

November 2023

Purton Magazine

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

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Purton Contacts

Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctor	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgery	Church Street	770532
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Tuesdays 2.00-7.00pm Fridays 2.00-4.30pm)</i>		
Museum	Lucy Lewis	772466
Police/Fire/Ambulance	Emergencies	999
Police	Non-emergency	101
Scottish & Southern Electric	24hr network failure line	0800 727282
Thames Water	Report leaks, blockages, pollution, supply issues etc	thameswater.co.uk/help/report-a-problem
Age Concern Minibus	Hazel Woodbridge	770862
Purton Parish Council	Deborah Lawrence	771066
Purton Silver Threads	Lindsey Hall	771890
Recycling Centre, Mopes Lane, <i>(10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)</i>		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Pips Community Café	Duty volunteers	07498 526872
<i>(Tuesday-Friday 9am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm)</i>		
www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/		

Schools & Playgroups

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

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

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

Vicar: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith	email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk
Curate: Revd Judith Wells	Tel: 770077 (773031 emergencies only)
Warden	email: judithwells36@googlemail.com Tel: 770627
Administrator: Rosie Harris	Sandra Horsnall: 770157
	administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk Tel: 773035

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

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

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

www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk

Priest: Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues	Tel: 852366
-------------------------------------	-------------

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

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

Priest:	Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church
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Father Michael Robertson

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

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Purton Magazine

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The Angel. Credit: Gary Boyle

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From the Editors

November 2023
Volume 45 No.11
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One of the more sombre events happens at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month every year to remember the Armistice that ended the First World War and will happen again in Purton – see page 15. This year the day falls on a Saturday when the two-minute silence will honour those who have given their lives in conflict. The day after, the Remembrance Service will be held at the War Memorial* on the High Street at 2.30pm on 12th November, regardless of the weather. As in recent years, it is planned that the Silver Threads hall next door will be open to provide shelter in case of inclement weather.

Last year the Purton Branch of The Royal British Legion raised almost £10,000 – a magnificent achievement for our small village – and many poppies will be worn with pride for our forefathers again in the next few weeks. While the origin of this Armistice comes from the First World War more than 100 years ago, it would also be appropriate to hope for an agreed cessation of hostilities in each of the two current theatres of war that are very much in the news headlines, namely Ukraine and most recently, in Gaza and Israel.

November is also an appropriate month to publish on page 36 the D Day memories of Frank Herbert, a Sapper

in the Royal Engineers and father of Reg Herbert. Frank describes the build up to D Day from the perspective of his 280 Field Company and then the horrific realisation of working to clear ordinance on the Normandy beaches while under consistent enemy fire. He writes about many men being killed by enemy aircraft and machine guns on the land while waiting for the necessary transportation and equipment to arrive across the channel. Also clearly etched in his memory is the sight of a 'dear old lady' in France with the soles of her shoes falling off, escorting half a dozen, hungry six year old girls in the middle of the fighting, offering direct current parallels with the Middle East.

The article on page 49 from the Friends of Lydiard Park has two war time references. Firstly, there was once a German Military Hospital camp in the grounds and secondly, that the last Lord to live at Lydiard Park, Viscount Vernon St. John, fought as a rank and file Tommy in the First World War.

**Cenotaph means 'empty tomb'. There are no names inscribed on a Cenotaph, which allowed individuals to assign their own meaning to the memorial. There are only two cenotaphs in Britain; Whitehall, London and Aberdare, Wales. All other war monuments in Britain are war memorials.
(Source: Imperial War Museum)*

5

Councillor vacancies on Purton Parish Council available to be filled - more details on page 14

12

Christmas trees have already been promised for the festival in St Mary's Church. See page 23

Over 1800

Patients received their 'flu vaccinations on 30 September at Purton Surgery. See page 16

Purton Parish Council News



Community Award presented to Councillor Ray Thomas

Each year Purton Parish Council receives nominations for the special people in our village, who have given their time as volunteers, to make the lives of local people better and the council presents awards at the Annual Parish Meeting and Awards Ceremony.

On Sunday 1st of October 2023, the Council and its Officers took the extraordinary decision to present an additional award to Chair, Councillor Ray Thomas, who has given more than two decades to the Parish Council, gifting his time, hard work and significant levels of commitment to our village.

The award was presented to Councillor Ray Thomas at a special event held for him, given his recent ill health, which provided an opportunity to come together with friends, family and colleagues to share memories, joy and laughter.

The award was presented by Vice Chair Neil Hooper, on behalf of Purton Parish Council, who thanked Councillor Ray Thomas for everything that he had done for Purton and most importantly, for his friendship over the years.

For anyone wishing to nominate a local hero for a Community Award, please visit: www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/community-awards/community-awards-2023

Purton Red House update

Plans for the Purton Red House kitchen and dining space are progressing

well, with regards to the redesign and redecoration of the function room, and creation and installation of a high-tech kitchen with full ventilation and extraction.

Of late, however the development has faced some technical difficulties with regards to electrical installation and supply. As a result, these challenges will push the opening back into the early part of 2024.

It is hoped that once electrical issues are overcome the pace of the project will once again be restored and Bar snack food will be available early in 2024, before the full kitchen opens.

Donation of a new bench

Purton Parish Council received a donation of a bench this year, from Wiltshire Teak, for the Play Close Play Area, which was given to mark the King's Coronation, earlier this May.

The donation of the bench was kindly organised by Frank James, who is resident in the village and who is running six marathons around the world to raise money for Brain Tumour Research and for which all donations and sponsorship would be most gratefully received.

Walking Group

We have just completed trimming back all of our footpaths for this year. As hedges, brambles, stinging nettles etc have been growing like mad we'll start again with the popular footpaths to check them out again. It must be said we are possibly the only people to have

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walked a few of the footpaths, some being well overgrown even though we'd have trimmed them back last year. These are generally a bit off the beaten track, but we aim to keep them open.

Unfortunately, we do have a small number of footpaths which are not open at all for various reasons, all of which can only be resolved by Wiltshire Council.

We have a small number of repairs on our list which we are working through. If you come across any broken stiles etc please report them to the Office.

Please keep to the official footpaths and respect landowners' property by not walking elsewhere. If you're unsure where the footpath is and think additional way markers are required, please let the Office know.

Purton village planters thriving

Purton Parish Council made an investment in nine new planters for the village earlier this year, in order to align with its carbon neutral policy, reduce maintenance work and support pollinators.

The planters have been packed with varieties which will: be lower maintenance; cope with cold winters and summer heatwaves, and will be friendly to wildlife.

Ongoing maintenance and watering have since led to the plants thriving already, which will mean that support for pollinators will be year-round.

It is hoped that everyone will enjoy seeing both the year-round interest offered by the abundant plants and also the growing number of pollinators visiting the planters.

With the addition of longer-term

perennial planting, maintenance of the plants will also be reduced, decreasing costs and staff time.

The Purton Neighbourhood Plan - our voice when developers want to build in our village!

In the past, having a Neighbourhood Plan has enabled us to exert some level of influence over potential developments, because it is a legally-recognised document, which proves what our village wants and needs.

To make sure that it remains effective, updates to our Neighbourhood Plan are now underway, with Councillors, Council Officers, and Volunteers all working together to update it. This work will continue over the next year or so because it must follow a complex, regulated process to become a legally-recognised document.

This Neighbourhood Plan update or 'revision' offers an opportunity for you to have your say and shape the future of our village, with regards to housing and amenities. For example, you can use this chance to say that retirement homes, affordable accommodation, green spaces or GP appointments are most important to you.

We know that everyone's lives are busy, but we want you to be aware that this is happening and that you can really make a difference by:

- filling in surveys online and in the village;
- coming along to a Consultation Event;
- understanding what is written in the plan about where you live;
- volunteering to work on the plan;

- or voting when needed.

You can find out more and keep up to date by following Purton Parish Council on social media (see contact details at the end of the Purton Parish Council section) and by reading the Purton Magazine over coming months.

Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards 2024

Volunteers in our village give many hours of their time to improve the lives of all of us, without pay or recognition. Without them many local events, clubs and services simply would not exist.

Each year the Parish Council offers you a chance to recognise these community stalwarts, who you have witnessed volunteering for our local community. This takes place via the Purton Parish Council Annual Volunteer Recognition Award Scheme.

To nominate your local hero, you simply need to obtain, complete and return a copy of the entry form to the Parish Council Office. Nomination Forms can be collected from the Parish Council Office, downloaded from our website or if needed posted to you.

The form is available on our website at: www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/whats-on

Councillors will consider all entries, following which Award Recipients will be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday April 8th 2024 at 7.30pm, when Awards will be presented.

