

October 2023

# Purton Magazine



An independent monthly publication of news, views, events and information from and for the Parish of Purton, Wiltshire.

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# Purton Contacts

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Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Tuesdays 2.00-7.00pm Fridays 2.00-4.30pm)</i>		
Museum	Marion Hobbs	770185
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
Scottish & Southern Electric	24hr network failure line	0800 727282
Thames Water	Report leaks, blockages, pollution, supply issues etc	thameswater.co.uk/help/report-a-problem
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Lindsey Hall	771890
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, <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> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/">www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/</a>		

## **Schools & Playgroups**

Bradon Forest School	Secretary	770570
St Mary's Primary School & Nursery	Office	770239

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk](http://www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk)

Priest: Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues Tel: 852366

Lucas Rodrigues

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

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

Priest: Father Michael Robertson 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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**Printed by:** Hulbert & Woodall Print,  
Royal Wootton Bassett.

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**Copy & advertising deadline:** 10th of each  
month, please to: Purton Magazine,  
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Front cover image: Kempsters Court,  
Purton High Street.

Credit: Gary Boyle

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# From the Editors

October 2023  
Volume 45 No.10  
1st Published 1975

The contents of this issue of your magazine can be book-ended with two appropriate quotations. The first is attributed to none other than Albert Einstein “*Strive not to be a success but rather to be of value.*” Pips, Purton’s Community Café has certainly achieved that, quickly becoming of huge value to the village. Now operating in the Silver Threads hall opposite the village cenotaph, it provides sustenance and a meeting place on five days a week but only thanks to many volunteers. On page 25 we learn that volunteers work in the kitchen, on the till and serving customers as well as those who make (and often donate) cakes and soups at home for sale in Pips. With increasing numbers of customers, volunteers are always needed and some youngsters are even using it as part of their Duke of Edinburgh project.

Pips has just completed a fantastic year – so much so that the surplus income has again been shared between 22 good causes (including your magazine, see page 27) chosen by the volunteers and allocated between the mostly local good causes by all the volunteers themselves. Certainly, Pips is providing value for customers as well as the community from its continued success, deserving the fulsome congratulations the team regularly receives.

The Purton Community Fridge is one year old this month – see page 23. Managed by a brilliant team of volunteers (and situated in the entrance to Pips) the fridge has regular supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables as well as many items from the local community including Purton House Organics and bakery items from the Co-op shop.

Conquering London has almost a gladiatorial feeling and when reading the article on page 46 we are treated to a story of a most amazing personal achievement. The London Classics challenge was created in 2017 to recognise and reward the quietly growing band of participants who had completed three tough challenges; namely the London Marathon, the RideLondon 100 and the two mile Serpentine swim. Everyone who completes all three gruelling events receives a magnificent (and heavy) London Classics medal and is listed in the Hall of Fame. One such Purtonian has recently completed this amazing achievement and her story is well worth the read, see page 46. In the light of that article, the closing quotation that seems most apt comes from Nelson Mandela – “*It always seems impossible until it is done.*”

---

**22**

Good causes received donations from Pips' surplus share out.  
See page 25

**25**

Walkers enjoyed superb weather on the annual village walk. See page 6

**29**

Dogs took part in the National Dog Day event at White Lodge. See page 57

# Purton Parish Council News



## ***Annual Village Walk***

On Sunday 3rd of September the Annual Village walk took place, following its usual route starting from the College Road Layby.

With unexpectedly superb weather for the time of year, the group was delighted to welcome 25 people, to share the lovely 3 ¾ mile walk around some of the greener areas of the village.

Starting at 2pm this informal walk offered views of the rural landscape and key local sites, such as St Mary's Church spire, were enjoyed by all in the sunshine.

Should you wish to support or join our group please contact Purton Parish Council on 01793 771066.

## ***New Church Street Wild Areas***

Purton Parish Council will be creating three new wild areas on Church Street this autumn, as part of its work to support the environment and protect biodiversity.

The three sites, shown in dark green on the map below, are outside the Community Hub at the Purton Red House, next to Harry Waldron's Wall and another further down

from it. These two spaces will be cleared by our ground staff and seeded with wildflowers including hundreds of poppies.

This change comes as a result of both the council's engagement surveys which have highlighted local passion for the

environment, open spaces and maintaining and enhancing the aesthetics of the village as well as the ongoing work by Purton Council to become Carbon Neutral by 2030.

Costs have been kept low by using donated and gathered seeds and maintenance will also be minimal, just requiring a bi-annual cut and collection by our grounds team in spring and autumn.

To start with the area may look a little plain or even a little dishevelled at times as things take hold but year on year the area will increasingly come into its own with flora and mini beasts. The area will be signed to inform visitors of its purpose.



This autumn Purton Parish Council will also introduce a first tranche of homes for a variety of wildlife including those for hedgehogs, bugs, bats and birds. We'll bring you more details and updates as we move forwards.

We hope that everyone enjoys the new

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enhanced spaces and we ask everyone to remember that, whilst it will take a little time to come into fruition, it is being cared for. Also to refrain from parking in these areas.

### ***Donations To Your Community***

Purton Parish Council Finance & General Purposes Committee reviews funding for local community groups. Whilst things are a little quieter now, before the run up to Christmas, perhaps you may have time to consider what your group, club or society needs next and be looking for funding.

If so, you may like to contact our Parish Clerk, Debbie Lawrence to learn more on 01793 771066. You'll be able to discuss any potential projects, and criteria in more detail, so please do not hesitate to call to access help and advice.

You may also wish to note that our next round of donations is to be held in February 2024.

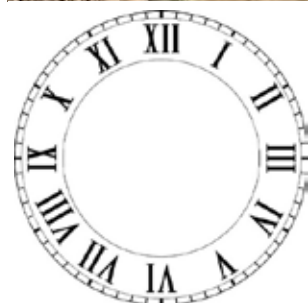
### ***Clocks go back on Sunday 29th October***

It'll be no surprise that the clocks will go back an hour on Sunday 29th of October, giving us all that precious extra hour in bed, but after reading through some archive files, we have rediscovered a little surprising history about the Purton Institute clock.

For the unaware, our clock has rung out over Purton since the institute was built in 1879. It was put in place for the ordinary people to use, as only grander homes of the time could afford clocks. It is understood that the makers J W Benson, also made clocks for Royalty, the Admiralty and the War Department. The clock was renovated in 2004 and was wound by Brian Broad and Allen

Bevington but was mechanised in 2019, so no longer needs winding.

What's both unusual and special about our clock (top right), is the way that the numbers four to eight are displayed in a way which is different to other Roman numeral clocks (bottom right).



So, as you think about putting your clocks back this October, you may like to take another peek at our unique clock at the Purton Institute!

### ***Purton Parish Council Children's Christmas Party 2023***

Tickets go on sale on Monday 2nd October, for the Purton Parish Council Children's Christmas Party, on Saturday 16th December, at Purton Village Hall!

At the Christmas party, children will be able to enjoy all the fun of Razzmatazz Entertainment! As well as a visit and gift from Father Christmas there will be a short snack time, where a drink and a biscuit will be provided.

Razzmatazz Entertainment starts at 10.00am and runs for about two hours, with visits to Father Christmas afterwards.

Both children resident in Purton and those living beyond the Parish, will now be able to attend.

Tickets are priced at £2 for children under 12, and £1 for adults. Prices will cover the extra costs of more children being able to come to the party.

For full details and a link to the terms and conditions, please see last months edition of the Purton Magazine or visit this link

QR Code: [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news-articles/purton-parish-council-childrens-christmas-party-2023](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news-articles/purton-parish-council-childrens-christmas-party-2023)



### ***Purton Parish Council Christmas Lights switch on 2023***

Purton Parish Council will be holding their annual Christmas Lights Switch On at Purton Red House from 4pm, on Saturday 2nd December!

All are welcome to attend the festive celebration, when the Christmas Lights will be switched on and live music will be played outside Purton Red House, by the Peartree Peelers Hand bells and the Lock down Brass band.

For full details, please see last months edition of the Purton Magazine or visit this link or QR Code:

[www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news-articles/purton-parish-council-christmas-lights-switch-on-2023](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news-articles/purton-parish-council-christmas-lights-switch-on-2023)



### ***Skate Park grind rail - Update regarding temporary ramps***

Following the request from young people to install a 'Grind Rail' at the Village Centre Skate Park this autumn, Purton Parish Council has also had a request to consider temporary skate ramps whilst the work takes place.

We'd like to thank the very polite and helpful young person who brought this positive suggestion forward but regrettably we have looked into this and it won't be possible at this time. It is however hoped that the installation of the Grind Rail will be completed this Autumn in approximately two weeks, so the skate park should only be closed for a short time.

### ***Residents give their views on Carbon Neutral Strategy***

In August Purton Parish Council launched a new survey to help it to work towards a Carbon Neutral future.

This survey is now closed, and data will now be provided to Councillors to consider at their next meeting on Monday 11th September.

Purton Parish Council would like to thank all those who gave their time to complete the surveys in order to guide local decision making.

### ***Residents give their views on the possible sale of the grassed area at Reid's Piece***

In August Purton Parish Council launched a new survey to help it to make decisions with regards to two pieces of land it owns at Reid's Piece. For the unfamiliar, this land was previously used as a play area and a Youth Club site. This survey is now closed, and data will now be provided to Councillors

to consider at their next meeting on Monday 11th September.

Purton Parish Council would like to thank all those who gave their time to complete the survey, in order to guide local decision making.

### ***Junior Football Pitch Enhancements***

Just to remind everyone about the re-turfing of this pitch, this autumn. This work will complete the package of improvements to the area for everyone's enjoyment.

We'd also like to advise of the risks to people and equipment, of both removal of goal net pegs and any attempts being made to climb the goal nets. This is because we would like to ensure that everyone can safely enjoy the pitch and that any future budget or grants can be used for further enhancing outdoor areas.

