

July 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, (10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Pips Community Café	Duty volunteers	07498 526872
<i>(Tuesday-Friday 9am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm)</i> <i>www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/</i>		

Schools & Playgroups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk

Priest: Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues Tel: 852366

Lucas Rodrigues

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

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

Priest: Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church

Father Michael Robertson

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

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Purton Magazine

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Front cover image: Purton strawberries,
June 2023.

Credit: Heather Ponting-Bather

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Design & Print

From the Editors

July 2023

Volume 45 No.7

1st Published 1975

Strawberries on our front cover are a timely reminder of the Wimbledon tennis tournament mentioned on page 38 with news from Purton Tennis Club. The club's maintenance crew has been busy working on the courts next to the pavilion and their efforts appear to have been rewarded with most of the teams "doing exceptionally well" at the time of writing.

The summer of sport is in full swing with the much-anticipated Ashes cricket series against the Australian tourists now in progress providing much interest and entertainment on both sides of the world.

A regular pub quiz question relates to the most popular British pastime and angling always seems such a surprisingly correct answer. Boosted by thriving fish populations in rivers that are getting steadily cleaner, angling continues to attract huge numbers of people, with nearly four million men, women and children saying they had gone fishing in the previous two years according to a report from the Environment Agency.

Perhaps that is because it seems such a singular sport to non-anglers with participants usually fishing individually on the banks of the water especially during competitions. Our Nature Correspondent reports on an invitation to meet a friend and keen member of

The Piscatorial Society and enjoy a little fishing. They met in the fishermen's shrine that is the Society's rod room with its imposing round committee table plus a fascinating collection of fishing sundries including tied flies for sale in little boxes, a variety of fly-fishing books and an impressive stuffed trout in a glass case photographed for his article. True to form, his interesting piece also includes noting birds he saw in that beautiful and unspoilt habitat that included a flash of iridescent greenish – blue; see page 29 to confirm your guess!

Colour was the subject of the latest After 8 discussions on page 37. After learning about the origins of different colours from their artist-in-residence, it seems that the girl-pink and boy-blue divide only dates from the mid-20th Century and may already be dying out?

Regular readers may well have noticed that this issue of your magazine is noticeably thinner than usual. A key reason is probably because the production team has experienced an outage with the magazine's email system.

We apologise to anyone experiencing difficulties in submitting contributions and ask that they be sent again in time for the August issue, heather@intouchpurton.co.uk can be used as an alternative address.

9

Clues to solve in this month's local mini crossword. See page 33

37

Villagers enjoyed the Age Concern garden centre trip. See page 12

120

Plates of food donated for the joint Christian Aid birthday party. See page 15

Purton Parish Council News



Great Western Air Ambulance fundraiser smashes fundraising total!

On Saturday 3rd of June, Jude Sullivan welcomed a great number of people into her garden, to help her raise funds to support the Great Western Air Ambulance and smashed her previous year's fundraising total of over £1000, by raising £1216.34!

The fundraising event, which was held in Purton, included a variety of stalls and activities 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 was also a 'guess where the helicopter will land' game, supplied 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 plans to run another event in 2024.

No Mow May

Purton Parish Council will be taking part in the 'no mow May' national eco initiative, from May 2024, in its open green spaces, as part of its Carbon Reduction work and with a view to helping support pollinators, wildlife, and wildflowers.

For those who are not familiar, 'No Mow May' is part of a campaign which was started by conservation Charity Plant life in 2019. It encourages everyone to put off mowing and strimming their lawns until

June, to let wildflowers reseed, protect insects and to prevent harm to small creatures such as frogs.

Purton Parish Council will be participating from spring 2024, as another step towards a greener future for the village. Work to date by Purton Parish Council has already brought wildlife friendly planters, an electric truck for grounds staff and investigations into electric vehicle charging points and solar panels – all of which are part of its wider Carbon Neutral Strategy.

In Spring 2024, residents should note that the appearance of green areas may look more abundant and uncut, but should be reassured that this is all intended, to ensure that our wildlife is protected.

Everyone locally also can participate in 'No Mow May', with either all or part of their garden space. This will not only enable them to support wildlife but will also provide them with a rest from mowing and reduce noise from mowers running in the village in spring.

Anyone wishing to learn more, may like to visit these websites:

www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/

www.countryfile.com/news/no-mow-may-why-you-should-lock-up-your-lawnmower-on-1st-may/

www.discoverwildlife.com/how-to/wildlife-gardening/no-mow-may/

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Memorial Testing

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

Currently we have seven headstones which 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 on 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 both the full safety for anyone visiting, and where possible, the legibility of the inscription.

Planning

A) Permission Granted

- PL/2023/01960 – 17 Glevum Close, Purton, SN5 4HA
Proposal: Proposed front and side extensions and new roof to existing bungalow. Decision: Approve with Conditions
- PL/2022/08940 – Down Farm, The Pry, Purton, SN5 4JP

Proposal: Change of use of land from movement/storage of building materials to enable stationing of mobile double decker bus to provide a venue for workshops around wellbeing, menopause and mental health. Decision: Approve with Conditions

- PL/2023/00775 – Greystones, West Of Bentham Lane To Bentham Farm, Bentham, Purton, SN5 4JA.
Proposal: Construction of 20m x 40m riding arena for private use. Land to change from agriculture to domestic animal use. Decision: Approve with Conditions

B) Permission Refused

- PL/2023/01171 – Newth's Lane Barn, Newth's Lane, Purton Stoke , Swindon, SN5 4JH
Proposal: Building a livestock hay and straw storage and shelter for horses/cows in the winter in order to cater for their proper welfare and provide them feed for the winter. Decision: Refuse.