Each winner who accepts an award, will be welcomed to the Annual Parish Meeting at the Village Hall with their families, to receive their awards and enjoy some light celebratory refreshments.

Your hero can be of any age. They may be new to a project, have set up a project or have been giving their time, energy and commitments to a well-established organisation for many years.

You'll simply need to let us know who they are, which organisation they volunteer with and provide 50-100 words about what makes their contribution so special.

The closing date for entries is January 31st, 2024.

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.

Purton Parish Council Children's Christmas Party 2023!

Tickets are now on sale, 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, and 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.

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: 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 Pealers handbells group and the Lockdown Brass band.

For full details, please see last months edition of the Purton Magazine or visit this link: www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news-articles/purton-parish-council-christmas-lights-switch-on-2023

Skate Park Grind Rail - Update

Following the request from young people to install a 'Grind Rail' at the Village Centre Skate Park this autumn, Purton Parish Council wishes to update skatepark users that installation of the Grind Rail is expected to be completed this November.

Junior Football Pitch Enhancements – Update

Pitch users may wish to note that the re-turfing work has been finished and that the area will be closed in October so that the turf can be fully established.

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
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/220	Simpkins
PC/Burial/262	Matthews
PC/Burial/304	Ardley
PC/Burial/342	Chapman
PC/Burial/357	Eatwell

Planning

Planning applications are received and are discussed under Council agenda on the second Monday of each month. Purton Parish Council is a consultee only and the final decisions are made by the planning authority which is Wiltshire Council. Details of applications are posted on our website should you wish to view or through the Wiltshire Council portal link also on our site. Applications to be considered at our meetings will be posted on our agenda, which can be located on our notice boards and website at:

www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/services/planning-highways

Applications received, granted, and refused at the date of submission for this edition of the Purton Magazine, are as follows:

A) 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
- 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

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10/24

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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
- PL/2023/05643, Works to a Protected
Tree, Willis Way Purton Proposal:
T11 - Common Walnut - Reduce
canopy by 40%. Decision: Approve
with Conditions
- PL/2023/03828 ,Mill Farm, 25 The
Fox, Purton, SN5 4EF. Proposal:
Alterations To Include: Removal
Of Chimney Stack, Formation Of
Glazed Facade, New Window & Door
Openings, And Internal Alterations.
Decision: Approve with Conditions

All day car park closures - Christmas lights switch on - Saturday 2nd December 2023

Please be aware that both the
Millennium Hall/Village Centre Car Park
and Purton Red House Car Park, will be
closed on Saturday 2nd of December in
order for the Christmas Lights Switch
On to take place. Please ensure that you
have removed your vehicles by midnight
on Friday 1st of December from these car
parks.

Limited Disabled parking will be
available at the Millennium Hall/Village

Centre on a first come first served basis.

Full Council Meetings 2023

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

- Monday 13th November
- Monday 11th December
- Monday 8th January 2024
- Monday 13th February 2024

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

Dates for your 2024 diary

Do add the following dates to your diary
for next year and watch out for more
information and updates:

- Neighbourhood Plan Consultations
– dates tbc
- Children's Easter Egg Hunt –
Saturday 30th March at Purton Red
House
- Annual Parish Meeting & Awards
Evening – Monday 8th April
- Family fun and sports days – at
the Purton Red House and Village
Centre, dates tbc
- Community Safety Roadshow –
Saturday 12th October
- Christmas Lights Switch On –
Saturday 30th November
- Children's Christmas Party –
Saturday 14th December

Councillor Vacancies

The Parish Council currently has the
option to co-opt five Councillors. If you
are interested in this community post,
please complete forms which can be
found at the link below. The Clerk is also
available for an informal chat prior to

completion of your application.
www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/data-transparency-sub/policies-procedures

Keep up to date

Keep up to date

Further Council details and community information are available as follows:

- Call – 01793 771066
- Email – deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Follow us on Facebook – @purtonparishcouncil
- Follow us on T 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
jamesgraymp@parliament.uk
0207 219 6237

Your local Wiltshire Councillor is Cllr Jacqui Lay
Jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk
01793 770 704

Report issues such as those below via - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting:

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

Purton Branch, The Royal British Legion

The Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 12 November 2023 at 2.30pm at the Purton war memorial regardless of the weather, so please dress accordingly.

In case of inclement weather the Silver Threads Hall should be available to shelter.

We will also be holding a brief ceremony on Saturday 11th at 11.00am with a two minute silence to join with the rest of the country to honour those who gave their lives in conflict.

All the members of the Branch would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the people who gave so generously to the Poppy Appeal over the last year, giving a total of £9,734.26, which is excellent and very much appreciated.

Our thanks also go to Shirley and Mike Lawrence, our Poppy Appeal organisers, for all their hard work and to the customers of ASDA who gave so generously.

Colin Pearson, Honorary Secretary.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



Harvest Raffle



After the successful raffle held a few months ago in Purton Surgery the PPG will be holding a Harvest Raffle in October. There are several lovely prizes – see photo. Tickets, 50p each or £2 for a strip of 5, will be on sale from 9 October. The draw will be on Wednesday 1 November when the winners will be contacted. Tickets from Reception in both Purton and Green Gable Surgeries.

'Flu Vaccinations

Over 1800 patients received their 'flu vaccinations in Purton Surgery on Saturday 30 September. Thanks to the medical team for their efficiency and to patients for their cooperation.

Prescriptions from Boots in Cricklade

Boots in Cricklade have now fallen into line with national guidance and no longer order medication on your behalf. Prescriptions should now be ordered through the surgery, either online or on a repeat prescription. Pop in and speak to a receptionist for information. You can still collect your medication from Boots in the normal way.

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 200 Club year started on 1 October, however you may still join part way through the year, bearing in mind that you will have missed some of the draws for that year. The cost is just £15 a year and there are



two prizes of £100 and £15 each month. Setting up a Standing Order for your £15 to be taken annually on 1 September is much

simpler for administration purposes. Forms are available at both Purton and Green Gable surgeries.

The October draw was done by Jo Griffin, Practice/Diabetes Nurse and the £100 winner was Nigel Massey. 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.

St Mary's Church, Purton Christmas Tree Festival

Together with many other organisations in Purton we will be taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church during December.

12/23

Community Spaces for Hire

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

tel: 01793 771066
www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Millennium Hall
Bowls Pavilion Function Room (October to March)
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03/24



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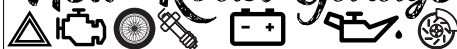
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02/24

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.

Talk on Parkinson's – 26 March 2024, 7.30-9pm

We are pleased to be restarting the regular health talks which we were organising for patients before Covid. The first of these will be on the subject of Parkinson's when we have Rachel Gardner, Lead Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialist at GWH and Vincent Mobey from Cricklade Parkinson's Café to talk. You may remember that we hold the talks in Purton Surgery where the capacity is limited, hence we ask patients to ask for a ticket (free) from reception. Tickets will not be available until the New Year.

Table Top and Books in Purton Surgery

If you wish to make a purchase from the Tabletop in Purton Surgery Waiting Room please hand your donation to the reception team. We are unable to receive any shoes for the table. We welcome good quality donations for the Table – please hand in to Reception. There are also books in the bookcase for purchase (50p each). We currently have plenty of books so are unable to accept any more for the time being.

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

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

Jigsaw Sale: Saturday 4 November

There will be a Jigsaw Sale in Pips Café, at Silver Threads on Saturday 4 November from 10.30am. Please do bring us any jigsaws you would like to donate... and come and buy a new one ...or two...or more...for the winter ahead!

They will all be cheap and cheerful, from £1 for 1000 pieces and a little bit more for those brand-new. Come and have Pips cake and coffee at the same time!

The money raised will be for the DEC fund through Christian Aid to help those in particular need, from natural disasters such as the recent floods and earthquakes. If you would like me to come and collect jigsaws from you please phone 771018

Otherwise please bring them to Pips on Thursday 2nd November afternoon or Saturday 4th November morning from 9.30am. Thank you so much for your support

Libbie: 771018

12/23

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Visit the website: malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

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Purton & District Age Concern

Purton and District ~~AGE~~ CONCERN

Dates for the diary:

- 3 November: Wine Tasting, Silver Threads Hall
- 25 November: Less-able Christmas Party at the Millennium Hall
- 29 November: Coach Trip to Clarks Village
- 2 December: Christmas Party, Village Hall
- 20 January: Burns Night Celebration

3Bs Evening

Bangers, beans, and bingo – what a night! A sell-out crowd and a fabulous evening! We can be proud of the turnout, so thank you everybody for supporting us. It is a format that seems to work, and there was an audible (sometimes quite loud) buzz around the hall with the socialising that was going on. Alan, our caller, was on top form and kept people amused with his rhyming number calling and the cooks served up the lovely food bang(er) on time! We hope everybody enjoyed the evening. The feedback is always positive and we had people asking to come to our next events, so altogether a great night. Well done team.