As ever, please remember to keep all our play areas clear of litter, by using the play area bins provided.

### ***Rise Trust Youth***

Our Youth Sessions will continue to operate from the Millenium Hall on Thursday nights from 7.00pm – 8.30pm for year 7s and above and remain FREE to attend.

As a reminder, the Christmas two week closure will be reduced to just one week (w/c 25th December) and sessions will return in the week beginning 3rd January 2024.

### ***Memorial Testing***

Purton Parish Council has completed Memorial Testing at Purton Cemetery. Currently we have 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 on [lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
The current graves, failing safety testing are:

PC/S/7 – Vyvyan  
PC/S/44 – Maltby  
PC/Burial/58 – Hiscock  
PC/Burial/50 – Parsons  
PC/Burial/53 – Brown  
PC/Burial/71 – Wheeler  
PC/Burial/101 – Jones  
PC/Burial/117 – Bristow  
PC/Burial/151 – Kennet  
PC/Burial/162 – Parsons  
PC/Burial/208 - Ricketts  
PC/Burial/220 - Simpkins  
PC/Burial/262 – Matthews  
PC/Burial/304 – Ardley  
PC/Burial/342 – Chapman  
PC/Burial/357 – Eatwell

### ***August Planning - Permission Granted***

- PL/2022/07371 Land adjacent Bridge Paddocks, Braydon Road, Leigh, Swindon, SN6 6RQ. Proposal: Creation of a 1 pitch Gypsy/Traveller site comprising the siting of 1 mobile home, 1 touring caravans, and the erection of 1 dayroom. Decision: Approve with Conditions.
- PL/2023/03951 27 Waite Meads Close, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4ET. Proposal: Proposed two storey side extension & single storey rear extension. (Resubmission of

- PL/2022/07482) Decision: Approve with Conditions.
- PL/2023/02134, 10 Manor Farm, Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke, SN5 4JG. Proposal: Existing window in kitchen to be replaced for a single leaf door and window. Decision: Approve with Conditions.
  - PL/2023/03013, Removal or Variation of a Condition. 103 Pavenhill, Purton, Swindon SN5 4DB. Proposal: Variation of Conditions 2 (Approved Plans) and 3 (Materials) of PL/2022/07967 (First floor front extension, amendment to previous approval PL/2022/03167 and two single garages). Decision: Approve with Conditions.
  - PL/2023/02890 38 Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke, SN5 4JG. Proposal: Replacement of existing single glazed windows to main house with like for like double glazed units. Decision: Approve with Conditions
  - PL/2023/04297, Purkini Farm, Purton Stoke, Wiltshire, SN5 4LJ. Erection of an agricultural building. Decision: Approve with Conditions
  - PL/2023/04944, Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. College Farm House, High Street, Purton SN5 4AE. Raise canopy up to 4m from ground level. T2 Silver Birch tree - Fell to ground level. Decision: No Objection
  - PL/2023/02778, 27 Upper Pavenhill, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4DQ. Proposal: Erection of two storey side, single storey rear extension and rear dormer. Decision: Approve with Conditions
  - PL/2023/05413, Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. 72 High Street, Purton SN5 4AD. T1 - Sycamore: Growing on verge next to the house and overhanging 'lay-by' area used for parking which is particularly busy in school drop off/pick up times. Seeing permission to reduce overall crown size by up to 30%. Decision: No Objection
  - PL/2023/04288, 2 Upper Pavenhill, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4DQ. Proposed two storey side extension and loft conversion (Resubmission of PL/2022/02772). Decision: Approve with Conditions
  - PL/2023/04352, Land at Packhorse Lane, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4HU. Proposal: Erection of a Single Dwelling House Following Outline Permission Ref PL/2022/06373. Decision: Approve with Conditions

### ***Permission Refused***

- PL/2022/0941, 67 Pavenhill, Purton, SN5 4DA. Proposal: Two storey rear extension and a single storey rear extension. Decision: Refuse
- PL/2023/04699, Approval of Reserved Matters, Land adjacent to 49 The Hyde Purton, SN5 4EA. Proposal: Erection of single dwelling access and parking following outline permission PL/2022/0384. Decision: Refuse

### ***September Planning - Permission Granted***

- PL/2023/04874, 6 The Peak Purton, Swindon, SN5 4AT. Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension & proposed detached annex. Decision: Approve with Conditions

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- PL/2023/05407, Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. 16 High Street Purton. Proposal: T1 - Ash tree, situated in the land belonging to Mrs Cook. Requesting permission to raise the canopy to approximately 6m all round to reduce encroachment onto the road, prune away from roofline to provide 2m clearance and prune away from phone line. Decision: No Objection
- PL/2023/05610 - Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. Land at Red House Social Club, Church Street Purton. Proposal: Tree survey has been carried out highlighting hazard works with priorities from 3 months to 12 months. Requesting permission to carry out all works highlighted in survey. Decision: No Objection
- PL/2023/05113, 17 Jubilee Estate, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4EU, Proposal: Single storey rear & side extension, solar panels, rear veranda and associated works. Decision: Approve with Conditions
- PL/2023/06124, Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area, 3B High Street, Purton SN5 4AA, Row of 4 Yews growing together forming a “Hedge” in the front garden. Requesting permission to tightly trim/prune by removing approximately 1 metre re-growth to re-formalise, and prune neighbours side back to the boundary wall. - 2no Lime trees on the boundary wall in the front garden. These two trees have been pollarded in the past and the re-growth is now encroaching on the public footpath and neighbouring property. Requesting

permission to re-pollard both trees back to previous points. Decision: No Objection

- PL/2023/05014, Newth’s Lane Barn, Newth’s Lane, Purton Stoke , Swindon, SN5 4JH. Change of use of land to equestrian use and erection of stables. Decision: Approve with Conditions

### ***Council meetings 2023***

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

Mon 9th Oct – Full Council Meeting

Mon 13th Nov – Full Council Meeting

Mon 11th Dec – Full Council Meeting

Mon 8th Jan 2024 – 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](http://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 forms which can be found at the link below. The Clerk is also available for an informal chat prior to completion of your application.

<https://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](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- Follow us on Facebook – @purtonparishcouncil

- Follow us on Twitter – @PurtonPC

### **Know who to contact**

- To volunteer for Community Emergency Volunteers contact: Emergency@KevinLaw.co.uk
- To access victim support if you have witnessed or been impacted by a crime call: 01225 256 925

### **Your local MP is James Gray MP:**

Email: jamesgraymp@parliament.uk

Tel: 0207 219 6237

### **Your local Wiltshire Councillor is Cllr Jacqui Lay:**

Tel: 01793 770 704

Email: Jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk

### **Report issues such as those below via - [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting):**

- pot holes
- abandoned vehicles
- fraud
- weather emergencies
- fly tipping
- dog mess
- graffiti

---

## **RBL Poppy Appeal 2023**

Please support the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal which will take place

from Saturday 28th October until Remembrance Sunday on the 12th November.

We are hoping there will be a House-to-House collection and poppies will be

available in many local businesses as usual. If anyone is unable to get a poppy or a Remembrance cross, please contact us and we will arrange delivery to you.

*Shirley and Michael Lawrence,  
Poppy Appeal Organisers  
Tel. 01793 771084 or email  
[the\\_lawrences@btinternet.com](mailto:the_lawrences@btinternet.com)*

---

## **Early warning: Next Jigsaw Sale**

### **Pips in Silver Threads Hall: Saturday November 4th: 10.30am**

I have been asked to hold another Jigsaw and Games Sale!

I said I would do it when the weather is cold, wet and miserable! So it was suggested I should have held it in July or

August! However, whatever the weather, please note the next Jigsaw Sale will be November 4th.

The sale will start at 10.30am...so you have time to get your Pips coffee and cake first!

*Libbie: 771018*

# Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



## ***Patient Satisfaction Survey***

You may have seen reported that in NHS England's annual independent survey Purton Surgery Receptionists received the highest overall rating for Patient Satisfaction in the area. Well done everyone!!

## ***Purton Pharmacy***

Members of the team at Purton Pharmacy are in regular touch with the surgery and one of the Pharmacists attended our recent PPG meeting. Don't forget that if you have prescribed medications which are no longer needed or are out of date then it's always safer to take them to a pharmacy for disposal.

## ***Donation from Pips***

We were delighted to receive recently a donation of £412.50 from Pips who have been donating their surplus to causes chosen by their volunteers.

## ***200 Club***

All profits from the 200 Club go to help purchase items for the surgery which are not provided by the NHS.

New members are welcome!!

The next year of the 200 Club starts on 1 October, payments are being taken and names



are now needed as soon as possible. The cost is just £15 a year and there are two prizes of £100 and £15 each month. If you would like to subscribe please do so as soon as possible. If you renew each year then you may want to consider setting up a Standing Order which is much simpler for administration purposes. Forms are available at the Surgery (Purton and Green Gable)

The September draw was done by Ruth Wakeley, Receptionist. The £100 winners were Brian & Ursula Scott and the £15 winner was Victoria Robinson. 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 request it.

## ***Harvest Raffle***

After the successful raffle held a few months ago in Purton Surgery the PPG will be holding a Harvest Raffle in October. Tickets will be on sale from 9 October, the draw will be on 30 October when the winner will be contacted. Ask the Receptionists for tickets.

## ***Covid Vaccinations***

Covid vaccinations this year will be restricted to those over the age of 65 and those under 65 who are at risk. The NHS will contact eligible patients when their Covid vaccination is due, please do not expect to hear from the Surgery.

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

If you wish to make a purchase from the Tabletop in Purton Surgery Waiting



12/23

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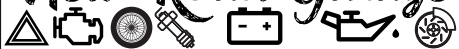
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02/24

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 via secretary. [psppg@gmail.com](mailto:psppg@gmail.com)

*Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary*

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## Purton & District Age Concern

## Purton and District ~~AGE~~ CONCERN

### ***Forthcoming events***

- 6 October: 3Bs, Village Hall
- 3 November: Wine Tasting, Silver Threads
- 25 November: Small Christmas Party, Silver Threads
- 29 November: Coach Trip to Clarks Village
- 2 December: Christmas Party, Village Hall

### ***Weston Super Mare***

Weston certainly lived up to the super part of its name when the Age Concern coach outing arrived at the seafront.