Council Meetings 2023

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

- 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 four Councillors. If you are interested in this community post, please complete the application forms which can be found at the link below. The Clerk is also available for an informal chat prior to completion of your application.

www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/data-transparency-sub/policies-procedures

Keep up to date

Further Council details and community information are available as follows:

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

Information from Wiltshire Council

Time to renew your garden waste collections

Renew your garden waste collection by Friday 30 June to avoid missing a collection.

Once you have renewed your subscription, you will now no longer receive a garden waste sticker. This is because waste crews use in-vehicle technology to identify which households have subscribed to have their garden waste collected. Please ensure your garden bin is identifiable by putting your house number on it. You are welcome to paint your house number on the bin should you wish or, if you have one, you can leave the previous bin sticker displayed and where you can add your house name or number. Numbers should be clearly displayed on the back of the bin, and bins should be presented for collection with the handle facing outwards as this makes it easier for the collection crews.

Let us remove your unwanted guests this summer!

The warmer weather means BBQs, picnics, and time to get outside and enjoy the beautiful area we live in. It also means more flying pests which can really dampen the fun.

If you've found a wasp nest or have a large number of wasps at home, our friendly pest controllers are on hand to treat these for you. Please email pestcontrol@wiltshire.gov.uk or call 0300 456 0107 to make a booking.

Just a reminder - we love bees and don't treat them. If you have a beehive at home, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust or The Wildlife Trusts can help.

Small rechargeable items collected at the kerbside

Don't forget you can now recycle small rechargeable electrical items as part of your fortnightly kerbside collection service. These items include:

- MP3 players
- Electric toothbrushes
- Shavers/trimmers

- All vapes and e-cigarettes
- Smart watches
- Mobile phones
- Digital cameras
- Charging devices/power banks
- Wireless earphones

All you need to do is place these items in a carrier bag next to your blue-lidded bin.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



NHS Patient Survey

A summary of recent responses to the NHS Patient Survey showed that Purton and Green Gable Surgery received a 98% positive response.

200 Club draw

The June draw was done by Kai Howard, Practice Manager. The winners were: £100 – June Carter, £15 – Dr JLW Belford. 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.psppg@gmail.com – to ask for it. The 200 Club year starts in September and names are now being taken for the coming year. Those paying by standing order do not need to take any action as membership will continue uninterrupted, however those who pay annually will need to renew... and may want to consider setting up a standing



order. New members are always welcome. Forms are available in the Surgery.

PPG Information

Information leaflets about the PPG are available in the Surgery.

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). 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.psppg@gmail.com

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

Purton & District Age Concern

Purton and District ~~AGE~~ CONCERN

Dates for the diary

- 1st July – Coffee Morning at Bentham.
- 23rd – August, coach trip to Weston-super-Mare

Garden Centre Trip

On 7th June, we had our garden centre trip to Webbs of Wychbold on what turned out to be a lovely day for the weather. It started off overcast but cleared by lunchtime, which made our location even better than expected. This garden centre is particularly nice, and the quality of the plants is superb. They also have retail outlets and a very nice restaurant and food outlets, so there's something for everybody. We had 37 people on board the coach, which is a big improvement on previous trips, and the atmosphere was great with everybody catching up with people they hadn't seen for a while as we had people from Purton Stoke and Cricklade joining our group. As usual our Ellison's driver Brian looked after us, and we had plenty of storage on the coach for all the plants we bought back – it took longer to unload the plants than the passengers! Thanks to all who came and supported our outing.

Future Trips

Unfortunately, we have decided to cancel the planned July trip on a steam train, because we feel we won't be able to attract enough people to make it worthwhile. I'm sorry for the 'regulars' that said they would like to go but, at the moment, it's not possible. We will

still be doing the trip to Weston on 23rd August, so if you want to come on that then contact Peter on 778119 to book a ticket. The cost will be £20, or £22 for non-Purton residents. The coach trips are not restricted to pensioners, and accompanied children (£10 for 12 years old and under) will be allowed on this one.

Coffee Morning

We will be holding our annual coffee morning at Bentham again this year. On 1 July 2023, Dick & Jackie Scott have once again allowed us the use of their beautiful garden to hold this event, which is open to everybody who would like to attend. It is a good fund-raising opportunity for us and we would welcome you all to come and support us. Entrance is £2.50 which includes a free drink & biscuit. Gates open at 10 a.m. until 12 noon. Stalls include cakes, plants, tombola, bric-a-brac, raffle & refreshments. If there are any budding gardeners or bakers who would be willing to donate to our plant & cake stalls, it would be very much appreciated. Hope to see you there.

Qualifying Residents

Are you 65 or over? Do you live in the Purton Area? Do you know who your street warden is? We try to maintain an up-to-date list of the 'qualifying' residents in our area but it's not always possible to keep up with all the changes. If you answer 'yes' to the first two questions but have recently moved into the area or have been here a while but

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gsbricklaying@outlook.com

never received any communication from Purton & District Age Concern, please contact Georgina, our secretary, to find out what services we offer and who the street warden is for your patch. Email: secretary@purtonageconcern.com or call 07966 222967.

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 are currently running until the summer holidays.

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 your smoke alarms are not working properly then call them on 01225 256867.

Pheonix – 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, as well as 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, walkers, crutches and walking sticks available to borrow, so if you think you might need any of these at any time then ring me on 778119. If you have any NHS equipment (not toiletry or boots) that you no longer require, please contact Sue Richardson on 772581 so that she can return them to the surgery or hospital. Some of these are being disposed of when they should be returned, and that is not acceptable.