Wine Tasting Fundraiser - 3 November



Come and join us at our Wine Tasting evening at the Silver Threads Hall, sampling some new wines, described to you

by experts in their field, with a light food accompaniment to absorb the alcohol! This will be a standing event as space will be limited. Cost is £20 per person and tickets are available from our secretary Georgina on events@purtonageconcern.com or call 07966 222967. Come and enjoy a convivial evening.

Coach Trip - 29 November

We are running a coach trip to Clarks Village again this year. It was very popular last year, as there are plenty of shops and some very nice eating places. It ticks all the boxes in my book!



Pickup will be 10 a.m. through the village and we expect to be back by about 6 p.m. Tickets are £15 per person and £17 for non-pensioners or people who live outside the village. Ring Peter on 778119 or email chairman@purtonageconcern.com to book this pre-Christmas event. Don't leave it too late as this is a popular Christmas shopping trip.

Christmas Party 1

We will be holding our 'less able' Christmas Party on 25th November at the Millennium Hall when those with mobility problems, care home residents and their carers can come and enjoy a festive afternoon. £4 per person and carers come for free. Start time is 3.00 p.m. To book your place please call Jean on 01793 771304.



Christmas Party 2

Our other Christmas party is on 2 December at the Village Hall at 5 p.m. Come along and enjoy an evening of musical entertainment. £7.50 per person, however Street Wardens & Minibus crew are invited along with our compliments. To book your place please call Jean on 01793 771304 or email events@purtonageconcern.com.

Burns Night Celebration - 20 January 2024:

WATCH THIS SPACE – Tickets will be on sale shortly. Contact Andrew on 01793 956059 to book. £25 per person.

Tai Chi Classes

The Tai-Chi classes will be running weekly at 1.30 p.m. on Thursdays at the Millennium Hall, so come along and enjoy the benefits of this gentle exercise. We will be offering a FREE taster session for beginners. New members will have to fill in a health form at the first lesson. Cost is £7.00 per session. 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 but it's not always possible to keep up with all the changes. If you answer 'yes' to the first two questions but you 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 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 Peter Berry from Age Concern on 01793 778119 or Debbie Lawrence, Clerk of the Parish Council, on 01793 771066. Remember that Purton is a very special village and there is always somebody who 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 Peter on 01793 778119 or email 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.

Pheonix – This is a free transport service on your bus pass. You need to ring 01249 890794 to book with them. Remember if we don't use it, we lose it!

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

*Georgina Colman, Secretary
Peter Berry, Chair*

Christmas Tree festival

You may have heard that we are planning a Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's this December. It is going to be really exciting. All the details about dates and times, size of trees etc are in the last Magazine (October).... please check it out on the magazine website if you have lost your copy.

We are asking everyone and anyone to take part, by bringing along a tree which represents them or a group they attend. For example, we already have groups knitting and sewing, cooking and painting...so we are hoping for an exciting turn out!

Already a dozen trees have been promised....all shapes and sizes. Some are made from cardboard, others from recycled bottles, twigs and perhaps even coathangers! One rule is please no spray-on glitter or glitter dust!

We are hoping for trees from the pubs, the care homes and as many organisations in Purton as possible.

Please let us know if you are going to be bringing your tree to St Mary's on Friday 1st December (10am-12) or Saturday 2nd. (9am-12)

Be careful not to put anything too precious on the tree as we can't guarantee to protect it. And any lights will need to be battery operated, not electric.

We've got 12 trees promised so far: it would be great to have a few more! If you want to know more please contact us:

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

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

Pips Community Café

Hello, thank you so much to everyone who came to the one off Lou's Lunch held in Pips Cafe on September 26th. We had a full house and it was smashing to see everyone again! We've really missed doing Lou's Lunches so we've decided to do a once a month Lou's hot lunch held on the last Tuesday (ish) of each month. Price remains the same; £5 for a main meal, £2 for a pud plus a free drink if both courses are bought together. We will have 30 portions of each course so plenty to go round!

The next hot lunch dates are November 21st and January 23rd. The December Lou's Lunch meal is replaced with the Pips Christmas Party meal for those lucky enough to get booked in! The minibus can be booked with Hazel as usual on 01793 770862.

Our craft workshops to be held in Pips Cafe have had lots of interest; the Gingerbread House decorating class is now fully booked! The remaining classes are all walk-ins on the day plus we've added



another fabulous workshop to the list!
Please note we have a change of date for the Button Christmas Card workshop...
SEE LIST BELOW!

Here's what's on and when...

- October 28th Pumpkin Carving 10-1pm FREE WALK IN WORKSHOP
- November 25th Button Christmas Cards 10-1pm FREE WALK IN WORKSHOP...PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THIS CLASS!! No longer on the 18th November.

- December 2nd Salt Dough Decoration 10-1pm FREE WALK IN WORKSHOP
- December 9th NEW Christmas Cookie Decorating 10-1pm £3 EACH WALK IN WORKSHOP
- December 16th Gingerbread House Decorating 10-1pm FULLY BOOKED

Look forward to seeing you soon!

Louise, Pips Volunteer

Ten Years Ago...

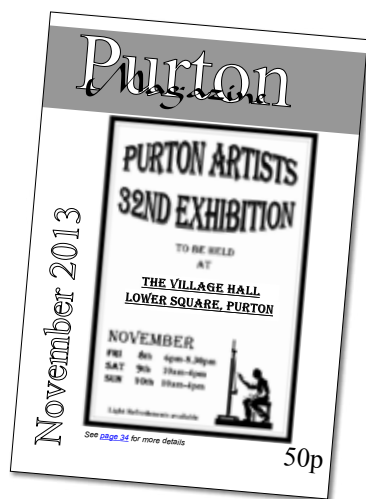
Some months ago I mentioned that the Great War Project was starting in Purton Magazine. In November 2013 it outlined British history over the previous 100 years. It noted that postage was 1d. Now it's £1.25, a 300-times increase! It also stated that Britain is a Republic (with a capital R!). I hope the Royal Family didn't receive a copy.

A controversy – or at least a difference of opinion – broke out. The Trustees claimed that, in spite of

having a pitch in tip-top condition, the Football Club was having a “mixed start” and should do it justice. The club's report stated that they were top of the league.

Inevitably, Christmas was beginning to rear its head, particularly in Purton Placard. One forthcoming sale advertised hyacinths, Christmas wreaths, bird boxes and pickles. Wonderful for anyone stuck on what to buy for that difficult relation.

Purton Guides celebrated International “Talk like



a Pirate Day". This is something I had never heard of, but a search on my computer reveals that it is tied up with Easter eggs. Meanwhile, St. Mary's Church was mounting an exhibition based on Trivial Pursuits.

Purton Historical Society



Purton Museum closes on 28th October for the winter months and reopens in April 2024. Next year's events and exhibitions will be advertised on the website nearer the time – www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com

Next Meeting: Thursday 23rd November, Methodist Church, Play Close, Purton, 7.30pm

Everybody welcome; free for members, guests £3

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

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.

Purton Historical Society Social Event

Purton Silver Threads Hall, 7.30 p.m., 5th January 2024

A light buffet will be served but bring your own drinks (alcohol is allowed).

Entertainment by Solas.

Quiz and lucky ticket number.

Tickets £15 each, available at monthly meetings, or from Marion Hobbs (01793 770185) or Jim Mosley (01793 778395).

Keith Allsop,
email: allsopk83@hotmail.com

Following our enquiry in last month's magazine to find local relatives of Ewart Bartlett, we're pleased to report that members of the family have come forward and now have the photograph.

Jan Walker, Museum assistant
Tel: 770124

After 8

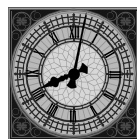
September Meeting

After our Summer activities of 'games in the garden' hosted by Diane in her beautiful garden, Petanque – coaching and a game with a meal after, at the Cricklade House Hotel, organised by Helen and a local walk with Pips as the destination, planned by our resident rambler, Sandra, we acknowledged the start of Autumn by meeting at Playclose Chapel to discuss the wide ranging topic

titled 'I wish I was there'.

This seemed a very apt phrase for those of us sitting in chilly Purton as we listened to apologies from members on holiday across the Channel and even travelling along the Mekong river.