The sky was blue, as was the sea (which was actually in) meaning that the first stop for some of the coach party was a refreshing paddle and one bold person even went swimming. Refreshments at one of the beach front cafes whilst watching the donkeys on the sand, walking along the promenade, finding

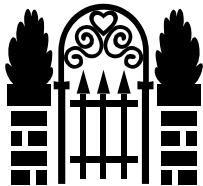
the best ice cream parlour all figured in the day's activities. The Grand Pier proved popular; you are never too old to play in an arcade. Eating fish and chips on the pier or elsewhere (keeping eyes scanned for the scavenging seagulls) was the lunch time choice for many. Some of the more adventurous individuals went on the Weston Sky Wheel giving them spectacular views of the seafront and the Bristol Channel. The sun shone the whole time we were there making it a perfect day out.

### ***Jumble Sale 2nd September***

Four years since the last one and we wondered if people had been amassing jumble all that time! Well possibly, because we had a bumper amount to sell, but that is good in some respects, and we did our best to sell as much as possible. Not quite as many people attending as we have had in the past but still a busy time, we did well and thanks everyone that pitched in to help us to set up and clear away at the end. If you missed it and haven't got the winter outfit you need then look out for next years' dates and make sure you come along to support us if you can.

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## ***Future Fundraising***

### ***3Bs – 6 October, Village Hall***

Our 3Bs (Bingo, Bangers & Beans) evening will be on Friday 6 th October 7.00-7.30pm start.

Always a fun evening. Bring your own drinks. Tickets on sale now - Going fast so don't delay. Call ANDREW on 01793 956095

### ***Wine Tasting - 3 November, Silver Threads***



Join us, on this first wine tasting fundraising event for Purton District Age Concern, sampling some new wines with a light food accompaniment. This will be a standing event. £20 per person. Tickets are available from our secretary, GEORGINA. Email: [events@purtonageconcern.com](mailto:events@purtonageconcern.com) or call 07966 222967.

### ***Coach Trip – 29 November***

We are returning to the Clarks Village for the Christmas Shopping Trip and everyone had a great time last year and got loads of shopping done in time for the Festive period. Book your place now. Contact PETER for details 01793 778119.

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

The Tai-Chi classes will resume after the

summer break and continue a weekly at 1.30pm 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 £7.00 per session, and classes are resuming on 7 September. If you have any questions, please contact GRAHAM on 07950 510420.

### ***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 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](mailto:secretary@purtonageconcern.com) or call 07966 222967.

### ***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 your first port of call should be your street warden. Failing that other contacts are Georgina Colman from Age Concern on 07966 222967 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.

### ***Wheelchairs Etc***

We have a couple of wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and walking sticks, so if you think you might need any of these at any time then you can contact Georgina, our secretary on 07966 222967 or secretary@purtonageconcern.com for details.

### ***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.

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!

### ***Keep In Touch***

Why not check out our social media to keep up to date with our events and fund-raising.

If you would like to be added to our events mailing list, please drop us a note

- Email: secretary@purtonageconcern.com
- Website www.purtonageconcern.com
- Facebook www.facebook.com/purtonageconcern
- Instagram @purtonageconcern

*Georgina Colman, Secretary*

---

## **Purton Annual Flower, Arts, Crafts & Produce Show**

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank everyone who supported our annual show on the 19th August. Although the number of entries was slightly less than last year, we still had a lovely display of exhibits for visitors to enjoy. Our judges were very complimentary and all said that they enjoyed coming along to do the judging. We are very grateful to them for giving up their time and we hope to see them again next year. As always, it is lovely to see new people entering and we hope that even more people will be inspired to enter in the future.

Congratulations to all of our prize winners, well done!

### ***Cup winners are as follows:***

Most points in the Vegetable Section  
Best Vegetable Exhibit

Most Points in the Flower Section  
Best Flower Exhibit

Most points in the Floral Art Section  
Most points in the Industrial Section

Best Industrial Exhibit

Most points in the Arts & Crafts Section

Clive Rushen.

Nina Heaton.

Alan Titcombe.

Alan Titcombe.

Anthony Beechey.

Pearl Lait.

Pearl Lait.

Debi Ellis.

Most points in the Photography Section Elizabeth Rushen.  
Best Photography Exhibit Grace Arnold.  
Most points in all sections Debi Ellis.

Our refreshment team, Moira, Diana, Shirley and Sue, did a magnificent job in keeping everyone supplied with drinks, cakes and cream teas. It was lovely to see so many people having a chat and catching up with friends.

Visitors to the show were very generous in their donations and money raised from the sale of refreshments have greatly increased profits. Consequently, we are able to give £435.78 to The Royal British Legion. We look forward to planning the show for 2024.

*Pat Hughes*

---

## Purton Community Fridge



Greetings from Purton Community Fridge, we are one year old this month already!

So much has happened this past year. It's been amazing, from saving so much surplus food from going to waste, to providing free meals to the Purton community and beyond. Also who can forget all those Tunnock's Snowballs we had?!!

We have so many people to thank for their help in getting us to where we are now. We couldn't have done it without you all. Our dedicated fridge volunteer team has been brilliant and they've worked tirelessly to get this project successfully off the ground.

The community fridge virtually runs itself now with regular surplus donations of fresh fruit and veg to store cupboard items from the local community, eggs and veg from Purton

House Organics and bakery items from the Coop to name just a few. It's lovely to see people passing by and popping items into the fridge or on the larder shelf and then take a different surplus item or two that they can use themselves.

To celebrate our 1st Birthday we are holding a FREE Carve Your Own Pumpkin workshop on Saturday 28th October in Pips Cafe from 10am until 12.30pm. We will provide a FREE pumpkin, carving equipment and ideas to anyone wanting to take part and a free tea light to take home with your pumpkin so you can watch it glow when you're at home. No need to book, just turn up on the day. Under 12's need to be accompanied by an adult.

Thank you all once again!

*Louise - Community Fridge Co-ordinator*

# Ten Years Ago...

## October 2013

Writing in a September heatwave which, we are told, will become the norm even though it's the first since 1962 (predating even Purton Magazine), it comes as a shock to see the Scouts arranging a bonfire night spectacular.

The sad news in Purton was that two charities were being wound up. Purton Helping Hand, founded 50 years earlier, had handed over the running of the carnival to a new charity but had not enough members to be able to continue its work. The Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund had exactly the same problem; the couple who had run it for many years felt they had to give it up.

On top of this, the Football Club was desperately short of funds

and feared having to stop the coaching of young players in our national game. Fortunately, the Cricket Club was flourishing and had gained promotion.

The end of Ps and Qs was noted some months ago, but its project entitled Transforming Purton Parish started dealing with housing and the particular pressures it placed on the village. "It features as the number one issue in every survey and is the one that arouses most passion." I think we can add that it is one which will never go away. The clear wish of the village was that all development should take place within the "settlement boundary", leaving farmland and the countryside unspoilt.



People wanted small clusters of houses, including affordable ones, and not large estates. But perhaps the largest problem was that "planning officers have been reluctant to engage ordinary people in the planning process."

It was intended that in After 8's meeting each lady would spend five minutes talking about themselves. Could have been very interesting for a fly on the wall!

---

## Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Whitfield Close, Glevum Close, The Common, Locks Lane, (and from Moulden View) Bretton Close and Bashkir Close*



# Pips Community Café



## ***The Joy of Pips***

It has been a fantastic year for Purton's Community Café, Pips. We are so grateful to Silver Threads for continuing to make their Hall available to Pips during the day Tuesday to Friday and Saturday morning. The numbers using Pips have continued to rise and range from babes in arms to villagers in care homes and everyone in between. It has been particularly pleasing to see the increasing number of children coming in after school with a parent, grandparent or other carer; and Lunch Club, at Pips on a Thursday, has continued to flourish, serving a hot two course meal to 30 pensioners for just £5.

We are grateful to all our volunteers, those who work in Pips in the kitchen, on the till and serving customers, and those who make soups and cakes etc to sell. As the number of customers has grown, we have recruited more volunteers and, although sometimes the work is now demanding, it remains enjoyable and rewarding. One development this year has been the number of young people volunteering to work at Pips. For some it is a Duke of Edinburgh project but others just want to do something worthwhile. One lad who enjoys baking, regularly made us delicious cakes.

Pips has also been host to village activities, including knitting, art, rummikub, scrabble, bridge and a church young people's club. It has also hosted village fundraising events

ranging from sales of cakes to jigsaw puzzles. The Community Fridge is also now in the Silver Threads Hall, and although not part of Pips, those wishing to use up food about to be thrown away, can access the Fridge during Pips opening hours.

One of the consequences of the increase in Pips customer numbers, is that, despite the cost-of-living crisis and the large increase in food prices, we have not had to increase our prices; for example, a cup of barista style coffee remains at £2. What is more, this year we ran at a surplus and were able to give away £12,000 to 22 good causes, many of them village-based. Those receiving donations included: Jubilee Gardens (a local project developing skills for adults with learning difficulties), Helen and Douglas House (children's hospice), the Purton Age Concern Minibus, and Oak and Furrow (a local wildlife rescue centre). A full list is on the door in Pips.

So, what new things are in store for the future? We are working with Silver Threads to add a patio and outside tables under an awning, so that some of our customers can sit outside on a nice day and enjoy the view towards Cricklade. The outside tables will also mean we are more welcoming for customers with dogs, as dogs are not allowed inside the Silver Threads Hall.

If you are not yet a Pips customer, come and find us and share in the joy that is Pips Community Café. You might even

decide you would like to become a volunteer and join our team. Hope to see you soon.