Peter Berry, Chairman

A wonderful birthday bring and share



As we both have our birthdays the same weekend... and always during Christian Aid Week... we decided to join together to celebrate our joint 75ths in St Mary's Church with a bring & share picnic lunch to welcome friends and to raise funds for Christian Aid at the same time. Everyone was welcome and about 120 people came!

They were asked 'no presents please, just your presence' plus a plate of food to share, or a contribution in the

collecting box. To our shock, surprise and delight 120 plates of fantastic food arrived and there was well over £530 in the Christian Aid bucket.

We would like to thank everyone for their generosity and friendship. St Mary's church was buzzing with activity all day and was a wonderful venue for such a gathering. Thank you all very much for supporting us so generously.

Libbie and Sandra

Purton Annual Flower Arts Craft & Produce Show 2023

Show schedules are available from various outlets, including Toomers Garden Centre, Dora's Kiosk, One Stop, Co-Op, Pips Community Café, Hair by Val and Jodie, Chelworth Nurseries and The Bell at Purton Stoke. Committee members are also delivering schedules to as many of last year's entrants as possible. If anyone is having difficulty obtaining one, please contact me.

We will be holding two booking-in sessions to receive entry forms prior to the show: Wednesday 16th August at Pips from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and at The Red House from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. I can also receive entries at 3 Orchard Gardens, Purton before the show, but all entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Wednesday 19th August. The exception

being children's entries, which will be accepted until 10 a.m. on the day of the show. Having the entries in advance enables us to plan the space required for exhibits and helps us to set up the hall.

Mike Lawrence will be contacting last year's cup winners reminding them to return the cups to him by 1st August. The cups will be cleaned and made ready for this year's presentations.

Entry to the show is by donation. As we have had additional help on show day, we are pleased that we will be able to serve refreshments this year. All profits are donated to the Royal British Legion.

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

Ten Years Ago...

Food was a recurring theme in Purton Magazine for July 2013. The former head of a government agency had declared that “we are only nine meals from anarchy”. The body had been dissolved in 2006; one imagines that the government did not appreciate the message. Nevertheless, the point was made that if supplies to supermarkets were interrupted, say by a shortage in diesel fuel or industrial inaction, then Britain would panic-buy and descend into chaos. As the article says: “the baked beans would run out”. There was a buying spree a couple of years ago but all we ran out of was toilet paper.

With some of these worries in mind, a group of Purtonians went to London for a rally arranged by a campaign called “IF”. It claimed

that (and I agree that the figure is shocking) 7.3 million children died of malnutrition every year, though by the end of the article it had already decreased to 2 million. One of the remedies proposed was for the UK government to end tax havens. With such wonky statistics and bizarre policies, it is no surprise that the campaign disappeared without trace.

But what of Purton itself? There was a letter from an old villager, now living in New Zealand, encouraging us to go to the pub and naming his preference. Meanwhile, the Friends of St. Mary’s were given a talk on the architecture of the church. “Special focus was given to the extensive alterations made by the Victorians who, having installed ... the pews, are



responsible for much of the overall look of St. Mary’s as we know it today”. I wonder what the Victorians would say now.

Purton Cricket Club noted that it won its first match by 111 runs – in 1834. No mention was made of results in the current season. To end with the food theme – the Brownie Pack holiday report, written by a young participant, consisted almost entirely of cooking, burning and eating food. But she did say that “the thing I liked most was being with all my friends”.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Hillside, Station Road, Willow Brook, Bamford Close, Shaftesbury Close, Smiths Court, The Sidings, Widham, Clardon, New Road, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Course Meadow and South View.*

12/23

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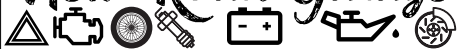



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02/24

Purton Club

Did you know that the Purton Working Men's Club, now the Purton Club, is over 130 years old – that's as old as Marks & Spencer's! The records from the 1911 census show that the club was run by Elizabeth Watts aided by her daughter Edith, who was 26 at the time. Edith's husband William Watts worked as a striker (metal worker), more than likely in the GWR works as many people from the village did

Edith was born in Wroughton in 1863 and William came from Thatcham and was born in 1864. They also lived with Elizabeth's niece, Hilda Denniss, who was 8, and attended school, presumably the new National School which opened in 1861.

It was possibly formed as a club before 1911, but records are hard to find. I do know however that around this time there must have been a lot of clubs being set up because it prompted the government to bring in the Friendly Society Act on the 1st January 1896 in order to keep tabs on the finances and general running of the clubs. The 1st January was when the club was audited when it was part of the friendly society. It is now a private club, but still run according to the constitution drawn up as a further requirement of the 1861 act.

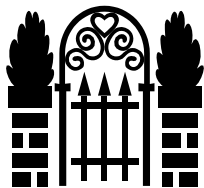
Before our technological age of TV and video games etc, clubs played an important part in village life. There was a football team as well as the other usual pub games. Day trips and social events were organised, such as childrens' and pensioners' parties. Interestingly, ladies were welcome at the club, although they had their own room to meet in and didn't mix with the men – thank goodness times have changed.

There is not a lot of written history of the club, but it appears that Edith stayed on after her mother's death and ran the club until she died sometime in the late 1930s or early 40s, because Alex Ockwell of Purton has told me that her mother, Betty Pell-Bitton, ran the club after she was bombed out of three properties in London during the war. Fed up with the blitz on London, she came home to Blunsdon and applied for the job of stewardess at the club, she left around 1966.