In true After Eight fashion we somehow managed to turn this into an interesting discussion, probably because we all



interpreted it in slightly different ways. Most of us loosely based our thoughts on holidays but were intrigued to consider other options.

Once we clarified the subtle difference between ‘I wish you were here’ and ‘I wish I was there’, we were off!

Diane had checked the definition, which questioned the grammar! Needless to say, we didn’t debate that. Wanting to be at a certain place with someone or an event was the definition.

She was reminded of the Judith Chalmers and Cliff Michelmore travel programmes called ‘Wish You Were Here’, which, of course, all of us remembered.

We also considered moments of sadness. Times when we wished we had been with loved ones, in time to say goodbye when they died. Some members were able to share their experiences which were very special.

As members revealed events which they regretted missing, such as: the 2012 Olympics and the opening ceremony, seeing Ovett and Coe competing in earlier athletic events, seeing the poppies at The Tower of London, Queen

at the 1985 Live Aid Concert, it inspired others to remember events they had been privileged to attend such as: The Last Night of the Proms, Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph in London, seeing Usain Bolt win the 200m at the London Olympics.

Most of us remembered memorable holidays. These ranged from a surprising walk along the Northumbrian coast to being mistaken for VIP’s in Kuala Lumpur, with a luxurious outcome.

Books, such as, Gerald Durrell’s ‘My Family and other Animals’ – Corfu and ‘Still Life’ by Sarah Winman – Florence, also have the ability to trigger, ‘I wish I were there moments’.

And then, of course, there are all the historical events to consider, depending upon one’s particular era of interest.

We agreed that our shared journey of memories and new possibilities had passed a very pleasant, sociable hour.

I hope this will give our readers a moment to consider and reflect on their own ‘wish I was there’ places and events and, most importantly, who they would like to be with.

Mary Hodges

November Nature Correspondent

David White: A force for nature

The idea that farmers aren’t interested in their local wildlife is a thing of the past: programmes such as “Countryfile” amply demonstrate this and our Wiltshire farmers have recently got together to give nature a helping hand. David White farms at Berwick Bassett,

where his great grandfather Fred White settled in 1909 and converted from managing livestock into growing corn. In an almost unbroken tradition, David took over the farm in 1968 at the tender age of 20 and now that his active involvement in wildlife preservation has taken wing he is busier than ever.



David White's photo of Short-eared Owls in the snow

David was one of the 45 farmers who got together and formed the Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area in 2012. Since then it has gone from strength to strength and the conservation initiatives have continued and diversified - Butterfly and Bat walks, David's annual Dawn Chorus walk, an "Owl Prowl" from a tractor trailer and much more. He tends to get up with the sun (4.00 am in the summer months) and has usually taken a few striking pictures of the Avebury stones or a pair of boxing hares before most of us have had breakfast.

Back in 2007 his land appeared to be fairly devoid of wildlife so he decided it was time to start creating better habitats. Set-aside, field margins, game strips, management of grazing land on and below the Ridgeway, including bare patches created for nesting Lapwings, the list goes on.

Fifteen dew ponds were made or refurbished and hedge and tree planting drew in volunteers from the public. Highland cattle were introduced to create a clumpy sward, providing good

habitat for nesting voles and mice and that in turn began to attract his favourite avian species, Birds of Prey.

Buzzards, Kites, Kestrels and Sparrowhawks are now regularly seen along the skyline and Short-Eared Owls and Harriers are occasional visitors. For Tree Sparrows, down to two pairs in 2012, nest boxes were installed and giant bird feeders loaded with millet seeds alongside wild bird strips.

Now an overwintering flock of 300+ birds constitutes one of the largest colonies in the U.K.

The acquisition of a camera with a zoom lens alerted David to the variety and beauty of his local landscape and wildlife and it started him on a secondary career as a photographer, which has won him awards and often takes him abroad. A recent exhibition of his work in Avebury featured a foray into Astro photography and landscaping images using a drone.

No doubting it, David White is "a force for nature."

Robin Nelson, Commissioned by Tower & Town, Marlborough

News and wattles from the Turkey shed

Last year I nominated myself for a competition organised by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. The competition is for sustainable farming practices and wildlife protection, it's run in several rounds, county, regional and national. I had to fill out a form with some technical information and then write a few words about my farming practices. This ran to many pages but was enough to get me shortlisted for judging. I was very relaxed about showing the judges around as I knew I wouldn't win against all the big estates that enter, it was just a two hour walk around the farm with me rabbiting on about wildlife and how we farm to enhance it while still being productive, they seemed to enjoy my chat and we all had a great afternoon.

The award ceremony was in a lovely barn with nice food where the judges gave a short description with slides of the three farms they visited. Woodland planting and wetland creation were some of the big projects the two big smart estates I was up against had done. So I was more than a little surprised when I was read out as the winner and presented with a certificate



The Silver Pintail Award



**Homegrown fruit for the Pop up
farm shop**

and rather smart duck trophy – the Silver Pintail.

I'm reminded of all of this as tomorrow I'll be welcoming the judges of the regional award. I'm a little more nervous this time as the competition will be getting stiffer. I can't compete on terms of scale, vision and resources so my only option is to channel as much enthusiasm and passion for the subject as I can muster and try and win them over.



We opened turkey sale on the 1st of October to a flurry of activity at 7am, its amazing how organised many people are and by the the end of the first day we'd sold 10% of our birds. If you're after one pop onto the easy to use website and get your order in. www.lydiardturkeys.co.uk

We made 91 bales of hay at Mordon Meadow in the gorgeous October sun and ferried it back to the farm. The route is fun, we go over 12 roundabouts! The tractors can go up to 40 kilometres per hour but much of the time were at half that because of the road surface, if you can feel a slight bump in your car in a tractor with no suspension the same bump is like hitting a pot hole!

Cutting the grass is essential for maintaining the diversity of plants on the meadow. Well done North and Central Swindon Parish Council and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, and all the rest of the Lydiard Turkeys team for making it happen.

Our next Pop up farm shop will be 4th and 5th November from 10.0am until midday.

Chris Rumming

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

Purton Village Diary - November 2023

3	F	7.00pm	Age Concern wine tasting evening at Silver Threads hall
4	Sa	10.30am	Jigsaw sale at Pips Community Cafe
5	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Church for All at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	All Souls at St Mary's Church
			Guy Fawkes Night
11	Sa		Armistice Day
12	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		2.30pm	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's Church
			Diwali, the Hindu festival of light
13	M	10.00am	Purton WI host Jan from Royal Wootton Bassett Flower Club at Silver Threads Hall
		7.00pm	Full Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
			Odd Socks Day, marking the start of anti-bullying week
14	Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at Hook Village Hall for a talk about Concorde
17	F		BBC Children in Need
		2.30pm	Cakes & Tales family history event at Hook, Greatfield and Greenhill Village Hall
19	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Church for All at St Mary's Church
		2.30pm	Talk on The Parish Churches of North Wiltshire at St Mary's Church
20	M	2.00pm	Bill King talks to St Mary's Fellowship of Women about the The Poppy - symbol of Remembrance at Purto Methodist Church
21	Tu		World 'Hello' Day - say hello to strangers you meet during the day to highlight the importance of face-to-face interactions which help combat loneliness and isolation.
23	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk on 150 Years of Wildlife from Mike Pringle, Richard Jefferies Museum. Dr Who or TARDIS Day. The 60th anniversary of the first broadcast of this cult sci-fi series. Wear a bow tie, a long knitted scarf or celery on your lapel! Thanksgiving is celebrated in USA
24	F		Black Friday - or in a protest against mass consumerism, Buy Nothing Day

25	Sa	10.00am	Free Christmas card-making workshop at Pips Community Cafe
		11.00am	Christmas Market at St Mary's Church
		3.00pm	Age Concern Christmas Party for the less-able
26	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion at Purton Methodist Church
28	Tu	10.00am	Purton & District Probus meet at Hook Village Hall for a talk about Ukraine
30	Th		St Andrew's Day, patron saint of Scotland.

Every week

M	6.30pm	<i>to 7.30pm</i>	Purton Village Voices choir practice at Purton Methodist Church (term time)
Tu	9.00am	<i>to 11am</i>	Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	2.00pm	<i>to 7.00pm</i>	Purton Library open
W	10.00am		to 12 noon Coffee and Chat at Pips Community Cafe, Silver Threads Hall.
	7.00pm	<i>to 8.30pm</i>	Purton Youth Club for school years 7+ at The Millennium Hall
Th	1.30pm	<i>to 2.30pm</i>	(during term time) Tai Chi at the Millennium Hall
	3.15pm	<i>to 4.15pm</i>	(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	<i>to 4.30pm</i>	Purton Library open
	3.30pm	<i>to 5.00pm</i>	Weekly group for Ukrainian families and their hosts at Royal Wootton Bassett Library
Sa	10.00am	<i>to 12.30pm</i>	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

Purton & District Probus Club



Commonwealth War Graves Commission John Wort

This talk was given by John Wort. John is a volunteer speaker for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. John studied Zoology at Bangor University but realised that zoology was not a career path he wanted to pursue. Instead, he joined the army and served for 9 years as a regular member of the Berks & Wilts Infantry regiment. Subsequently, he was a reservist for many years.