*Dave Nettleton, Pips volunteer*

### **Events coming up at Pips Cafe**

On Remembrance Sunday November 12th, Pips Cafe will be open from 1pm until 4pm to provide a gathering space and potential shelter from any cold or wet weather before, during and after the Cenotaph Remembrance service in the High Street.

Our volunteers will be serving complimentary tea, coffee, squash, biscuits, cake and warm soup to all those wishing to attend, all welcome. Any monetary donations on the day will be given to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

On Saturday 28th October at 10am we are holding a FREE Pumpkin Carving workshop at Pips Cafe. Sponsored by Purton Community Fridge we will supply pumpkins, carving equipment and lots of ideas! You will also be able to take your pumpkin home with you with a FREE tea light to make your pumpkin glow when it gets dark! Younger children under 12 will need to be accompanied by an adult. This will be a drop in event, no booking needed.

On Saturday 18th November at 10am we are holding a FREE Make Your Own Christmas Card workshop at Pips Cafe. Using donated Christmas coloured buttons we'll supply all you need to make and take away your very own homemade Christmas card. Younger children under 12 will need to be accompanied by an adult. This will be a drop in event, no booking needed.

On Saturday 16th December at 10am

we are holding a Gingerbread House Decorating workshop at Pips Cafe. The session will include a pre-baked and constructed gingerbread house and all the sweets and edible decorations needed for you to make it look like a Christmas wonderland! Younger children under 12 will need to be accompanied by an adult. There will be a small charge of £5 per gingerbread house and numbers will be limited to 20. This will be a pre-book and pay in advance event.

To book your space and pay please do so at the till in Pips Cafe thank you.

After the huge success of last year's Pips Christmas Meal we are having another one this year which will take place on Tuesday 19th December at 12.30pm.

This will consist of a special 3 course traditional turkey Christmas dinner with tea, coffee, mince pies, a cracker and a little gift to take home!

The price will be £16 in total per person, children will be half price.

There will also be complementary mulled wine on arrival.

This will be a pre booked and paid for in advance event, there will be no walk in's on the day.

There will be approximately 50 seats available and it will be the first to book and pay a £6 deposit (or in full) gets a seat.

Alcohol may be brought in by diners to enjoy with their meals.

Unfortunately there will be NO Pips cafe menu available on this day.

Everyone welcome!

### **Starter**

*Home made broccoli & stilton soup OR Homemade vegetable soup*

### **Main Course**

*Turkey, stuffing, roast potatoes, pigs in blankets, carrots, red cabbage, sprouts, cauliflower cheese, roast parsnips, cranberry sauce, bread sauce, gravy & a festive Christmas cracker!*

### **Dessert**

*Christmas pudding with custard or cream*

*Sticky toffee pudding with cream*

### **Tea & Coffee**

*with mince pies*

Please book and pay at Pips cafe. Age Concern vouchers will be accepted. The mini bus will be available and bookings for that are made through Hazel as normal once the meal booking is confirmed on 01793 770862. Ho, Ho, Ho hope you can come!

---

## **Purton Silver Threads**

We would like to thank Pips for their kind donation from their Distribution of Funds.

It was a good move renting the Silver Threads Hall to Pips and means the hall is being used to its full potential. During their opening hours, there is a small committee room available at the rear - just ask Pips if you want to use it.

We are in the process of cementing the

north side to make a seating area and will be putting in an extra door. The area will be fenced off once Hooks Hill is completed.

Please note that the new car park spaces at Hooks Hill ARE FOR RESIDENTS ONLY! This applies to everyone, not just Silver Threads Hall users.

*Lindsey Hall, Purton Silver Threads*

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## **Your magazine receives Pips donation**

Among those 22 good causes, the Purton Magazine committee is very grateful for receiving a generous donation from the recent Pips share-out. As a not-for-profit organisation, the magazine's production expenses need to be covered

by subscriptions, retail sales and advertising income. This donation will help us balance our income against our costs so we can continue to publish your local news each month.

# Purton Historical Society



Meetings have started again after the summer break. There is more information on the website, [www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com/](http://www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com/) The museum is open until the end of October, every Saturday, 10am – 12.30pm

## **Next Meeting**

### **Thursday 26th October, Methodist Church, Play Close, Purton**

Everybody welcome, free for members, guests £3

Paul Barnett - Port to Port, a historical journey, the length and breadth of the Sharpness to Gloucester Canal

Chart the fortunes of Gloucestershire's waterborne trade via its famous ship canal. Starting in the south at the rural dock of Sharpness, the viewer is taken on a pictorial journey northward along the sleepy Gloucestershire ship canal, momentarily stopping at points of interest, until eventually 'hoving

to' in the city's historic Gloucester dock. This is achieved by using a combination of recently acquired ship-side images and their historic equivalent, as captured in a rediscovered series of documentary images from the early 1950s.

## **Thursday 23rd November**

Mike Pringle – Richard Jefferies Museum Coate, 150 years of wildlife!

Wiltshire's Victorian nature writer, Richard Jefferies, was once a household name, forever linked to the wildlife that lives around us, alongside us, and under our noses. Now, a century and a half after his writings, his words mean more than ever, as we increasingly realise that we need to pay more attention to our relationship with the natural world, just as he told us we should all those years ago.

*Keith Allsop,  
email: [allsopk83@hotmail.com](mailto:allsopk83@hotmail.com)*

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## Purton Museum News

In August 1911 the Vale of White Horse Hunts Agricultural Braydon Show and the Purton Horticultural Show were held together "in a Field Close to Purton Church," by kind permission of Miss Russell.

Classes were Half-Bred Horses and Turn Outs, Agricultural Horses, Cattle, Jumping, Poultry, Dead Poultry and Eggs, Butter and Cheese and Honey and Bread. Two additional classes for Butter Making were held in a working dairy

on the Show Ground with a winning prize of £4. Classes were only open to tenant farmers and farmers farming their own land, cottagers and allotment



holders (and their families) within the Vale of White Horse Hunts area. The schedule and entry forms for Purton Horticultural Show were available from E J Webber, Hon Secretary, Harford House, Purton but unfortunately the museum does not have a copy.

Luncheon and teas were provided by Mr Thomas Wilding and in the afternoon Territorial Sports involved a Section Hurdle Race, Musical Chairs and a Weight Guessing Competition. In the evening the Regimental Band of the Royal Wilts Yeomanry performed on the Show Ground until 9.30pm.

The programme for this event is on display as part of the Purton at Leisure Exhibition which ends when the museum closes for the winter at the end of this month. The museum will reopen in April 2024 with a new exhibition.

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

If anyone would like to volunteer as a museum steward, please get in touch.

*Lucy Lewis, Museum Archivist*

Over the years Purton Museum has received several donations of artefacts from the family of Mr Harry Smith. Mr Smith was the owner of a thriving cycle and motor repair business which opened



in 1920 on the site of Smith's Court in Station Road. Mr Smith's daughter Lorna has asked the museum to find out if there are any relatives of Ewart Bartlett (pictured) living locally. Lorna is anxious for the photograph to go to the family of this former Purton resident. If our search proves unsuccessful the photograph will be accessioned into our museum archives.

*Jan Walker, Museum assistant*

*Tel: 770124*

#### DISCLAIMER

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

# October Nature Correspondent



Grey Phalarope in Winter Plumage

## ***The weather and birds***

In the sonnet accompanying Vivaldi's Spring from the Four Seasons, the birds "welcome it in joyful song", a cue for three warbling violins to strike up. "The sky darkens, and there is thunder and lightning" (rushing scales and trembling unisons) and then "the little birds return and all sing anew." (renewed warblings!) It may be a truism but it is always a delight, after a period of prolonged rain, to see the sun shining and birds emerging from shelter, singing away and hurrying about their business, as if making up for lost time.

Birds are weather dependent in all manner of ways, just as we humans are. Our common summer immigrants, due to their size and weight, prefer to fly with a tailwind to make their journey easier. After a period of inhibiting cold northerlies in late March, a change to warm, light

southerlies will accelerate the arrival of iconic species: Chiff Chaff and Blackcap, Swallow and House Martin, Redstart and Cuckoo.

It isn't always plain sailing in the breeding season: a flood can wash out a Kingfisher's nest hole on a river bank or a Plover's nest on the floor of a gravel pit. Early breeders such as Stone Curlews and Barn Owls are sometimes faced with unseasonal conditions in April: cold, saturated ground can ruin the Curlew's scrape and frozen earth prevents the Owls from hunting rodents and small mammals.

Come summer and birds are increasingly faced with hot weather. The smaller species will cool off in a bird bath or a wet gutter, or open up their wings and spread their feathers.

Birds can pant, opening their beaks and breathing heavily: air rushes in causing the moisture in their lungs, throat and

# Purton in the First World War

mouths to evaporate, which absorbs heat and helps keep them cool. In the autumn birders keep an eye on weather forecasts, especially if they are sea-watchers. On the Land's End peninsula they will be huddled together by Pendeen Lighthouse when the wind is north westerly, then switch to Porthgwarra for a south westerly - their quarry passing auks, shearwaters, skuas and petrels. Even in Wiltshire storm-blown vagrants turn up in October and November. A Grey Phalarope spent a few days on the Crammer Pond in Devizes in 2005 and more recently a Kittiwake appeared there amongst the Black-headed Gulls.

In winter wild birds can be tamed by the freezing cold. Fieldfares and Redwings will raid orchards for fallen apples and bird tables become important sources of food and unfrozen water.

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

In October 2018, I published a book giving the backstory to the names on the Purton War Memorial. It is actually a history of the First World War including the background causes of the Great War and a month by month account of the war. It is interspersed with coverage of the war's effect on residents of Purton, a village typical of most if not all towns and communities in the United Kingdom. The stories behind the names are representative of all.