Alex told me that the first thing that her mother did was to remove the brass spittoons from the bar floor (yuk!). She also remembers being told that before it became the club it was known as Rose Cottage. I have not been able to verify this because records are a bit sketchy. Although times have changed, the club still survives and Matt and Louisa have been running it for over 20 years and it's through their hard work, determination and management that it is still part of

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village life. New members are always welcome and let's hope it's still there in another 100 years.

If anyone reading this has any information regarding the history or anecdotes of the club, I would be glad to hear them. Please contact me by email to: gerry.white@virgin.net

There are some interesting photos to be seen as well as a presidential chain of office in the Purton Museum. The presidential chain was last worn by Mr F.J. Woodward for his services to the club from 1948 to 1955.

Gerry White (club Chairman)

Bradon Forest School

We have several vacancies on the Governing Board of Bradon Forest Secondary school and would like to invite members of the local community with the right skills and interests to apply. Schools are complex businesses in their own right and over recent years, changes to the way schools are run have influenced both the day-to-day managerial function of headteachers and the more strategic role of governing bodies. One consequence of this is that governors recruited from the community are highly valued for their skills, experience and objectivity they bring to decision making.

Governors are lay people who have an interest in the role of schools in society and wish to make a positive contribution to their communities. Bradon Forest has recently had a successful Ofsted inspection with the school receiving a 'Good' rating and the governing body's overriding responsibility is to promote continuous improvement in

the performance of the school to an 'Outstanding' rating. This requires effective strategic management involving the establishment of a development plan, the setting of challenging but achievable targets and the interpretation of management information to accurately assess progress and determine appropriate action. Typically a governor's duties will average out at around 12 hours of spare time per month.

We are looking for lay people who have an interest in Bradon Forest in society and wish to make a positive contribution to their communities. Governors need to have enquiring minds, the ability to contribute to debates and plans, and have the confidence to ask the questions that need to be asked. If you are interested, please contact Heather Large, Clerk to the Governors on hlarge@bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk or 07746 359827.



BRADON FOREST SCHOOL



SUMMER OPEN MORNINGS 2023

**Tuesday 11 & Wednesday 12 July
9.15am - 10.30am**



Booking is essential:
<http://www.tinyurl.com/BradonForestEvents>

Purton Historical Society



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 be able identify many of the boundary reference points. The walk will begin at 7 p.m. at the car park beside the Cricklade Rugby Club pitch, aiming to finish in the town itself at about 9 p.m. We will be walking on both unmade country footpaths and tarmac roads and paths.

Please note this is an evening walk.

Meet at Cricklade Rugby Pitch Car Park at 7 p.m., return by 9 p.m. (approx)

Next Regular Meeting:

Thursday 28th September, Methodist Church, Play Close, Purton

Everybody welcome, free for members, guests £3

Portraits Of Elizabeth I – A talk by Dr Gill White

(This replaces the talk advertised earlier)

This talk examines the portraiture of 'Good Queen Bess' and traces the development of an English icon, from tentative beginnings to the triumph of royal propaganda. As a young girl, Elizabeth was a minor cog in the machinery of the Tudor dynasty, destined to move from docile and obedient daughter to modest and submissive wife. As queen, Elizabeth and her ministers struggled to find a suitable visual image but with passing years her image grew in confidence until the realm of England became too small a canvas and Elizabeth triumphed as Queen, Empress and Goddess.

*Keith Allsop,
email: allsopk83@hotmail.com*

Purton Craft Market

We are delighted to welcome you to Purton Craft Market!

We are hosting craft market to share the talent and local crafts we have in and around the village, with everyone. The markets will be held on the following Sundays:

- 16th July
- 15th October

- 17th December

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

Sue Richardson:
01793 772581
tonysuerichardson@gmail.com
Facebook Page: [facebook.com/purtoncraftmarket](https://www.facebook.com/purtoncraftmarket)



Purton Village Diary - July 2023

1	Sa		Canada Day
		7.30pm	Purton Historical Society Bradon Boundary walk
2	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Service at Purton Methodist Church
3	M		Wimbledon fortnight begins
		7.30pm	Wootton Bassett Amateur Gardening Club meet at RWB Memorial Hall for a talk from Abigail Ballinger entitled 'Somerset - a county of glorious gardens'
4	Tu		American Independence Day
9	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
10	M	10.00am	Purton WI meet at Silver Threads hall for a talk from Jenny Barnes about Purton's shops in the 1960s
		7.00pm	Purton Parish Council full meeting at the Village Hall
11	Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus club meet at Hook Village Hall
12	W	2.30pm	Welcome to All Club at Purton Methodist Church
14	F		Bastille Day
		7.30pm	The Spotlight Choir perform at Purton Methodist Church
15	Sa		St Swithun's Day
16	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Church for all at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
17	M	1.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship lunch at The Bolingbroke Hotel
20	Th		The FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 begins and continues until 20th August, hosted by Australia and New Zealand.
23	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
25	Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus club meet at Hook Village Hall
30	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church

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

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	2.00pm	to 4.30pm Purton Library open
	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 Profferings

- We have a Maclaren Major pushchair designed specially for an older child who is not able to walk very far. Suitable for age 3 to 8 years, one careful user and in good condition. Free to the right home, but a donation to Christian Aid would be appreciated. Libbie 771018

Purton Placard

The Spotlight Choir

led by Sharon Lloyd and Mary Rose perform on Friday 14th July at 7.30 p.m. at Purton Methodist Church. Tickets cost £5, including refreshments, and can be obtained from Rose Stump (770564) and Sylvia Freemantle (770686).



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Purton WI

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July Nature Correspondent

A Day's Fishing

I thought my angling days were over, but a chance meeting with a keen member of The Piscatorial Society in the snow by my house in Avebury made me think again. It subsequently led to an invitation to join him for a day on a prime stretch of the Wiltshire Avon.