We were shown a range of photographs and pictures to demonstrate the role of the Commission. The tasks carried out include tending graves, looking after commemorative monuments and identifying the remains of recently discovered military and civilian personnel who died during times of conflict. An example of this is a body recently discovered in Normandy that has just been identified and will be reburied. Our speaker revealed some staggering statistics including the fact that of 1.7 million deaths since the inauguration of the War Graves Commission 600,000 bodies still remain unidentified. This covers some 23,000 locations globally including 160 countries. The work of the Commission is mainly supported by aid from the UK, Canada, India, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. The largest sites in Europe are in Belgium's Tyne Cot Cemetery and the Thiepval Memorial in France.

These statistics only include dedications from the periods 1914 -21 and 1939-47 which are entitled to be considered a war grave. The Ministry Of Defence took the role over from the War Graves Commission when things became complicated in 1948. Wootton Bassett has 8 commonwealth war graves. Large plots are also found at Chippenham and Calne. In these local areas, the Commission pays the relevant churches a stipend to look after any graves related to the periods cited.

The contribution of Sir Fabian Ware is of particular interest. At the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914, he wanted to join up at age 45 but wasn't allowed because he was considered too old and so joined the Red Cross instead. In this role, Sir Fabian went around the battlefields and wherever he found a body he marked the spot in a notebook. The military High Command realised the importance of this, because they were still paying soldiers who had perished during the conflict, and, as a result, Ware was recruited and had a major impact on getting the government to create, via royal charter, what was to become the Royal War Graves Commission. Eventually Ware rose to become a major-general by the end of WWI.

A stipulation of the Commission is that, if military or civilian personnel are deemed missing but not discovered, a memorial still should be erected and cared for. The rank or origin of personnel is to be considered of no consequence. This explains why a high-ranking officer may be buried next to a private. However, the issue of who should choose the type of headstone and the type of inscription became a major issue in 1914-18. Subsequently, wooden crosses have gradually been replaced with different types of stones – granite, slate but the majority are Portland stone. The Gill font is used for details on each headstone with the relevant cap badge and regimental number (only WWI). This was later replaced by an army number so there are no replications. The date of death and the age of the individual could be added if required by the family at the family's cost together with any religious emblem or personal inscription. Gallantry awards were included on the headstone.

It was also declared that each relevant graveyard should include a Stone of Remembrance. These were created for consistency of acknowledgement created by a design team of architects who had served in the war. These were used as the central part of any cemetery. After a time, the Stone of Remembrance replaced the Cross of Sacrifice, which essentially is a Christian cross, thus all religions were represented. A good example of this is the Ypres Memorial (Menin Gate), which is currently being restored. There reveille is played every evening at 8 o'clock.

Further information for example finding cemeteries and memorials, war records, and the work being carried out by the War Graves Commission can be accessed at: <https://www.cwgc.org>

Swindon's Other Railway: the History of the Midland South Western Junction Railway (MSWJR)

The speaker, Nick Baxter, has had a varied background. He gained a BA in History and subsequently taught for 10 years at Bradon Forest. Since then, he studied for an MA in Industrial History and then went on to work for the Royal Mail.

The presentation covered the history of steam powered trains including, of course, Stephenson's Rocket which ran along the Manchester-Liverpool line. There were some interesting anecdotes included in the talk. For example, Nick described how the original carriages looked very much like stagecoaches. He explained how, in fact, the advent of the steam train brought about the demise of the

stage coach and was very unpopular initially because it led to major unemployment for the people involved in the stage coach industry including many of the coaching inns.

A further story involved the tragic death of William Huskisson. William Huskisson was a statesman, financier and MP but he will always be remembered as the first widely-reported person in history to be fatally injured in a railway accident. While attending the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, Huskisson rode down the line in the same train as the Duke of Wellington. At Parkside, close to Newton le Willows, the train stopped to observe a cavalcade on the adjacent line. Several members of the Duke's party stepped onto the trackside to observe more closely. Huskisson went forward to greet the Duke but as he was leaving the train, the locomotive Rocket approached on the parallel track. Huskisson was unable to get out of the engine's way in time and his left leg was crushed by it. After the accident, the wounded Huskisson was taken by a train (driven by George Stephenson himself) to Eccles, where he died a few hours later.

In 1836, plans were made to build a railway line between Manchester and Southampton. However, this was strongly opposed by the Marquis of Ailesbury. Meanwhile, the Great Western Railway (GWR) was established as a British Railway Company that linked London with the southwest, west and the West Midlands and most of Wales. It was founded in 1833, and ran its first trains in 1838 with the initial route completed between London and Bristol in 1841 engineered by Brunel. The GWR was the only company to keep its identity through the Railways Act of 1929, which amalgamated it with the remaining independent railways within its territory and it was finally merged at the end of 1947 when it was nationalised and became the Western Region British Railways.

Meanwhile, in 1842, a meeting of clergymen was held in Pall Mall and it was decided to set up a school in Marlborough because there was said to be a need to have a clergy school near Swindon because of its central position i.e. Marlborough College. Lord Palmerston was an important influence during his time of being Prime Minister (1859-65). During his first year in office, he agreed to the building of a link between Swindon, Marlborough and Andover. By 1862 the Berks and Hants Extension Railway had been built from the Great Western line at Hungerford through Great Bedwyn and Pewsey to Devizes. Marlborough had again been by-passed. The Ailesburys, realising their earlier mistake in objecting to Brunel's main line going through the town, had dropped their opposition. The Mayor and Lord Ernest Bruce, who was one of the town's two MPs, succeeded in obtaining

an agreement from the GWR that a station would be built north of Burbage. This was Savernake Station because, being five miles from Marlborough, it was at least nearer than Swindon.

The push for a branch line began in earnest as many had hoped the much awaited extension would go through Marlborough. J S Thomas, the bursar of Marlborough College, and the Corporation encouraged the setting up of a Marlborough Railway Company to build and run the proposed line. An Act of Parliament was passed in July 1861 authorising the construction. The cost was kept to a minimum by building the line in a sweeping curve to the west of Savernake Forest thus avoiding any tunnels. The only bridges required were at Hat Gate over the road to Wootton Rivers, and at Leigh Hill over the Burbage road. Construction began in 1863 on the five and a half mile line. The connection with the college was emphasised. At the time, it was believed Marlborough would be one of the biggest towns in the South of the country.

Sometime later Swindon Station was completed in 1881 linking Swindon with Cheltenham via an extension line. It was dangerous work building the railway line – pick and shovel basically. The single line from Old Town to Marlborough also opened in 1881. The bridges were made of Sarsen stone and brick. In 1891 freight and then passenger connections to Cheltenham were established. Eventually Swindon, Marlborough and Savernake each had two stations. Of particular importance was the influence of Sam Fay (1856-1953) who became the manager of the MSWJR. He established railway works at Cirencester that included a large build-up of rolling stock. The Black Tunnel was part of the line to Swindon, so called because the tunnel supposedly had a ghost: a young man committed suicide there during WWI.

The build-up of armed forces prior to the first World War had an impact on the need to have trains. Leisure travel also became significant. A link to Tidworth was built, also the Draycot Army Camp near Chiseldon became important. After the war the need for rail transport dwindled and a great number of railway companies were disbanded with only 4 main railways remaining including GWR but the Swindon-Marlborough line lost its importance. This was revived during the second World War as the war emphasised the continuing need for rail transport. In 1946 an ammunition train exploded at the transfer point on the edge of Savernake Forest. The forest was a dump for storing ammunition; 6 soldiers were killed as result of the explosion. The line was eventually closed in 1961 and the opening of the M4 in 1971 ensured the end of the line. The very last train ran in April 1972.

Our November meetings will be on 14th - Concorde with Alan Smith, and 28th - Ukraine with John Clarke. We meet at 10am at Hook Village Hall and welcome new members.