The book was serialised monthly in Purton Magazine from 2013 to 2019 with the timeline of the war years written 100 years after the action. The period beyond the end of the war is included: many died later from wounds incurred during the war or were physically or mentally scarred for the rest of their lives. I also discuss how the Great War Treaties affected our thinking today, caused the Second World War and led to the miseries of eastern Europe and the Middle East to this day. The “War to End all Wars” wasn't that.

Other events around the world are also covered such as the “Spanish Flu” pandemic, so similar to the recent Covid-19 pandemic in its effect upon the world. Of course, Covid was an unforeseen nightmare at the time this book was written.

There are 240 pages with pictures and maps in colour, where colour photography was possible in those days. Both Wiltshire and Swindon Library Services bought copies for their collections. Although the book covers almost every campaign during the war, it was intended as a social history rather than military.

You can now buy the book at £5 per copy, with local delivery in Purton, Cricklade and Latton. Postage will need to be added at cost for non-local sales. If you would like a copy, please email me at [RickDixonMail@gmail.com](mailto:RickDixonMail@gmail.com) or phone 01793 759123. Profits will go to Combat Stress. ISBN 978-1-9164618-0-2

*Rick Dixon*

# Purton Village Diary - October 2023

1	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Church for all - Harvest Festival United Parade Service at St Mary's Church
			Black History Month begins
6	F	7.00pm	Purton and District Age Concern 3Bs evening at the Village Hall
7	Sa	6.30pm	Harvest Supper and Barn Dance at St Mary's Church
8	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion at Purton Methodist Church
9	M	7.00pm	Full Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
10	Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at Hook Village Hall for a talk on aircraft production at South Marston
15	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Church for all at St Mary's
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		2.30pm	Friends of Lydiard Park talk the the Lydiard Park Conference Centre
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's
16	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk from Michael Gamble about Queen Elizabeth II and her remarkable life
18	W		St Mary's Primary School & Nursery Teacher Training Day
19	Th		St Mary's Primary School & Nursery & Bradon Forest School half term starts (until 27th)
22	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
24	Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at Hook Village Hall for a talk on Graphene - truth & myth
26	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk on the Sharpness and Gloucester Canal
28	Sa	10.00am	Free Pumpkin carving workshop at Pips Community Cafe
29	Su		British Summer time ends, clocks go back an hour
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
31	Tu		Halloween & Day of the Dead

## Every week

M	6.30pm	to 7.30pm	Purton Village Voices choir practice at Purton Methodist Church (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.
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

## *Church Floodlighting*

*It is possible to ask for St Mary's Church to be floodlit for the evening. The cost is £20 (to help with the electricity) and it is a beautiful sight.*

*Many people request this as a memorial for a friend on their anniversary; or for a wedding anniversary or any other special event.*

*Please contact Libbie: it helps if she has a couple of weeks warning. Thank you 771018*



# Purton & District Probus Club



## ***The Artistry of Mosaics in the Roman and Greek Empires: Dr Nick Humphris***

Dr Nick Humphris is a former mechanical engineer and also an academic with a university background. After retiring in 2012, Dr Humphris became a volunteer host at Chedworth Roman Villa. It was the result of this experience that he developed a keen interest in the art of mosaics of the Roman and ancient Greek era as well as relatively more modern examples.

A mosaic is a pattern or image made of small regular or irregular pieces of, for example, coloured stone, pebbles, glass or ceramic. The presentation covered a lengthy span of history and the style and content of the mosaics that were shown varied from simple to intricate patterns, violent sea battles, story lines depicting a voyage along the Nile from the highlands of Ethiopia leading all the way to Alexandria, scenes with birds and a variety of wild and domestic animals. We were shown a range of mosaics—images of people, animals, objects, landscapes, and geometric patterns made from the arrangement of squared pieces of stone and glass tesserae. Although the technique of mosaic-making emerged in Greece in the fourth century BC—using rounded pebbles rather than cut tiles—the art form was embraced by ancient Italian peoples from the second century BC onward and then spread across the Roman Empire. Mosaics adorned the floors, walls and ceilings of public and domestic buildings. They vary in quality, with bigger tesserae often employed for the paving of large areas, while tiny pieces are used to depict the intricate details of a scene.

Among a number of mosaics that were shown was that of a very intricate depiction of a deer hunt from Pella in Greek Macedonia. Another notable example is the Alexander the Great mosaic depicting the battle with Darius III of Persia, which is full of action and is preserved at Bardo Museum in Tunis. This is very different in style to others described with a white background and depicting Neptune driving a chariot. One of the mosaics shown by Dr Humphris is a pebble mosaic found in Gordian. According to ancient Greek legend the ruler of Gordian, King Midas, claimed that everything he touched turned to gold. King Midas is also remembered, of course, because of the Gordian Knot, which if any man could untie it, could marry the king's daughter.

### ***Famous local mosaics***

The Woodchester Roman Villa is of the many Roman villas discovered in Gloucestershire and was occupied between the early 2nd and late 4th centuries AD. The villa's most famous feature is the Orpheus Mosaic, the second largest of its kind in Europe and one of the most intricate. It dates to AD 325 and was re-discovered by Gloucestershire-born antiquarian Samuel Lysons in 1793. It has been uncovered seven times since 1880, the last time in 1973, but there are no plans to reveal it again. It depicts Orpheus charming all forms of life with his lyre and has been praised for its accuracy and beauty.

Chedworth Roman Villa has some of the most impressive Roman mosaics locally and, in fact, nationally. It is created from a multitude of minute coloured stones that form intricate intertwined patterns. A number of figures and legends are depicted.

Further afield, we were shown a mosaic from Lullingstone Villa in Kent known as the Rape of Europa depicting Europa on the back of Zeus turned into a bull. We also looked at mosaics found near Middlesbrough as well as those found in Roman Villa on Hadrian's Wall.

The Probus members were fully attentive to Nick Humphris' talk as can be confirmed by the range of questions that were asked and the number of discussions that ensued.

At our meeting on August 8th, Lew Lawton gave us a talk on the History of the Telephone. Lew's Career included 30 years with the 'Royal Signals', seven years with BT Systems, Writing, and more recently, broadcasting with Swindon Radio.

"History of the Telephone – What would we do without it".

Transmission of messages by humans dates far back, beginning with drums, smoke signals and subsequently flags but the first Telegraphic Message by wire, using electricity, was by Samuel Morse, in 1846. His system was a dash - dot message of electrical pulses, transmitted from Washington DC to Baltimore, a distance of approximately 40 miles. In 1851, a telegraph cable was laid under the English Channel and seven years later a similar Transatlantic Cable was laid down to reach America. These cables could transmit Morse for telegrams and data but, not until 1956 were telephone calls able to be routed through improved under-sea cables.

Alexander Graham Bell, a Scotsman from Edinburgh, in 1876,

developed the microphone, a transmitter which uses carbon granules against a diaphragm to modulate a direct current when spoken into. The variable electric signals become sound again at the receiver end, by the use of an electro-magnet fitted with a coil and a similar diaphragm. Lew illustrated the effectiveness of the invention by passing around a jury-rigged assembly of a small carbon microphone connected by two metre-long wires to a receiver/earpiece. Energised by a small dc battery it transmitted clear speech.

As telephone systems developed and expanded, variations of Telephone Exchanges came into being, initially hand operated mainly by women, who would be seated at a Switch-board, plugging and unplugging connections. Almon Brown Strowger, an undertaker, was motivated to invent an Automatic Telephone Exchange, fearing human interference in his business. Together with a brother, a nephew and engineering friends, in 1891, they were awarded a Patent for their machine. A 500 line Exchange, or Central (USA terminology), would need 60 or 70 switching units. The Strowger Automatic Telephone Exchange Company became a famous name and were first to introduce the dialling system, (Four numbers, 0 – 9 dialled in turn). The ‘hook switch’ of the table-telephone, (‘hook’ being a hangover from the previous upright version), was activated by lifting the handset from its’ cradle. The Dial telephone was still in use until the 1990’s.

During WWII, both the Germans and the Allies used vehicles which specifically carried Telephone Field Exchange Systems, but it is noticeable how communications in wartime have so dramatically changed the ‘style of war’ since the introduction of satellites. Other technologies:- Radio, electronics, high frequency transmissions, use of superconductors, rare earth metals and the Global Positioning System, have all come on-stream in recent years. Circuit Boards have now become Chips and Battery technology that has made great advances. The Public Switched Telephone Network, which has emerged since the 1970’s, is scheduled to be replaced; In 2017, the telecoms industry announced the intention that, by 2025, the industry will upgrade (PSTN) landline services to the new digital technology, using internet connections.

The mobile phone has evolved over the last thirty years, from the 1992 Motorola model, weighing two kilograms, to the Smart Phones of today which weigh only a few ounces. Calls can now be made and received over a radio frequency link, which connects, via a mobile-phone operator to the PST Network. In addition to telephony, digital model phones support a number of other services, eg. Text messaging, emails, Internet access for information and games, as well

as the GPS for Satellite navigation.

Lew kept our attention and at question time answered questions on Fibre Optics and the possibility of Television on our Mobiles. A stimulating talk!

Purton and District PROBUS Club meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 10am in the Hook Village Hall. Programme for October: Tues 10th "Aircraft Production at South Marston", Tues 24th "Graphene - The Truth and The Myth". Visitors and new members are very welcome.

*John Slaght & Bob Stevens*

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## Christmas Tree festival

We are planning a Christmas Tree Festival this year in St Mary's Church and we would LOVE your involvement!!

There are so many exciting organisations in Purton, and we hope this will be an opportunity to celebrate some of the activities going on in the village.

This festival is for EVERYONE! We would love it if people come in and admire the trees throughout Advent and Christmas (December 3-Dec 29th)

The hope is that, by decorating a tree in a style showing the essence and aims of the organisation, it would be an exciting way to promote your group...whether it be a pub, a choir, a football team or care home!

We are not looking for anything too complicated, time consuming or costly. Home made rules are very much OK!

The tree can be made out of any materials....not just a standard synthetic or real fir tree. We would love you to get involved and we can provide all the recommended do's and don'ts.