It was balmy weather when we met below the Society's rod room at midday. We began by walking along three stretches of water, my friend using polaroid glasses to detect the fish. A few mayflies and sedges were spotted, an indication as to what artificial flies to use. Whilst he searched for fish "rising" on the surface of the water I was quietly noting the birds in this beautiful and unspoilt habitat: a pair of Little Grebes, a family of Grey Wagtails, Blackcaps, Reed, Garden and Cetti's Warblers chattering in the dense vegetation and suddenly a flash of iridescent greenish-blue: a Kingfisher!

The rod room, with its imposing committee round table and circle of surrounding chairs is a fisherman's shrine: a selection of tied flies offered for sale in little boxes, various fly-fishing books, a log book in which to record your catch, a stuffed trout in a glass case and a portrait of Izaak Walton, author of "The Complete Angler."

Now it was time to cast our lines: my fly was tied, a French Partridge Mayfly, neatly trimmed with a pair of snippers and sprayed with a dry



fly dressing. Though my delivery was erratic and unpredictable I just about demonstrated the required basic level and was good to go. I needed to relax and lengthen my back flip and adopt more of a hammer action on the return. Then there was a drag on the line as it moved downstream, requiring a little flick to prevent unnatural movement. It was all too easy to snag your fly on the vegetation behind, or the flag irises and reed stems at the water's edge.

Happy to have some time on his own, my friend landed a two-pound trout. The society recommends hooks without barbs, which means keeping the line taut until the fish is landed and fish are put back slowly and carefully, head upstream. Not totally outdone I hooked a small trout and then a grayling, slim and silver-grey.

I am not sure what next with my return to the river bank, but I left the water's edge as beautiful banded demoiselles danced over the Avon's clear waters in the golden evening light.

Robin Nelson, Commissioned by Tower & Town, Marlborough

Church Floodlighting



June 7 St Mary's was floodlit for **Jane Hedges** on what would have been her 60th birthday. Sarah Hedges and family.

July 23 St. Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of our dear Father and Husband **James (Joe) Moran**; a year since his passing. Dearly loved and missed by his four children: Julie, Chris, Anna, Rachel and his ever loving wife (our wonderful Mum) Julia Moran.

For July, the floodlighting bookings will start at 9.00pm and the lights will stay on until midnight. 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.

Swindon Croquet Club

Swindon Croquet Club remain unbeaten in The South West Level Play League after an exhilarating victory over Bath at Moredon Sports Complex.

Amazingly eight of the 20 games finished on the golden (deciding) hoop with a 7 - 6 scoreline. SCC won six of these closely contested games which contributed massively to the impressive 13 - 7 overall victory. Team

Captain, Terry Clements, commented that he was ecstatic after this success in his first match as captain and was proud of the commitment, team spirit and desire to win that the whole team displayed.



Photo (L-R): Colin Bailey, Colin Goodall, Simon Cooper-Tydemann, Terry Clements (Captain), Steve Hares, Tony Mayer



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Mini crossword

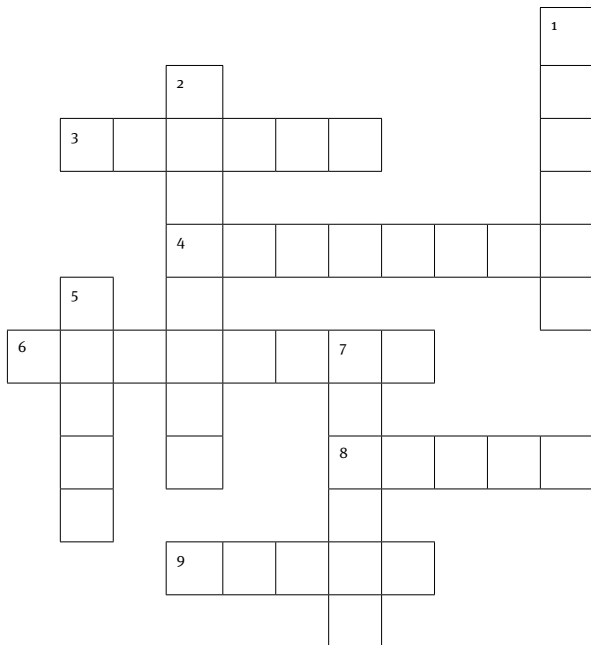
Here is the next in our series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun. Again there are no prizes but the answers to June's puzzle are 1D) Fathers 2A) Day 3D) Summer 4D) Solstice 5A) Moon 6A) Strawberry 7D) Rose 8A) Pearl

This month there are nine clues.

- 3 across Place of worship (6)
- 4 across Sedimentary rock (9)
- 6 across Middle ages (8)
- 8 across Steeple (5)
- 9 across Tall structure (5)
- 1 down Registered (6)
- 2 down Construction (8)
- 5 down They may toll or peal (5)
- 7 down Walkways (6)

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



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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.



Thank you

We would like to thank everyone for their continued help and support of our mum Bernice Seviour. It has been 7 years since our dad died, with my sister in America and my own health issues, we are lucky that she has such a wonderful group of amazing friends.

Love from Penni, Elena, Joey, the Grandchildren and all the Cornish Clan



John Griffin

We'd like to thank everyone who sent cards and condolences following the passing of John Edward Griffin. Revd Judith Wells led a lovely service at North Wiltshire Crematorium and we were able to share lots of cherished memories, thank you Judith. We really appreciated everyone's generosity in raising £320.17 in John's memory for Brighter Futures.

From May and all the family

St Swithin's Day: 15th July

If you're on your summer holidays or looking forward to breaking up from school soon, you're probably hoping for a bit of sun. But what if it rained non-stop for 40 days?