John Slaght

D-Day Memories from Sapper Frank L Herbert

280 Field Company, (Coy) Royal Engineers

The following extract is from Reg Herbert's father Frank, who served in the Royal Engineers and who wrote down his memories of the war:

In early May we were working on transit camps in the woods near Southampton. The invasion troops were coming in and we were sympathising with them because they did not know what their destiny was. At the end of the week, we were ordered back to our headquarters at Mote Park, Maidstone. On the Sunday morning we were ordered to parade in the middle of the park forming a big circle. The Commanding Officer came and said, "Since the invasion beaches have been chosen, the Germans have erected obstacles and our Company has been given the honour of being one of the Engineer Coy's to destroy them."

On Monday, off we go, back to Southampton beaches and there were exact replicas of what the Germans had erected. We examined them and found that a 1lb amount of plastic high explosive stuck in the middle of these obstacles would be enough to collapse them. No one knew where the invasion beaches were. The week before D-Day we were locked in the transit camp. On the Friday we were taken to the outskirts of Southampton to the beach where we were to board the landing craft. The streets were lined with people, but no one was allowed to speak to any of them. The military police with green arm bands made sure we didn't. We spent Friday evening in a big NAAFI



tent and had a good sing song. Saturday afternoon we had to wade to the landing craft. All we had with us was a ground sheet and one blanket, no change of clothes. This was when we were informed that the landing beaches were in Normandy. We spent our time making up eight 1lb charges for each man. We then heard that the invasion had been put off for a day to Tuesday 6th of June. We played cards until it was too dark to see the cards and on Monday evening we were on the move. We settled down on the deck to await what would happen in the morning.

It was a bit of a rough crossing and most of us were seasick. We landed just before 7am and found that in addition to the obstacles we knew about, the Germans had placed poles in between them with shells pointing out to sea. The water was too deep to jump off as we were laden with a rifle plus the eight 1lb devices, so our craft had to take a chance with the shells and push through, scraping them as we went – all very scary! We eventually jumped down and carried on with the demolitions. We were lucky compared to our left-hand section. The Germans were firing along the beach with their big guns with the numerous machine guns facing towards the sea. Several of our mates were killed. The officer in charge ordered the rest of them to take shelter up by the wall which was a big mistake as the Germans dropped hand grenades down on them, killing a lot more.

Looking out to sea was a marvellous sight with landing craft coming in all different ways and two big battleships firing inland as well as floating tanks with props. Our next task was to clear the beaches making a track through a minefield just over the road. We didn't have mine detectors so had to resort to using the bayonet prodding method. Our transport and equipment didn't arrive until day three, so we had the job of guiding the incoming convoys through the safe route up the beach. German planes were a bit scarce, but one came along the beach very low, and its machine gun fire killed more of our men. Our Bofors guns got him, and he crashed along the beach. We were watching the bombers coming out and rocket boats going in showering targets just off the beach. Then we had a real reminder that it could be you next when a lad next to me collapsed with a bullet straight through his forehead. His body was taken back to England. We walked along the beach and saw the bodies of jeep drivers who had turned over and were trapped and drowned. These bodies were gathered up the next day. There were three long rows of men, and they were temporarily buried in local gardens before being interned in Bayeux Cemetery.

That evening we heard the King speak from a tank radio and learned that our advance troops had gone 20 miles inland. This position

was held for weeks allowing supplies to be built up until the final breakthrough. There was no bread available until day 10 so we had to be content with eating hard biscuits.

Our Company continued right through France, Belgium, Holland and over The Rhine. We were 7 kilometres outside Hamburg when we heard the King's Speech saying war had ended. We eventually landed at Ver-sur-Mer having travelled many miles.

One of the bravest acts I saw during the Normandy campaign was just before the big breakthrough when we were going towards Falaise. Action was going on everywhere. American fortresses were flying overhead carrying bombs for Falaise, the English typhoons were dive bombing the area and the Germans tanks were coming up the road with their white flags surrendering. In the midst of this, a dear old lady appeared with the soles of her shoes falling off, followed closely by half a dozen 6-year-old girls. It was obvious they were all starving. We gave the old lady some chocolate and she passed it straight to the children. We tried to make it clear that there was a Red Cross unit nearby, but we never knew if they made it. If anyone deserved a medal as big as a plate it was her!

Frank recalls that he was very proud to be called a sapper; the name given to the men serving in the Royal Engineers. (The word sapper means the destroyer of fortifications).

I was even more proud to be awarded the Oak Leaf and mentioned in despatches by the King for being part of the Royal Engineers Company who strengthened and repaired the bridge over The Rhine which made it possible for the British convoys of lorries and tanks to cross over the river.

He recalls that the allied foot soldiers crossed on 18th March 1945 and the first convoy crossed on 25th March 1945.

Purton Tennis Club



The Saturday morning sessions have been particularly well attended and enjoyable this summer, with 27 children in total coming down to the club, including eight new members. Of the scheduled 22 weeks, we managed to play on 20 of those, despite the wet weather

during July and August! I must mention Ellie and Logan Smith who attended all but one of the sessions – well done!

We entered two teams in the Wiltshire Junior League, an U14 boys' team and an U16 boys' team. We came up against very stiff opposition, but all the boys



enjoyed the experience and improved their match play.

Our annual Junior Singles Tournament took place on the 23rd September. I had to postpone it from the original date, a fortnight before, due to the exceptionally hot weather!

The Junior Girls' event saw Lucy Pidgeon, champion of the last two years, take on newcomer to the club, Juliana Reed, who was playing in her first competitive match. The first set went to Lucy by 6-2 with Juliana struggling to come to terms with her nerves. She settled down in the second set and this could have gone either way with several long rallies. Juliana hit several outright winners, but Lucy's steadier play saw her win the set 6-4.

The Junior Boys' event pitted last year's winner, Will Togher, against Josca Watkins who has improved immensely over the last twelve months. Josca got off to a flying start winning the first set by 6-1. Will then settled into the task at hand and he won the second also by 6 games to 1, thus meaning a match tiebreak (first to 10 points) would decide

the title. Josca got off to a good start and raced into a 7-4 lead, but Will fought back before Josca hung on to win by 10 points to 7. Josca thus joined his dad, Richard, with his name on the cup, the first father and son to do so!

The brothers of Lucy and Juliana, George and Callum competed in the Senior Boys event. Callum played extremely well on the day and his superb serving exhibition saw him surge to

victory without the loss of a single game.

My thanks to Teresa Miles for her invaluable help both on a Saturday and at the tournament.

Nicola Gardner

Tennis is usually thought of as a summer sport, however at Purton we play all through the year as we are fortunate to have four excellent hard courts on which to play; and two of these courts are floodlit. This means that members can book a court whenever they like, or join in with club sessions on Sunday mornings or in the evenings during the week.

Some members are also playing in the winter league of the Swindon & District Tennis League (SDTL). This is mixed doubles tennis, where mens, ladies, and mixed doubles are played. We have entered three teams this year at various levels and we wish all the players good luck and hope they enjoy their tennis.

After a very successful and enjoyable summer season, we are now looking forward to the annual presentation



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night where the trophies will be presented. This year it will be held at The Marlborough Golf Club on 17th November and two of our teams – the Men's and the Mixed B Team, who were champions of their divisions, along with our Winter team from last year, will be collecting trophies. Very well done to everyone involved.

Coming up we will be holding our AGM at The Red House Purton (at the time of writing, the date is to be confirmed). We hope that members of our hard-working committee will continue to serve and support the club, however new members

and new ideas are also always welcome. Fingers crossed for a good turnout, because this is the opportunity for people to have their say and bring their ideas to the table.

Should you like to come along to the AGM and meet us, or perhaps book a court or even better, think about joining Purton Tennis Club next year, then please get in touch. We will be pleased to hear from you.

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

Purton Football Club

With the season now in full swing, with all teams now playing, the ladies team season has been very stop-start due to cancelled matches, through teams not being able to raise a team mainly due to holidays or a clash with rearranged cup games.

On the playing side of things with the men the 1st team is sitting 4th in the league with 6 wins out of 9 games played and through to the second round of the cup after a 5-2 win over Stratton on October 7th, with a second round to come against top of the table Faringdon Town, with the date yet to be confirmed as I write this.



The Development side have also started well and were sitting top of their league up to last Saturday October 7th but a 0-1 home

defeat saw them slip to second place.

Our Sunday side also started well and currently sit in the top three of their league, with many new faces in all three teams, which has given us such a big improvement on the last 2 seasons, and put Purton back competing in all 3 leagues. Long may it

continue into the New Year.

Away from the playing side of things our Sporting Dinner on October 2nd was a



big success, although I must admit the turnout could have been better, but for those who did not attend it was their loss as they missed a good speaker in Mark Lawrenson, ably supported by comedian Bob Webb. Could I also pay my thanks yet again to Matt and Lou at the Purton Club for their co-operation to help the evening go smoothly, and their burgers and hot dogs were a welcome treat for all those who attended.

*Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer
of Purton FC*



Swindon Croquet Club

Swindon Croquet Club's Chairman's Plate competition came to its conclusion with 8 players, who had qualified from 4 round robin groups, competing in a knock out format.

Steve Hares, Garry Douel, Alan Chippendale and Tony Tomlin progressed into the semi finals having overcome quarter final opponents before Steve and Alan went through to the final.

The competition was based on the 'advantage' handicap system so, due to his lower handicap, Steve began the final on minus 2 hoops. Alan played solidly throughout, giving Steve little opportunity to pull back the deficit. Steve did his utmost to overpower his opponent but Alan consistently played excellent, very accurate, recovery shots over several fiercely contested hoops. Alan clinched victory with a most impressive 'jump' shot and was presented with the Chairman's Plate by competition organiser Tony Tomlin.

Beverly Briggs



Top: Tony Tomlin (L) presents the Chairman's Plate to Alan Chippendale

Above: Chairman's Plate finalists Alan Chippendale (L) and Steve Hares (R) with competition organiser Tony Tomlin

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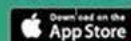
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Purton Cricket Club



The painful lull after the cricket season has begun with a long winter stretching ahead after the final youth training sessions for the summer concluded in recent weeks.

It hasn't been all doom and gloom though as the club successfully held their Youth Cricket awards evening at the club on a picturesque Friday night.

For the Under 11s, Nate P took home the Batting Award after scoring 177 runs with a best of 52*. The Bowling Award went to Albie M as he took eight wickets across the season and finally the Coaches Award was won by Jessica S.

In the Under 13 age group, Sam S claimed the Batting Award with a total of 295 runs, Muthu M won the Bowling Award after taking a staggering 21 wickets including best figures of 4-10 and the Coaches Award went to Ria D'Sa.

Finally, in the Under 15 age group, William C scored 531 runs including two centuries to win the Batting Award. Alongside him, Om T won the Bowling Award after taking 14 wickets across the summer including 6-11 in one game and the Coaches Award was given to Pavel S.

The awards evening helped to round off what has been a fantastic summer for the club on and off the field throughout the age groups, with participation numbers high throughout.

However, 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.

In addition to this, the club is looking to expand the number of sponsors it has over the winter to assist with future plans. One of the sponsorship packages includes a sponsor board displayed at the club as shown in the photo below.



If this is of interest to yourself, your company or someone you know then don't hesitate to get in touch with the club via means available on the Play Cricket website or social media channels.

Harrison Burridge

Purton Placard

Purton and District ~~AGE~~ concern

Forthcoming Events

Nov 3 **Wine Tasting**

Silver Threads Hall, £20 per person
Tickets on sale now, email:
events@purtonageconcern.com

Nov 25 **Christmas Party for the less-able**

Contact Jean on 01793 771304 for details.

Nov 29 **Christmas Shopping trip**

Clarks Village, Somerset. Coach leaves the village at 10.00am. Cost £15/17 per person. Call Peter on 01793 778119 to book.

Dec 2 **Christmas Party**

Contact Jean on 01793 771304 for details.

Jan 20 **Burn's Night Celebration**

Contact Andrew on 01793 956095 for details.

Purton WI

Monday 13th November, 10.00am, Silver Threads Hall Jan, from Royal Wootton Bassett Flower Club, is giving a demonstration of a Small Flower Arrangement for Christmas. Jan will also be helping members with their arrangements. All visitors are most welcome.

St Mary's Church



Christmas Market
Sat 25 November
at
St Mary's Church
11.00am – 3.00pm

Light lunches, mince pies, teas and coffees served

- Many attractions and stalls including:
- Locally grown and homemade produce
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- Activities for children

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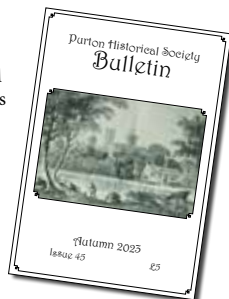


The Purton Historical Society

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



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Library and Purton Museum. Alternatively call
770331, 772466 or 770117 for copies.

***If you'd like your event
featured in the Placard,
please send details by 10th
of the preceding month to
mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk***

Purton Post Bag



The editors reserve the right not to publish letters received where space and content dictate. No correspondence can be accepted for publication without the proper name and address of the correspondent supplied. However, these details may be withheld from publication if requested.



A little word of thanks to Purton Surgery

Yet again, the annual flu jab distribution was wonderfully well managed and I doubt the whole process was longer than 3 minutes for anyone on the receiving end. One “jabber” told me that 1,900 patients were expected that Saturday morning and with 7 suitably armed professionals it can be estimated that each would have injected just over 270 upper arms. Probably not the way they would have chosen to spend their Saturday morning but thanks are due from each recipient for such a speedy and successful service.

Francis Sheppard



Thank you for church flowers

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the flowers in St Mary’s for Harvest. We were so grateful. Someone even gave us sunflowers from their allotment... they were beautiful. It was so special to have just Purton garden and allotment flowers... none of the flowers had travelled miles by plane! All were free of chemicals and sprays.

This is exactly what we aim to achieve

in St Mary’s, as we are now working towards eco-church status. And if ever anyone would like to come to St Mary’s and use our equipment... vases, pedestals etc. to practise flower arranging, we would be absolutely delighted. You will be so welcome

Contact Libbie: 771018 or Jane: 772422



Footpath misuse

Is the Parish Council able to improve signage and/or barriers restricting the use of footpaths and pavements to pedestrians? I’ve noticed that Church Path especially, is being increasingly used by cyclists as a cut through to avoid Church Street and the High Street. This path is well used by families, the elderly and dog walkers and on a number of occasions I’ve had to avoid (adult) cyclists using the narrow path, forcing their way past. The signs are barely visible and in my view, inadequate to prevent a conflict of use and inevitable accidents.

A Walker (& cyclist)



Friends of Lydiard Park

Tales of Lydiard: Tracing the final resting place for Lydiard Park PoWs.

Looking at Lydiard Park's beautiful grounds and playing fields in 2023 it is hard to imagine they were once occupied by a German Military Hospital Camp. Yet a complex of tents, Nissen huts and one or two concrete and brick buildings occupied some eighty acres of the park during World War II and its aftermath. There is virtually no evidence of the camp left on the ground but documentary material brings this memorable part of Lydiard's history to life. A 'Special Collection' of the Lydiard Park Prisoner of War Hospital Camp can be seen on The Lydiard Archives and you can read more on this story here: [www.friendsoflydiardpark.org.uk/tales-of-lydiard-articles/tracing-the-final-resting-place-for-lydiard-parks/](http://www.friendsoflydiardpark.org.uk/tales-of-lydiard-articles/tracing-the-final-resting-place-for-lydiard-park-pows/)

Heritage Open Days: A Fruitful Success!

Heritage Open Days drew hundreds of families to Lydiard Park this September and the Heritage Apple day event which the Friends supported in the Walled Garden was a huge success. Lydiard's garden team pulled out all the stops and celebrated their apple collection with tastings, games and stalls of delicious culinary treats, washed down with Lydiard's own cider. The picture shows apples weighing in the Friends of Lydiard Park stall!

The Viscount who fought as a Tommy

Vernon St John, the last Lord to live at Lydiard Park, features in a new book. 'The Keep in 60 People' provides a fascinating glimpse into the stories of sixty men who served in the regiments of Devonshire and Dorset. The regiments' history is preserved in The Keep Military Museum in Dorchester and their Director, Elliot Metcalfe, writes in his Foreword that the book is devoted to men of all ranks: Some are well known stories, whilst others are told for the first time. Our subjects came from all walks of life – from labourers to lords, professional soldiers to conscripts, the very young to the very old, historical and fairly recent. There is more on this news story here www.friendsoflydiardpark.org.uk/news/the-viscount-who-fought-as-a-tommy/

Good Gentlewomen, featuring The "Other" Margaret Beaufort.

As St John family followers will know, one is famously the mother of Henry VII and half sister to a whole bunch of mediaeval St Johns. The other Margaret Beaufort is her cousin but unravelling the Beaufort/Beauchamp links can prove quite tricky.

'Our' Margaret was born in 1443, the daughter of Margaret Beauchamp and her second husband John Beaufort, Duke of Somerset. The 'other' Margaret was born c1437 and was the daughter of Eleanor Beauchamp and her second husband, Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset. Confused yet? All is revealed here www.friendsofLydiardPark.org.uk/news/blog-post/the-other-margaret-beaufort/

Cakes and Tales : A Free Lydiard Tregoze Family History Event

To be held at Hook, Greatfield and Greenhill Village Hall SN4 8EA,
2.30pm on Friday 17 November 2023



Another chance to share your memories and explore The Lydiard Archives with Friends of Lydiard Park Chair Sarah Finch-Crisp and local historian and fellow trustee, Frances Bevan. Donations on the day towards your home-made afternoon tea will be much appreciated.