But at this stage we will say that:

- Trees must be no wider than 3 foot (one metre) and preferably no higher than 4 foot (120 cms)
- Please make your tree in any style, with decorations which are appropriate to represent your team, club, group or organisation.
- Make sure nothing is too precious on the tree as we cannot guard the trees. The Church cannot be responsible for any losses, sorry.
- If you use battery powered lights please accept the responsibility of turning them on and off each day, throughout the month
- We would prefer the lights not to flash. Also be prepared to replace batteries during the month of the display.
- Setting up the trees will be on Friday Dec. 1st from 10am-12noon or Saturday Dec. 2nd between 9-12 noon.
- Please label your tree clearly so that people coming to visit will know which organisation has provided each tree.

- Trees need to be removed by the afternoon of December 30th
- We would be grateful if no glitter spray or glitter dust is used in your display, especially as St Mary's is an eco-church.

Now you know what it is all about please contact us for more details as soon

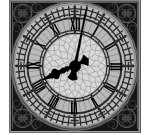
as possible, before all the spaces are allocated. We are very excited about this Tree Festival, we hope you will be too.

*Jane Smith: 01793 772422  
janersmith1@gmail.com*

*Libbie Sheppard: 01793 771018  
libbie@sheppard.org*

## After 8

Always difficult organising a date that suits all the group – anyway on Wednesday 30 August some of the After 8 members met for a local walk around Purton. Pips Café seemed a good starting point (kind of middle of the village, suiting folk from the top end and the bottom end). The idea was to work up a thirst and appetite and then meet the non-walking members at Pips for lunch. A small, dedicated walking group set off on a pleasant sunny morning, taking in short hedge, the cricket field (young enthusiasts were seen practising in the nets), past the Pear Tree grounds (are the vines, planted by the previous owners, still producing wine?), following the footpath behind the schools to take in Bagbury Lane, into Mud Lane, through a lovely garden and into Battlewell.



If you have not seen the interesting information board giving details of Ringsbury Camp and surrounding area, do check it out. Thanks to Purton Historical Society for erecting the board.

Our walk continued across the allotments, past a field sown with chicory and other conservation crops, to footpath 161 and into Hoggs Lane. Timed to perfection, we returned to Pips Café and met with other After 8 members.

Thank you to Pips staff (all volunteers) for excellent lunches and good service, with a smile. Also, thanks to all those who joined the August Activity – we managed to catch up with each other's summer activities and to put the world to rights!

*Sandra Horsnall*

## Wiltshire Council News

### ***Council to invest an extra £10m into road resurfacing to improve Wiltshire's highways***

At a recent meeting Wiltshire Council's Cabinet agreed to invest a further £10m over the next two years into maintaining

and resurfacing the county's roads.

The £10m of extra funding, which is on top of the £14m the council will spend this financial year on highways maintenance, is being funded through the council's capital funding



programme. The additional money will be spent on preventative maintenance and a road resurfacing programme including small, local repairs to the highways; verge repairs on rural roads and materials support to volunteers working on public rights of way. Work on potholes will continue in parallel, with £2m existing funds and the government's recent £3.6m additional grant.

The preventative investment will reduce the number of potholes forming on the road network, mitigate the risk of further deterioration; improve road safety across the county for all road users; improve customer satisfaction and reduce the number of highway defect reports to the council, which will save officer time by reducing the number of ad-hoc inspections required and expensive reactive works.

The programme of work will begin with identifying the roads due to be resurfaced and giving area boards the opportunity to comment, before the work programme begins in earnest from April 2024 until the end of 2025.

***Recycling: Lets Sort It – sorting areas to be introduced at more household recycling centres***

Our data shows that more than a third of the items put in the general rubbish skips at our HRCs could have been recycled.

With that in mind, as part of our ‘Recycling: Let’s Sort It’ campaign we encourage you to sort your waste out before you visit your local HRC, ensuring that all items are separated correctly.

If you don’t have time to do this before you set off, we are gradually introducing designated sorting areas at each of our HRCs to give you the opportunity to sort your materials on-site as easily as possible – with our friendly staff on hand to provide advice and guidance. The sorting areas are already in place at Devizes and Warminster HRCs, and from 25 September will be introduced at Lower Compton, Purton, Marlborough and Melksham

Thanks for your support!

# News and wattles from the Turkey shed

I'm not sure if it's a good or a bad thing but farming is full of points in the year that remind you of the seasonal change and the eternal continuation of the farming cycle.

For me and I think Lindsay, these are most obvious at the start of our respective crops. For me the day the turkey poults arrive makes me all too aware that Christmas will come in six months time, no matter what, and these turkeys will have to be reared, sold (online shop opens 1st October) and processed. For Lindsay the start of her farming calendar is putting the rams in with the ewes. Once you've opened that gate and the ram has marched across the field with his nose in the air (barring a fertility problem) you will be lambing in 145 days time – there's no going back.

Because good quality Oxford Down rams are few and far between, Lindsay breeds most of her own rams. This also has the advantage of meaning we pick the rams that perform well on our system so those genetics are passed on. By keeping one or two ram lambs for breeding each year we have rams to sell and also to use on our flock. The disadvantage of this is you have to keep a close eye on who's related to who. Lindsay spends a great deal of time in the run up to the momentous day working out the family trees to matchmake ewes and rams. Occasionally a bought in ram is needed if we don't have an unrelated ram for ewes.

The disadvantage of this is that we have to have multiple groups, this year we have four rams working but this means they don't have too many ewes to keep an eye on so most should get served in the first breeding cycle which means lambing is not so stretched out.

Anyway, the lads are all out now and we have had some action. So if all goes to plan on the 7th of February Lindsay will be watching the first lambs arriving – perhaps on a nice crisp bright morning.

Monday the 18th of September will be long remembered here, it was the night of the biblical thunder, lightning and rain. I'd been laid in bed listening to the rain hammering on the roof for a quarter of an hour when I thought I should go and check the drains. On





approaching the front door I could see water just starting to creep under the door. It's a tile floor so it spreads at a terrifying rate. Boots donned, I ran to check the two drains that allow rain water to pass under my house to the pond on the other side, one was partially blocked but even when clear it couldn't cope. This was a pretty freak storm but we'll have to look at adding more drains. I have a rain gauge and monitor rainfall, the gauge collected 80mm in an hour and a quarter. Annual rainfall here is about 700mm – so more than 10% in one dump!



Last week my Great Aunt, Joan Rumming passed away aged 97. She was the original turkey farmer here and grew and processed her turkeys in the barn which is now our house – it still has the lines of nails in the beams where the plucked turkeys would hang. She was thrilled when I started keeping turkeys on the farm again as it was probably 25 years since she'd stopped having them. She always took a keen interest and could see them in the paddock from her house on the farm. She

particularly liked seeing us start to pluck the birds and always wanted to see the shape and quality.

She famously always used to be the one to test how thick the ice was on the farm pond as the steep bank followed by the flat glide over the frozen water was our preferred sledging spot as kids. We never went on until Auntie had deemed it safe.

She travelled all over the world but always loved the farm. We'll all miss her, especially at Christmas.

Our next pop up farm shop Saturday 7th and Sunday the 8th October 10am to 12 pm opening on Sunday is a trial as we know many people are busy on a Saturday morning.

*Chris Rumming*

# Purton Placard

## Purton and District ~~AGE~~ CONCERN

**Oct 6 3Bs**

Bingo, Bangers & Beans  
Purton Village Hall, £8.00 per person  
Tickets on sale now, email: [events@purtonageconcern.com](mailto:events@purtonageconcern.com)

**Nov 3 Wine Tasting**

Silver Threads Hall, £20 per person  
Tickets on sale now, email:  
[events@purtonageconcern.com](mailto:events@purtonageconcern.com)

## **Purton WI**

Join us at the Silver Threads hall on Monday 9th October, 10am, for a talk from Nicholas Baxter about Samuel Taylor-Coleridge in Wiltshire. All visitors are most welcome.

## **The Avebury Vocal Ensemble**

Perform at the Calne Music & Arts Festival on Wednesday 11th October, 12:15 to 1:00 at Marden House, New Street, Calne. The programme will include some items from our Ramsbury programme plus some additional favourites.

See [www.cmaf.org.uk/](http://www.cmaf.org.uk/) programme for more information.

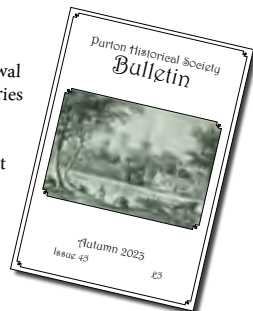


## **The Purton Historical Society**

**Bulletin 45 on sale NOW!**

In this issue:

- Tragedy & Romance
- St Mary's Church Renewal
- Braydon Chapel Memories
- Purton Cycle Speedway
- Purton Cricket Club
- History of 30 High Street
- Maundy Money
- Too Fast to Live,  
Too Young to Die
- The Golden Chapter
- Purton Museum in 2023



**Copies at £5 available from Pips, Purton Library and Purton Museum. Alternatively call 770331, 772466 or 770117 for copies.**

# Harvest Supper and Barn Dance

Come and Celebrate Harvest  
with us at

St Marys Church Purton  
SN5 4EB

Saturday Oct 7

6:30pm



Bring and Share Supper + Own Drinks

Childrens Activities

All Welcome –

No obligation to Dance!

Donations for the work of  
St Mary's much appreciated

To book please call Sandra 770157





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(last orders 4pm)

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# 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.



## Thank you

I would like to thank neighbours and friends for their kind wishes and cards during my recent admission to hospital. I have received excellent care from the NHS. After six weeks I am very grateful to be back at home.