Well, 15 July is St Swithin's Day. It takes place each year, and according to traditional folklore, whatever the weather is like on St Swithin's Day - whether rain or sunshine - it will continue for the next 40 days and 40 nights.

But where does this legend come from and is there any truth to it?

What is the story of St Swithin?

The old poem goes like this...

"St Swithin's Day, if it does rain

Full forty days, it will remain

St Swithin's Day, if it be fair

For forty days, t'will rain no more"

Swithin was a man born in or around the year 800. He became Bishop of Winchester.

Unlike other religious figures, he asked not to be buried in a prominent place within Winchester Cathedral, but outside in a simple tomb "where the sweet rain of heaven may fall upon my grave".

The legend says after his remains were moved inside there was a great storm and it rained for many weeks after.

According to the old saying, if it rains on St Swithin's Day it will rain for the next

40 days. If St Swithun's Day is dry, the next 40 days will also be dry.

No one takes the prediction literally - in fact, few take it seriously! - and there is definitely no statistical evidence to support the claim.

Weather experts say that since records began in 1861, there has never been a record of 40 dry or 40 wet days in a row following St Swithun's Day.

Source: BBC

Pictured: Swithun at St-Swithun-upon-Kingsgate, Winchester



Royal Swan Upping: 17th-21st July 2023

Swan Upping plays an important role in the conservation of the mute swan and involves The King's Swan Warden collecting data, assessing the health of young cygnets and examining them for any injuries. Cygnets are extremely vulnerable at this early stage in their development and Swan Upping affords an opportunity to help both adults and cygnets that might otherwise go untreated.

The Royal Swan Uppers, who wear the scarlet uniform of His Majesty The King, travel in traditional rowing skiffs together with Swan Uppers from the Vintners' and Dyers' livery companies. Many schools are invited to meet the Swan Uppers on their journey up river. The children involved may have the opportunity to view cygnets at close quarters and ask questions about swans, the boats used and The King's ownership of mute swans. The participation of school children is a positive element of Swan Upping and

their enthusiasm for wildlife is always to be encouraged.

Swan Upping will begin on Monday 17th July; the observation points for the annual census and health check of swans and cygnets on the River Thames are listed below.

Monday 17th July 2023

Sunbury Lock Cut 09.00
Shepperton Lock 10.15
Penton Hook Lock 12.30
Romney Lock 17.30

Tuesday 18th July 2023

Eton Bridge 08.30
Boveney Lock 09.15
Boulters Lock 12.30
Cookham Bridge 13.30
Marlow Lock 17.30

Wednesday 19th July 2023

Marlow Bridge 09.00
Hurley Lock 10.30
Hambleden Lock 12.00
Henley Town 13.15
Marsh Lock 15.30

Shiplake Lock 17.00
Sonning Bridge 18.00

Thursday 20th July 2023

Sonning-on-Thames 09.00
Caversham Lock 10.15
Mapledurham Lock 12.30
Goring Lock 17.00
Moulsford 18.00

Friday 21st July 2023

Moulsford 09.00
Benson Lock 10.00
Clifton Hampden Bridge 13.00
Culham Lock 16.15
Abingdon Bridge 17.00

Source: royalswan.co.uk

Purton Museum News

Music played an important part in the leisure activities of Purtonians in the late 19th century.

On 19th December 1879 'An Amateur Evening Concert' was held in the National School Room. with proceeds devoted to the school funds. The concert was in two parts and was conducted by Mr James Hudson, the incumbent headmaster. Included in the programme were "Nancy Lee", sung by Captain Wykeham-Martin and "Forgive and Forget", sung by the school boys, while "The Flying Dutchman" was performed as a pianoforte duet by Mrs and Miss Veysey, wife and daughter of the vicar.

Three years later, in February 1882, 'A Grand Evening of Entertainment' took place in the hall of Purton Institute in aid of the pianoforte fund under the distinguished patronage of Messrs Maskelyne, J and S Sadler, Waldegrave, Russel, Shopland, Captain Wykeham-Martin and Reverend Veysey. In part

two of the concert, the audience were treated to "An Illustration of the Works of Charles Dickens, consisting of the famous Trial Scene – Bardwell vs Pickwick." Admission for front, numbered and reserved seats was two shillings with unreserved seats at one shilling. All were available from Mr Kempster. The national anthem was sung bringing the evening to a close.

The original programmes for both concerts and photographs of Purton Old Band in 1897 and The Purton Bohemian Dance Band at the Angel Hotel c.1927 are on display as part of the Purton at Leisure Exhibition.

Purton Age Concern and Purton WI will exhibit their memorabilia until the end of October.

Purton Museum is open on Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and admission is free.

Lucy Lewis, Museum Archivist

We Record...

Funeral at North Wiltshire Crematorium

31 May 2023 John Edward Griffin (88)



After 8



Our artist-in-residence, Barbara Gosden, gave us a fascinating introduction to the subject of colour.

Colour has played an important part in the story of humankind, from prehistoric times to the present day. Colour has been used throughout the centuries as a way of distinguishing different properties or to relay information such as the status of an individual and the groups to which they belong, for warning signs, communication and to create art, both secular and religious.

Early artists worked with a very restricted palette. They were limited to what they could extract from the ground, plants or insects. Trade in pigments, through the agency of “colourmen”, was conducted across the known world. Not until the 19th century were ready-made pigments generally available at much reduced cost and ease of use.