For over fifty years The Friends of Lydiard Park have been gathering and compiling the memories and stories of people who grew up in and around Lydiard Park, creating a fascinating history of the life of the village. Last year we filled every seat in the hall and we hope to again this year! Since last year's Cakes and Tales we have collected more historic photographs and stories including some wonderful images preserved by the Strange family of Hook and the Rumming family of Park Farm, Lydiard Tregoze. Meanwhile Frances Bevan is continuing her transcriptions of the remarkable diaries of Elliot Woolford (d1940) of Hook Farm and discovering the Woolford's close connections with the St.John family at the turn of the 20th century.

The Lydiard Archives are continually expanding and provide a wonderful digital resource for anyone interested in their local history, including school pupils who will be able to discover more about what life was like for children in the past. Please do bring along any

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photographs and historical material you would like to share and we will photograph them on the spot.

To Book

Cakes and Tales is a FREE social event though we would be very grateful for your donations on the day. The cakes are all home made by our lovely volunteers and to help with catering please book your place by emailing The Secretary, Julie Holland at secretary@friendsoflydiardpark.org.uk or write to her at 30 Croft Road, Swindon SN1 4DQ.

We Record...



Funerals at St Mary's Church

14 September 2023 Margaret Jean Edwards (Jean) (79)

20 September 2023 Jean Blakey (95)

Baptism at St Mary's Church

8 October 2023 Mya Loveridge

Purton Craft Market

We are delighted to welcome you to Purton Craft Market!

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

- 17th December

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



Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Church Path, Church Street, Hyde Lane, The Hyde, Parkside, Church End, Manor Hill, (and from Moulden View) Criollo Place and Oldenburg Close*

05/24



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12/23

Church Floodlighting



Nov 12 St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Derek Giles** on the 10th anniversary of his passing, which was on November 14th. Special Dad and Gramp. Also to celebrate the life of **Janice Giles**, our Special Mum, Nan and Great Nanny, who passed away on 12th August 2023. Together again. Love Deb, Neil, Kevin, Martin, Ellie, Jenna, Scarlett, Orla and Rafe. xxxx

Nov 14 The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Monica Kinnett**. With love from all the family.

Nov 14 The Church will be floodlit on what would have been **John Bentley's** 81st birthday. John passed away 14.12.2016. Always lovingly remembered by Alison, Sharon, Nigel, Scott and Gemma.

Nov 15 St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Millie Burgoyne** on the first year of her passing. Loved always by her daughter Pat.

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

Cricklade Author's Debut Novel – The Mediterranean Mystery

Malcolm Brooks has lived in Cricklade for around 44 years with his wife, Gill. Now at the ripe old age of 85, he has written his first novel.

Set in Brighton and Cyprus, the book is called 'The Mediterranean Mystery' and Malcolm says he decided on the plot whilst sitting in a deckchair in front of the Grand Hotel in Brighton!

"I didn't have to do too much research," explained Malcolm. "I know a bit about Brighton as my daughter lived there and I visited her quite often. I had three years based in Cyprus with the RAF and Gill and I have been back there for holidays."

Central to the story are experienced detectives DCI Harry Webb and new detective Andrew Brown, who are helped by DCS John Street to solve a series of crimes. "Harry Webb is probably my favourite character in the book," said Malcolm. "Especially as, when I was little, I wanted to be a detective when I grew up!"

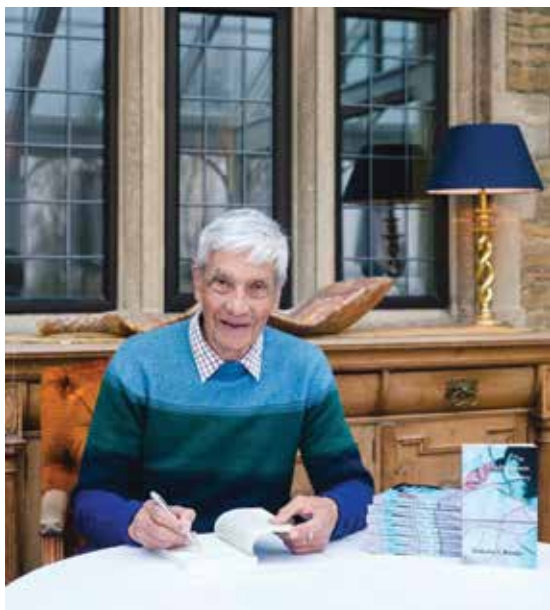
Based loosely on some of his own life experiences, Malcolm's novel is a gripping thriller with lots of twists and turns about diamond smuggling, abduction, murders, life and death dramas in hospital and a dramatic suicide. "It really is an extremely tasty cocktail of events and a real page-turner," explained Malcolm.

Over the years, Malcolm has had his own 'tasty cocktail of events' starting off with having hot fat spilt on his face as a tiny baby! Then later, he fell into the village pond and nearly drowned and, a few years after that, he fell from a tree whilst collecting conkers. He narrowly missed being on a fairground ride that crashed, seriously injuring around 20 children; made a crash landing in an aeroplane that had its engine on fire; was electrocuted but survived thanks to his rubber-soled shoes; survived three bomb attacks; narrowly missed several near fatal road accidents and has beaten cancer – twice!

Life is a little bit more sedate for Malcolm now and he enjoys playing Petanque several times a week at a piste that he helped to build overlooking the beautiful Wiltshire countryside at Cricklade Hotel and Spa. He has also played this version of boules in Guernsey and plans a Petanque trip to Spain in October.

Malcolm said: "Yes, my happy place these days is on the Petanque piste. I am very proud of having been a part of the project to build these 10 wonderful pistes, so much so that I plan to donate some of the profit made by the sale of my debut book to the Petanque Club."

The Mediterranean Mystery by Malcolm C Brooks is published by Maple Publishers and is available in paperback from leading bookshops – ISBN: 9781915796356 – or direct from the author and signed personally by him for £9.99 plus £3 p&p. To order your signed copy of The Mediterranean Mystery, contact Malcolm Brooks by email at malgilly@gmail.com



Mini crossword

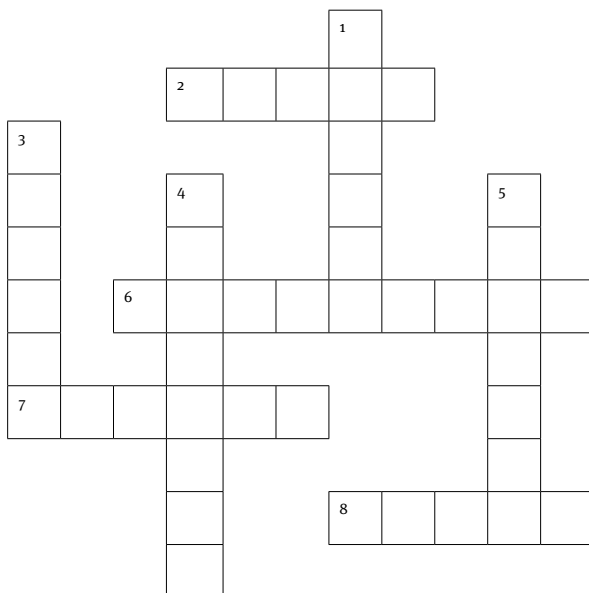
Here is the next in our series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun. Again there are no prizes but the answers to October's puzzle are 1D) Last 2A) Clocks 3D) October 4D) Mean 5A) Time 6D) Sunday 7A) Greenwich 8A) Back

This month there are eight clues.

- 2 across Inhabitant of Italy's capital (5)
- 6 across Henry VIII's first and last wives (9)
- 7 across Salad missile (6)
- 8 across Potter's equipment (5)
- 1 down Wax light (6)
- 3 down Sausage and song (6)
- 4 down Bright gem (8)
- 5 down Beacon (7)

This is the next crossword created by Neil and Rob Miles to challenge readers. Answers for this quiz will be in the December 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 can come from recent Purton Magazines

and especially from the advertisements but, of course, dictionaries provide many more options. We aim for the clues to have a spread of difficulty to attract readers initially with the easier clues.



Shapes of empty boxes within an 11 x 11 box square, perhaps as a table in Word or in Excel software – or simply hand drawn and we will do the rest – contact details are on page 4 and on our website www.purtonmagazine.co.uk



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