*Best wishes Vivien Lawrence*



## A plea for help

Our cellar is full of all sorts of items that have been generously donated for onward sale, probably on ebay, on Swindon for Sale or through other

outlets, to raise funds for charities, including Christian Aid and Prospect Hospice. I am desperately in need of someone to help me with selling this backlog – probably someone who is computer savvy or skilled with their mobile phone and with experience of on-line selling. If you are able to help... perhaps only an hour or two a week could be needed...I would be so grateful and certainly an agreed % of the money raised by selling these items could go to a charity of your choice.

*Please contact Libbie 771018 for more discussions and details.*

## 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:

- 15th October
- 17th December

If you'd like to book a stall please contact:  
Sue Richardson:  
Tel: 01793 772581 Email: [tonysuerichardson@gmail.com](mailto:tonysuerichardson@gmail.com)  
Facebook Page: [facebook.com/purtoncraftmarket](https://www.facebook.com/purtoncraftmarket)



# Et Ego Londinium Vici

The London Marathon is a world-renowned event and one of the World marathon Majors which sees some 40,000 people running 26.2 miles around central London and each year it raises many millions of pounds for worthy causes. I was lucky enough to get a place and complete the marathon in 2021 and it sparked a little light bulb. The London Marathon forms one third of a triathlon known as the London Classics, in which participants complete the traditional three disciplines with no set time limit. The other two events are the 2012 Olympic legacy event, Ride London - a 100 mile cycle starting on London's Embankment, heading out into the Essex countryside and finishing on Tower Bridge, and Swim Serpentine - a two mile swim in London's iconic Hyde Park lake.

In May 2022 I completed Ride London and with two-thirds under my belt I just needed to do the Swim to get my name added to the London Classic Hall of Fame and receive a medal like no other.

Swimming is not my strongest discipline and having had lessons as a child, I could swim - but lacked technique, speed and confidence. So having secured my place in the Serpentine event I set about training and was recommended swimming coach Jason Tait from South West Swim. I completed my level one open water swimming qualification in May, a month before I took part in the Cotswold 113 Middle Distance, or half Iron Man Triathlon (1.2 mile lake swim, 56 mile cycle, 13.1 mile run). I had a disastrous swim at the event - imagine swimming in a washing machine of bodies! I was extremely anxious and it was survival mode that got me to the end. This made me determined to make some drastic improvements in order to complete the Serpentine and claim my coveted medal.

I had a one to one session with Jason in his endless pool (a small pool with a jet of water which enables you to swim 'on the spot') where he was able to film me and analyse my stroke in order to devise a training and improvement plan specific to me. I also had a one to one in Lake 86 at the Cotswold Water Park to practice my sighting (essentially looking where you're going whilst swimming - no lines on the bottom of a lake!)

After many more sessions in the lake and in Lime Kiln Pool, the Serpentine Swim finally arrived on Saturday 16th September.



**Top: In Trafalgar Square after completing the London Marathon in 2021, proudly wearing my Royal Wootton Bassett Hounds Running Club vest.**

**Bottom: On Tower Bridge after completing Ride London in 2022, in my Royal Wootton Bassett Rouleurs Cycling Club jersey (which also happens to match my bike!)**

# 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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To add to my apprehension, it was only given the go ahead on the previous Thursday due to the mini heatwave causing a bloom of blue-green algae, meaning the water didn't meet the international safety standards for swimming events.

The event was brilliant, there was a really nice atmosphere amongst the swimmers, the weather was perfect and I was with two friends who were both also swimming. 6,500 people were competing on the day in the various distances from half a mile to the 'Super Six' mile event with over 1,000 swimming two miles to claim their London Classics medal.

My start wave time arrived and I got into my wetsuit before heading to the start pontoon. I was in the final wave of the day and needed to complete the distance within 90 minutes so I was definitely feeling the pressure! If I couldn't complete the first one mile lap in around 45 minutes I would be asked to stop and exit the water. Once in the water I found a rhythm and settled into my breathing, stroke and sighting mantra Jason had taught me; one-breath, two-breath, look-breath. I completed the first lap in 46 minutes and was allowed to continue, but began to tire on the long back straight past the Serpentine Lido. My arms felt heavy and I knew I was slowing down but I HAD to get to the finish! I climbed out of the lake up the ramp and was immediately paralysed with cramp in my legs. I stopped my watch at 1 hour 41 minutes and 54 seconds. I had done it and the relief was overwhelming. My friends were waiting for me and I collected my medals, posing for my official photos in my wetsuit and with goggle eyes!

**Top left: The Serpentine start/finish pontoon.**

**Top middle: swimmers and safety kayakers.**

**Top right: the relief of reaching the finish.**

**Above left: my trio of event medals with the London Classics.**

**Above middle The London Classics medal; 11cm in diameter and 422g.**

**Above right: jingling all the way home!**

**Credit: London Marathon Events**

*Heather Ponting-Bather*

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## AUTUMN OPEN EVENTS

### Open Evening:

Thursday 28 September 2023

5.45pm - 8pm

Headteacher's Talk at

6pm and 6.45pm

### Open Mornings:

Monday 2 - Monday 9 October 2023

9.15am - 10.30am

Booking essential for all events:  
<http://tinyurl.com/BradonForestEvents>

# Purton Cricket Club



And just like that, another cricket season has been and gone. One interrupted by rain on too many occasions but one where the club has made real strides across the board both on and off the pitch, setting us up for a superb 2024.

The success story of the summer has been the performances of the first XI after they secured a long awaited return to the West of England Premier League by being crowned champions of the Wiltshire County Cricket League Division One. Nisaar Cook (669) and Tom Bowler (551) finished as the two highest run scorers in the division with both also featuring in the top five wicket takers too with the latter topping the charts with 38, despite arriving after the start of the season.

Meanwhile the second XI have confirmed their spot in Division Four for next summer after finishing in seventh spot. It hasn't been the smoothest of seasons for the side after winning Division Five in 2022 but crucial wins against Winsley 2nd XI and Keevil in the second half of the season secured their place. Bowler Cole Crumbie finished sixth in the league's top wicket takers with 21 as Ryan Allen was the side's leading run scorer with 232.

Elsewhere, the youth section remained as busy as ever throughout August. For the Under 15s, O Trivedi and W Carter,

who have both starred for the second XI this summer too, made unbeaten half centuries in a T20 against Potterne. Dropping down to the Under 11s and it was the tale of two other batters in a win against Sherston Magna as N Pari made 52\* and P Trivedi scored 48. In the same game J Stoddard took a superb haul of 5-5 with ball in hand.

Away from the cricket itself, the club has flourished in recent times thanks to the fantastic efforts of the volunteers at the club. Three weeks of summer camps for those between five and 15 years old were held attracting old and new faces with 29 different children coming across the 11 days. Also, Women's Training sessions have continued to be held on Friday evenings with positive numbers alongside the running of Club Night's and BBQ's whilst All Stars and Dynamos ran through the summer holidays.

Whilst the outdoor season is over, the activity for the club doesn't stop here. The club will be running a series of indoor winter training programmes so keep an eye out on our official social media channels for details about those or if you have further enquiries about getting yourself or your child/children involved with the club then don't hesitate to email: [membership.purtoncc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.purtoncc@gmail.com)

*Harrison Burridge*

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

# Purton Tennis Club



We are pleased to announce that we have a new addition to our coaching team and welcome Dave Morris to the club. Dave is a level 3 coach and LTA accredited. He is currently taking 1:1 coaching and can be contacted on 07749 952615. Likewise, Sid Falconer, our current coach continues to train county champions and total beginners alike and can be contacted on 07854 969603 (text only). Both coaches come with a wealth of experience and are a real asset to the club.

Last month we held our very first 'family afternoon'. We have quite a few families who hold a family membership and we welcomed them along to meet each other, mix in and play as well as to enjoy some refreshments. Tennis is a sport that is suitable for all ages to play, so it was good to see parents and children playing together. We will definitely do this again!

At the time of writing, our juniors are preparing for the end of season tournament, we hope to have details of how they got on, in the next bulletin.

Nicola and Teresa have given up their Saturday mornings, throughout the summer, to run the very successful junior club sessions – for which we thank them.

With Summer behind us, it is now the start of the winter league. We have 3 teams entered into the Swindon and District League – in various divisions and we wish all the players an enjoyable and successful winter season.

The presentation night for the Summer League will be in early November at Marlborough Golf Club and after a very successful summer for Purton, the mixed B and the Men's teams have trophies to collect, so that looks like it will be a very enjoyable evening and something to look forward to.

Should you be interested in coaching, returning to tennis, or just having a go for the first time, please get in contact, we will be pleased to hear from you.

*Janet Saunders (secretary) on behalf of  
the Committee PTC  
janetcsaunders@gmail.com*

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## STOP PRESS: Bala Breakfast

Nearly £400 was made at the Bala Breakfast at Silver Threads on Sunday 17th September. Thank you to all who came to support the event.

More details in next month's magazine.

# Purton & District Darts League



As you read this, the 2023/2024 Winter Season will be in full swing. The new season has gained momentum with the addition of three new teams to the league, namely The Angel, Purton, The Nine Elms, West Swindon and The Tawny Owl, North Swindon. We now have 14 teams playing in the league and this is the most teams we have had for a number of years, so welcome to you all and good luck. We look forward to some great matches and a lively competitive spirit.

A huge well done goes to the Purton Club 'C' Team who won the 2022/2023 League, together with the Singles League, with the Phoenix Club 'A' from Royal Wootton Bassett as runners up in both the League and Singles. The race is now on to see who will lift the trophies this season! Thank you to all the teams who take part, without you there wouldn't be a league, and to the committee for your help and support.