In Antwerp in 1521 lapis lazuli, a mineral from Afghanistan which was ground to a rough powder to produce a long-lasting true blue pigment, cost 100 times more than other earth pigments. It was transported along the Silk Road by camel, donkey and horse. The name comes from the Latin for “beyond” (ultra) and “sea” (mare). If patrons required the use of lapis lazuli, the artist charged them according to the amount used.

In 1775 a Swedish chemist, Carl Scheele, discovered that a green pigment could be produced from copper arsenite. Green

became very popular, for wallpaper, fabrics, toys, and artificial flowers. It took many decades to verify that the cause of an increase in unexplained deaths was due to the high arsenic content in the Scheele’s green pigment. In the 1870’s a six inch square sample of paper was found to contain enough arsenic to kill two adults.

The invention of the flexible tin paint tube in 1841 had a profound effect on the art world, for it allowed artists to work in any outdoor location. According to Renoir, without paint in tubes there would have been no Impressionists.

The girl-pink and boy-blue divide only dates from the mid 20th century. Pink, which is just a faded red, was considered more masculine than blue. Soldiers wore red jackets and cardinals were robed in red. In 1918 a trade publication stated that pink was “the more decided and stronger colour”, while blue was “more delicate and dainty.” The Virgin Mary was almost always depicted wearing blue.

We had little time to think about whether colour, as an entity in itself, actually exists. Light-sensitive cells, our rods and cones, transform these photons into electrical signals to our brains, where the visual cortex converts them into colour. David Hume, 18th century philosopher wrote “colour is merely a phantasm of the senses”. As “beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” so perhaps is colour.

Mary

Purton Tennis Club



The first two weeks of July is of course Wimbledon Fortnight, when the top players from all around the world gather in London to play on the beautiful grass courts at Wimbledon. At Purton we play on hard courts, but, thanks to our maintenance crew, they too look good. We have recently had our courts next to the pavilion treated and repainted. They look great and are a pleasure to play on.

The summer league is in full swing. Our ladies A, our mixed A & B and our men's B are all doing exceptionally well at the moment. The mixed B is currently top of division 3 and the Purton players are also top of the stats. Well done to all the teams.

News from the Juniors – Nicola Gardner writes:

The Saturday morning sessions for junior members are now well under way and a total of 28 children have attended. The first group is the larger one and the children are enthusiastically learning their strokes and improving week on week. In the second group, the emphasis is learning how to play matches, both singles and doubles.

This practice is invaluable for those who have taken part in the matches of the Wiltshire Youth League. To date the 16U Boys team has played two matches, winning one and losing one. The first match against Marlborough was a very close affair with all four boys playing in their first competitive matches for their respective clubs. Callum Reed and Charlie Barlow both won their singles' matches before teaming up to battle through a very tense doubles match in the deciding match tie-break by 11 points to 9! The second match against Chippenham saw Charlie and Josca Sear-Watkins come up against more experienced players and we struggled to win a few games.

The 14U Boys have played just the one match against an extremely strong Ramsbury side. Ramsbury had the 12U Wiltshire Champion playing for them plus another boy who represents the county, so both Josca and Will Togher were up against it. Both boys were on the wrong side of the scoreline, but I am sure that they will come back enthusiastically for the next match against Wootton Bassett.

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

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News from Purton Methodist Church

A reminder that the concert given by The Spotlight Choir led by Sharon Lloyd and Mary Rose takes place this month on Friday 14th July at 7.30 p.m. at

Purton Methodist Church. Tickets cost £5, including refreshments, and can be obtained from Rose Stump (770564) and Sylvia Freemantle (770686).

Purton & District Probus Club



At our first May meeting on Tuesday the 9th, one of our own members, John Clark, gave an illustrated talk entitled “Life in the Fast Lane”. Our speaker has in the past addressed us with “Building the Pyramids”, “Metal Detectors” and “The French Trench Cleaners of World War One”.

It all started in Manchester with Soap Box Racing where, encouraged by his dad, he built one or two successful models, but suffering a crash, now carries a scar on his top lip. His enthusiasm for motor racing at this time was also stimulated by regular sessions with “The Chequered Flag” organisation, essentially a Go-Kart racing club, but whose members were also keen to convert standard and vintage models to racing cars.

Academic learning for John was eclipsed by his passion for racing and engines. Hence, while at Technical College, his spare time was given to converting a cheap and rusting Austin 7A into a racing model with a skeletal wooden framework, a low profile body and a supercharged engine, now 12 h.p. (was 7 h.p.). After some local success with the Austin, the next conversion of a souped-up BMW Series 3, took John’s team to the European Touring Car Championship Rally in Belgium. An off-road car rebuilt at this time was a racing model Mark 18Z.

As a career move, John was recruited into the Army Engineers to work on the Tank Developments. His qualifications gave him an NCO’s rank of full Corporal. The members of this regiment were technocrats rather than soldiers. The Chieftain Tank was a great improvement on the earlier Centurion. As the ‘sporting element’ of his service, John succeeded in creating an early version of the British Army Motoring Association. Here he joined up with Robert Cooper, an officer in the

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Royal Prince Albert Hussars, a cavalry regiment, but a man who had similar interests in racing cars and competitions as himself. As the B.A.M.A., they competed in the London to Mexico Rally in an Aston Martin V8, finishing well up. Other rallies and races followed.

After nine years in the Wessex Yeomanry, with considerable success in racing competitions, John had what he refers to as his lucky break. Robert, whose father owned the Gypsy Lane Metal Yard, indicated that he would like to enlarge his interest in racing cars and offered John an appointment as manager of his stable of cars. John seized this opportunity to rebuild some of the better cars; Masseratis, Ferraris, etc.

