3rd XI.

Meanwhile off the pitch, one of the club's main aims over the winter was to renovate the nets, which had provided members with 13 years of service and, after a long process, we were able to have new nets ready for the new season. Graham Wright has this message of thanks to those who made it possible:

'Our benefactors came from two local sources for which we are very grateful. We received £5,000 from the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board. Area boards exist to work alongside other organisations to make things happen in the community. Wiltshire Council devolves significant funding to the Area Boards in order for them to invest in local community projects and initiatives, that meet local priorities and deliver exceptional outcomes for residents. We are grateful to the work of the committee without whose unanimous support we

would not have been able to proceed with further grant applications, such as that offered by The Hills Group Limited.

We received a further £10,000 funding boost from The Hills Group Limited. The money has been made available through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) which is administered for Hills by Community First, the Rural Community Council for Wiltshire. We would especially like to thank the staff for their support and guidance who helped make this grant possible.

The club is planning to officially open the nets on Friday June 16 with other events happening around the ground too that evening.

Away from senior cricket and the nets, our outdoors youth programme for 2023 is up and running. New members from under 9s to under 19s are always welcome and if you are interested then please send an email to: Secretary. PurtonCC@gmail.com.

Also, entries for our All Stars programme are still open. It is targeted at five to eight year olds for their first experience of cricket and contains several fun and action-packed games and drills. Details on how to sign up can be found on our social media pages or by searching for the club on the Clubspark website.

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Harrison Burridge

05/24



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Learn, laugh and live with Swindon U3A

Do you love literature? Then there are several U3A groups which could interest you

If you enjoy reading you might like to join one of our several book groups. Each group has a different approach. Typically members choose a variety of books and meet monthly to discuss them. The various reactions to the books make for lively discussions – all in an atmosphere of fun and friendship. Reel books watch films based on their chosen books. The fortnightly Literature Group follows an Open University course on the 19th century novel and its legacy. Perhaps you are interested in drama. If so, the play-reading group could be for you. Members take the roles of characters in a play and read out loud from the scripts. A wide variety of period and modern plays are covered. You don't need experience in drama to join - just an interest in plays and theatre.

For those who want to attend plays the Theatregoers group organises trips to

theatres throughout the year.

The Poetry Appreciation Group enjoys reading poems aloud and discussing them. Members choose poems to a set theme or form (such as narrative, sonnet, sad or funny) and also discuss the life and times of the poets.

At the Reading Shakespeare Group members enjoy and learn more about Shakespeare's writing. At each meeting the host selects an excerpt from a play or some poetry to read aloud and explore.

If you like writing, why not try our Creative Writing Group? Members are encouraged to write something on a particular theme each month and read it to the group. Supportive feedback is given so that everyone can learn from each other. All helped by tea and biscuits.

To learn more about the u3a and all the activities it offers visit www.swindonu3a.org.uk or 'phone the office on 01793 614629 between 10am and noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Prospect Hospice

Prospect Hospice is pleased to announce the launch of its 'Remember Me' roses to celebrate the lives and honour the memory of loved ones who have died.

The campaign invites supporters to purchase a beautiful rose, made from recycled metal and available in four colours; red, pink, white and yellow. Each rose will be tagged with the name of the person being remembered and will be displayed in the hospice's



gardens, forming an art installation to be revealed at the hospice's annual garden fete on 9 September. After the display draws to a close at the end of September, you will have the opportunity

to collect your very own rose as a keepsake to cherish at home.

All funds raised through this campaign will go towards providing specialist end of life care for those who need it most.

Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett & District

Working with Helen Chapman of the Fabric Shack, Malmesbury to help ensure South African schoolgirls don't miss school.

When many underprivileged African girls are having their periods, they generally miss a week each month from school because they cannot afford sanitary pads. Resorting to newspapers and rags they stay in the confines of their home. This can lead to dangerous health risks and a lack of education..

This is very undignifying for them and it affects their self-esteem and ability to function. It limits the potential of young girls and women and promotes gender inequality as a major contributor to Global Poverty.

Our Rotary Club, using money from our fundraising events, is producing sanitary dressings, and pants which will be sent out to the Rotary Club of Durbanville, who will distribute them to schoolgirls in their local area, so they may lead a normal life and continue daily to receive an education at school.

Helen Chapman from The Fabric Shack in Malmesbury has been doing a fantastic job in working with our club helping us with this project. She obtained all the materials required for us to make the various articles, cutting every piece out herself and has now started sewing each piece together. Helen has managed to get a couple of volunteer ladies from Malmesbury and our Rotary club to assist her with the sewing. Once all the packs are made, we aim to make at least 50, and two pairs of pants will be included in each pack.

I cannot overstate the help Helen has given our club to get this project underway, spending so much of her free time to help these girls. The completed packs will be transported to Africa and given to the young girls in need, so that they can then receive a full-time education.

Finally, if you wish to contribute to our cause any donations would be gratefully accepted or if you want to help in the production of these packs, please contact Helen at the Fabric Shack on 01666 826841 or president@rwbrotary.club.

Rotary inspires a New generation with a Junior Technology Tournament

The Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett & District went along to St Bartholomew's Primary Academy in Royal Wootton Bassett recently at the invitation of Headteacher Daniel Oakes to run the Rotary Junior Technology Tournament, which was demonstrated at a 'Big Bang'



fair at the NEC, the UK's largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people.

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

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

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

The whole of year 5 at St Bartholomew's Primary Academy (60 children) took part. They were all fully engaged and enthusiastic throughout the sessions and the budding engineers set a high standard with their bridge building solutions. Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to the top three teams.

The enjoyment was amply shown by some of the amusing names the

children had selected for their teams such as 'The Screwdrivers', 'The Crafty Warriors' and 'The Wolf Pack'.

Headteacher Daniel Oakes said 'the children gained a lot from the event and we would love the Rotary Club to visit us again.'

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

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

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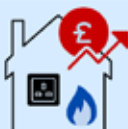
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