*Sue Giles, Secretary*

## *We Record...*



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

20 August 2023 Linda Maford & Percy Hwenje

2 September 2023 Emily Rose Isobel Clarke & Aaron Samuel Parsons

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

3 September 2023 Isla Kelce Bailey

3 September 2023 Brody Andrew Bruce Young

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

7 September 2023 A Service of Celebration for the Life of Michael Housley (83)

***Purton Magazine*** is available to buy at; One Stop, Purton Farm Shop, Dora's Dairy, Dora's Kiosk at the Red House, St Mary's Primary School and the Co-op. We deliver to over 700 homes each month through our network of volunteers. To become a distributor, or a Magazine subscriber, contact Sandra Horsnall, tel: 01793 770157 or email: [distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

# Friends of Lydiard Park

## ***Upcoming talk 'Margaret Beauchamp, Baroness and 15th Century Matriarch'***

To be held at Lydiard Park Hotel & Conference Centre at 2:30pm on Sunday 15th October 2023

Margaret, Baroness Beauchamp (c1409–1482) gifted Lydiard to her second son Oliver St. John, and through her second marriage to John Beaufort, 1st Duke of Somerset, provided the St. Johns with a blood link to the royal Tudor dynasty.

Margaret is celebrated in the extraordinary St. John family polyptych in St. Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze; her portrait is awarded pride of place, befitting the Grandmother of King Henry VII.

Historian Sonia St. John traces Margaret's remarkable vocation and achievements, not least her ensuring that all her children were well placed to survive and prosper during the War of the Roses.

Sonia's talk, which will include a surprise 'unveiling', will be followed by a delicious afternoon tea.

Follow this link to book tickets:

[www.friendsoflydiardpark.org.uk/events/margaret-beauchamp-baroness-and-15th-century-matriarch/](http://www.friendsoflydiardpark.org.uk/events/margaret-beauchamp-baroness-and-15th-century-matriarch/)

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## Love to dance?

As someone who enjoys music and dancing, imagine my joy when I came across a group of circle dancers not too far away in Faringdon, who meet once a month.

I immediately felt welcome and after some instruction from Joan who is a very patient teacher, I managed my first circle dances to evocative music from around the world! The dancing is relaxing, inclusive, beginners and experienced dancers of all ages, men and women are welcome and no partners are needed. They meet on the third Tuesday of the month between 10.30am and 12.00pm.

If there is anyone in Purton who likes the sound of this please contact me and maybe we could request that Joan comes to do a taster session here?

*Catherin Egan*  
*email: catherinbateman@btinternet.com*

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# White Lodge Care Home

## ***Every dog has its day - care home residents hold a dog show to celebrate National Dog Day***

Staff and residents at Barchester's White Lodge care home in Braydon got up close and personal with some furry friends when they celebrated all the wonderful things about man's best friend on National Dog Day and held a dog show on August 28th.

National Dog Day is an annual event to raise awareness of the number of dogs in rescue centres and to encourage people to adopt dogs from shelters and dog homes.

Residents had a brilliant time with family and friends and their dogs learning about different breeds and their characteristics, reminiscing about pets and finding out fascinating facts about dogs and puppies. There were a total 29 dogs that attended the event and participated in 6 different classes. It was very exciting for the residents to be able to vote for their favourite one and help the judges to make their decision.

The dog show started at 2.30pm and people from the community came with their dogs and participated. We had a dog photo booth, paw print card station, rosettes and gift bags for the winners, baked dog food, free treats and toys for the dogs, water bowls all around the garden and buffet and tea for the humans. Lucy, a pet carer volunteer for the event, helped White Lodge running the show. We also raised money for Cinnamon Trust, a charity who works for dogs of elderly people who can't look after their dogs anymore.

General Manager, Ramona Gherendi, said: "Our residents love animals and lots of them have owned dogs in the past so it was lovely to hear their stories about the different things their dogs had got up to."

Malcom, a resident said: "I have always had a dog, we had them when I was growing up and they are such good company, I love how funny and loyal they are. We have had such a nice day remembering all the dogs we have known and loved. They are all such characters."

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.



05/24



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# Carers Right Expo

**21 November, 10.00am – 6.30pm,  
Civic Centre, Trowbridge**

Unpaid carers are facing profound challenges – a struggling social care system and NHS, increasing financial pressures because of the cost-of-living crisis and an increasing number of hours caring.

For Carers Rights Day this year Carer Support Wiltshire are bringing together experts from across local government and the voluntary sector to share their expertise and guidance with carers. Through workshops and an information hub, the expo aims to empower carers with the knowledge to help them live their lives well and help them to feel supported in their caring role.

Sessions will explore what support is available to carers including:

- When you're new to caring
- How to navigate the benefits system
- How to manage their own wellbeing
- Carers legal rights
- How to prepare for an emergency
- How to build their support plan
- Preparing for the end of their caring role
- Getting back into work

This one-day event will attract unpaid carers from across Wiltshire, local government, the NHS, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

To register your interest, email [admin@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk](mailto:admin@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk) or call 0800 181 4118.

## **Carer cafes**

Our cafes are a great way to make new friends and enjoy a cuppa, cake and a chat with others in relaxed, friendly surroundings. Come when you can and stay for as long, or as little as you like.

### **Calne – 2nd Tuesday of the month**

Venue: The Lansdowne Strand Hotel, The Strand, Calne, SN11 0EH

Time: 10:30am – 12:00pm

Dates: 10 October, 14 November, 12 December, 9 January, 13 February, 12 March

Kindly funded by Calne Town Council and Calne Area Board

### **Chippenham –**

### **3rd Monday of the month**

Venue: The Angel Hotel, 8 Market Place, Chippenham, SN15 3HD

Time: 10:30am – 12:00pm

Dates: 16 October, 20 November, 18 December, 15 January, 19 February, 18 March

### **Chippenham creative carers group**

Venue: King Alfred Hall, St Andrew's Church, Market Place, Chippenham, SN15 3HT

Time: 11.30am – 1.30pm

Dates: 20 October, 17 November, 15 December, 19 January, 16 February, 15 March

### **Malmesbury – 4th Thursday of the month (except December)**

Venue: Malmesbury Abbey Cafe, Gloucester Street, Malmesbury, SN16 9BA

Time: 10:30am – 12:00pm

Dates: 26 October, 23 November, 21 December, 25 January, 22 February, 28 March

Kindly funded by St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council, Co-op Local Causes and Malmesbury Area Board

### ***Marlborough – 4th Tuesday of the month (except December)***

Venue: The Jubilee Centre, 28 High Street, Marlborough, SN8 1LW

Time: 10:30am – 12:00pm

Dates: 24 October, 28 November, 19 December, 23 January, 27 February, 26 March

### ***Bereavement help points***

This is a community-based drop-in service where all people who are bereaved are welcome. It's a space to meet and talk with others who may be experiencing similar thoughts and feelings, in an informal and supportive setting.

***Calne*** (please note this is not a CSW group)

Venue: The Harris Room, Calne Library, The Strand, Calne, SN11 0JU

Time: 11:30am-12:30pm

Dates: 3rd Thursday of each month.

### ***Chippenham***

Venue: Angel Hotel, Market Place, Chippenham SN15 3HD

Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm

Dates: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Run in partnership with Dorothy House Hospice

### ***Malmesbury***

Venue: Kings Arms, 29 High Street, Malmesbury, SN16 9AA

Time: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Dates: Every Monday

### ***Marlborough***

Venue: Castle & Ball Pub, High Street, Marlborough, SN8 1LZ

Time: 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Dates: Last Thursday of every month  
Run in partnership with Prospect Hospice

### ***Carer café facilitator volunteers wanted***

Carer Support Wiltshire are currently looking for carer café facilitator volunteers to help run the carer cafés in Tisbury, Chippenham, Devizes, Malmesbury, Melksham and Salisbury. Volunteers will need to be able to commit to a minimum of 2 hours per month, as well as initial and face-to-face training sessions.

The aim of this role is to create a safe and supportive group environment for unpaid carers at a local venue, providing them with a much-needed break from their caring responsibilities. Applicants will need good interpersonal and verbal communication skills and have the ability to listen and be empathetic with people who may, at times, be distressed, without feeling a need to 'fix things'.

For further information about this role, visit <https://carersupportwiltshire.co.uk/get-involved/volunteer/> or email [volunteer@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk) / call 0800 181 4118.

# 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 September's puzzle are 1D) Information 2D) Clubs 3A) Nature 4D) Charity 5A) Schools 6A) Advertising 7D) Sports 8D) News

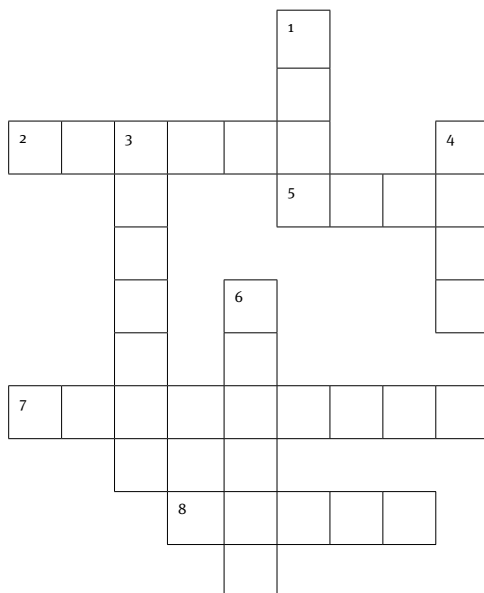
This month there are eight clues.

- 2 across Sees (6)
- 5 across After last orders (4)
- 7 across Home of the Cutty Sark (9)
- 8 across Support (4)
- 1 down Endure (4)
- 3 down Tenth month (7)
- 4 down Miserly (4)
- 6 down Sabbath (6)

This is the next crossword created by Neil and Rob Miles to challenge readers. Answers for this quiz will be in the November issue and if any reader would like to create their own mini crossword, we would be delighted to include it in a future issue of your magazine. Some of the words come from recent Purton Magazines and especially from the advertisements but, of course, dictionaries provide many more options.

We aim for the clues to have a spread of difficulty to attract readers initially with the easier clues.

Shapes of empty boxes within an 11 x 11 box square, perhaps as a table in Word



or in Excel software – or simply hand drawn and we will do the rest – contact details are on page 4 and on our website [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)



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