In the late 60s and early 70s, John and his company had surely arrived in the fast lane. This was the time that Colin Chapman, famous in the racing field, had stated: "More Power = faster on the straight. Less weight = faster everywhere". Lighter cars were more expensive to build. Magnesium wheels, a third lighter than aluminium alloy were more costly and aerodynamics played a part in stability at speed, which also added cost.

However John's company continued to build cars and compete worldwide, rubbing shoulders with the likes of Stirling Moss (Aston Martin DBR1 at Le Mans), Graham Hill (Lotus 15, Le Mans) and Jim Clark (Lotus 23B, 1978). In 1972, John with a large team of engineers, worked on three BMW cars to compete in the German Touring Car Championship in Munich.

Our Speaker said that they even rebuilt one of Jack Brabham's renowned cars and that at home he has a treasured photograph of himself driving an open top Tourer at 167 miles per hour, the picture taken from the foot-well of the passenger seat. Those were exciting times and the talk conjured up great memories.

Dr Gill White was invited to speak at the Purton Probus for the second time within a year and members and guests were treated to an excellent presentation on the subject of the Portraits of Queen Elizabeth I.

Gill studied History at Warwick University and in her early career was employed at Hardwick Hall, which is an architecturally significant country house from the Elizabethan era. Dr White later completed her PhD based on what she learnt at Hardwick. She has subsequently been a lecturer at the University of Leicester and at higher education institutions in Oxfordshire as well as doing lecture tours.

Gill began her talk by pointing out the difference between the likeness and realism of portrayals of modern monarchs compared to the symbolism prevalent in Elizabethan times; what Gill referred to as ‘Elizabethan spin-doctoring’! What this basically means is that each portrait contains a series of hidden messages. The first example of this is Holbein’s painting of Henry VIII, which is crafted to create a hierarchy with Henry in the centre symbolising him very much as the ‘King’. To his side is the future king Edward, who is the future male heir. Also in the painting is Jane Seymour, although already dead, as she has ‘done her job’ of producing this male heir. In dutiful poses to the left and right are the two daughters – Mary Tudor and Elizabeth. Neither was meant to be a queen but intended for the role of ‘wife’ in a foreign country, thus fulfilling a diplomatic role.

The next portrait we were shown was of Elizabeth at age 13 on the edge of adulthood and marriageable in the near future. She is dressed in red – the colour of royalty and power, in a bedroom symbolising a ‘a closed, domestic, safe setting’. Her jewellery is symbolic of royal wealth, i.e. pearls and diamonds set in gold with the diamonds set in a cross rather than a crucifix, which is symbolic of a ‘reformed’ religion. In the portrait, Elizabeth is holding a book and she is surrounded by more books to demonstrate her education and value as a future wife.

The Coronation Portrait of 1559, when Elizabeth ascended to the throne, symbolises monarchy and is not an accurate visual representation. Here the young queen is wrapped in a cloth of gold and holding a sceptre representing majesty, power and victory. A later portrait – the ‘Hampden’ – is a full length painting meant to symbolise a royal ‘bride’ although, of course, Elizabeth never married. In fact, the Queen nearly died of smallpox shortly before this portrait was completed and the subsequent pock marks left by the disease are disguised by white paste. This was repeated in any portrait completed after Elizabeth’s 39th birthday and is referred to as “the mask of youth”.

Probus members were shown a succession of further portraits such as the “Allegory of the Tudor Succession” (1572) where Elizabeth is portrayed as representing peace as opposed to Mary Tudor and Phillip II of Spain, who both represent war in the painting. Perhaps one of the most interesting later portraits is the “Armada” painting of 1588. Here in the background behind the Queen are two scenes from this famous sea battle. On one side, the English fleet is painted

in bright colours as opposed to the Spanish fleet portrayed in virtual darkness. In the portrait, the queen's hand rests on a representation of the Americas indicating that they are hers. In contrast, in the "Rainbow" portrait (1600-03), the rainbow symbolises peace and interestingly there is no sun in the painting because Elizabeth herself is the representation of the sun – the bringer of peace. Finally, we were shown the painting of Elizabeth completed after her death, aged 69. In this painting, she is depicted as 'old and weary' of her responsibilities; during her lifetime no artist would have dared to portray the monarch in such a pose.

Dr Gill White is particularly popular at Purton Proboscis meetings because of the gusto and expertise that she displays, making her talks meaningful yet entertaining, no matter what one's normal reaction to history and historical paintings might be.

Purton and District PROBUS Club meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in Hook Village Hall. Visitors and new members are very welcome.

John Slaght

Avebury Vocal Ensemble Concert

The United Kingdom has a unique and rich choral tradition dating back many centuries. That includes lots of choral societies and chamber ensembles which indulge in the singing for pleasure of music both sacred and secular – we in AVE (Avebury Vocal Ensemble) are proud to continue that tradition well into the 21st Century.

Our next concert is at 6.00 p.m. in St. Mary the Virgin church, Ashbury on Sunday 2nd July and includes four works by William Byrd (two secular and two sacred) who died 400 years ago this year.

While music continued to be written in the intervening years by the likes of Handel, Purcell and Wesley, we include three works by the lesser-known composer William Harris who died 50 years ago. Other songs in the programme were written by some better-known English composers such as Charles Stanford (Te Deum), Hubert Parry (I was Glad), Arthur Sullivan (The Long Day Closes) and Edward Elgar. Elgar's composition is a choral arrangement of Nimrod from his famous Enigma Variations set to the Latin text 'Lux Aeterna' while the choir makes no apology for giving another airing to Handel's Zadok The Priest despite – perhaps because of – the recent coronation service.



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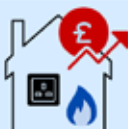
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