

December 2023

# Purton Magazine



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

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# Purton Contacts

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> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/">www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/</a>		

## **Schools & Playgroups**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Priest: Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues Tel: 852366

Lucas Rodrigues

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

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

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

Father Michael Robertson

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

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# Purton Magazine

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Front cover image: Turkeys enjoy  
foraging in the brief dry weather.  
Credit: Chris Rumming/Lydiard Turkeys

**InTouch**  
Design & Print

**H&WPRINT**  
hulbert & woodall

# From the Editors

December 2023  
Volume 45 No.12  
1st Published 1975

On a sunny day in the middle of November, Christmas does still seem a long way off but this issue of your magazine carries information about many festive activities that lie ahead in Purton.

New this year is a Christmas Tree Festival being held in St. Mary's church. Lots of different groups in and around our village are taking part with specific times for the trees to arrive for installation listed on page 30. It all starts on Sunday 3rd December with a service of dedication when all the trees will be properly on display, some probably with lights and every tree will be different. Each one should have some details about making the tree along with a little information about the organisation itself. The show will be open during usual church opening hours (9.00 am to 5.00 pm) right up to December 30th when the trees need to be removed.

There are two events on Saturday 2nd December. Firstly, the Parish Council have their annual Christmas Lights Switch On outside the Red House at 4.00pm with live music from the Peartree Pealers handbell team and the Lock Down Brass Band – see page 10. Shortly afterwards the Age Concern Christmas Party will be in the Village

Hall from 5.00pm and although most of the tickets have already been sold, a phone number to check for any last-minute tickets is on page 19.

Many villagers enjoy the wide variety of events and activities held every year by Purton Churches. There are three chances to enjoy Christmas Carols; at St. Mary's on Sunday 10th performed by school choirs and musicians as well as the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 17th with the Chedworth Band in the Methodist Church on Thursday 14th. The list on pages 22 and 23 has details of many other services including the traditional midnight communion service and the annual Christingles service where children are required to bring an adult.

In closing the Magazine Committee wish all readers, distributors and advertisers a very happy and healthy Christmas with a prosperous New Year.

***Please ensure that your contributions for the January issue of Purton Magazine are received no later than Sunday 10th December so that we can prepare, produce, proof and print the next edition in time for Christmas. Thank you!***

---

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Pips Community Café celebrated its birthday with cupcakes - see page 40

6

Kissing gates have been installed this year by the volunteer footpath teams - see page 6

38

People responded to the Parish Council Greener Purton Survey - see page 6

# Purton Parish Council News



## ***Supporting a Greener Purton***

This summer, Purton Parish Council asked residents about which types of eco initiatives they would support, in an online survey.

The survey attracted 38 responses, with the majority (92%) of them online. Of note, was that two thirds of respondents were unaware of Purton Parish Council's aim to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.

Results showed strong support for all measures with water butts, local plant growing, insect and small mammal homes, domestic tree planting and reductions to local pesticide use, topping the list.

More ground level planting, community gardens, and domestic planting to support pollinators were proposed, in order to extend what the completed planter programme had achieved for local bees.

## ***Footpath Team***

We have now finished trimming back by hand for this year. There are still some outstanding footpaths that we know are overgrown and in need of strimming which we hope to tackle if the weather improves and they can be safely accessed.

We still have some minor repairs on our list and will continue with those for the time being. Following all the recent rainfall however many areas are very wet, and we won't be going out under those conditions.

We have installed a kissing gate and sleeper bridge on FP70 which goes from Station Road to Collins Lane. We are

pleased this adds another stile-free footpath to our network.

During 2023 we will have installed 6 kissing gates, a great achievement. They comprise 5 sponsored gates and one reused from a redundant position. If anyone would like to sponsor a kissing gate, please contact the Purton Parish Council Office. However please be aware they can only be installed with the landowner's permission.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2024. Enjoy walking our footpaths.

## ***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 ensure 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 regarding housing and amenities. For example, you can use this chance to say that retirement homes, affordable accommodation, green

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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 the 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](http://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 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.

### ***Update on Royal Wootton Bassett Banking Hub***

Work is underway to create the Hub at the Post Office in the High Street to hopefully be ready to open early in 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 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 hand bells group and the Lock down Brass band.

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

### ***Skate Park Grind Rail - Update***

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 skate park users that installation of the Grind Rail is now complete and ready to enjoy!

### ***Junior Football Pitch Enhancements – Update***

Pitch users may wish to note that the re-turfing work has been finished following installation of new goals and the levelling of the pitch.

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

### ***Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity installs new heaters***

This month the Trustees of the Purton Institute and Village Hall (Charity, reg

no 203202) have funded the installation of a new heating system.

The new heaters will support sustainability by running on renewable electric energy and offering greater efficiency by maintaining heat in their ceramic core, once warmed.

Smaller than the previous less efficient heaters, they offer increased floor space for events, as well as a quieter solution to warming the hall.

Hall users need not worry about setting the temperature or turning off the new units, as they will be controlled by an app and set up in advance of bookings.

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

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

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

### ***Memorial Testing***

Purton Parish Council has completed Memorial Testing at Purton Cemetery.

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

We will endeavour to make contact with owners where available, however if you know the family to whom these graves belong, we would be grateful if you could let them know.

Contact can be made via the office on 01793 771066 or via email on [lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.miles@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The current graves failing safety testing are:

PC/S/7	Vyvyan
PC/S/44	Maltby
PC/Burial/58	Hiscock
PC/Burial/50	Parsons
PC/Burial/53	Brown
PC/Burial/71	Wheeler
PC/Burial/101	Jones
PC/Burial/117	Bristow
PC/Burial/151	Kennet
PC/Burial/162	Parsons
PC/Burial/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](http://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:

### **Permission Granted**

- PL/2023/05642, Old Coach House, 85 High Street, Purton, SN5 4AB. Proposed Loft. Conversion to garage

and single storey & link extension between house and garage.

Decision: Approve with Conditions

- PL/2023/03187, 1 The Peak, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4AT. Proposal: Single Storey extension to side and rear of property. Extension to have a wheelchair accessible bedroom and shower room, connected onto existing ground floor of property with wheelchair access onto entire ground floor and access to front and garden. Decision: Approve with Conditions
- PL/2023/06526, 2 Sams Cottage, Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke, Swindon, SN5 4JG. Proposal: Two Storey Rear Extension & Front Porch - Re-submission of expired approved
- application 14/06086/FUL. 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. Please walk to the event if you are attending and are able to.

Limited Disabled parking will be available at the Millennium Hall/Village Centre on a first come first served basis.

### **Council Meetings 2023**

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

Mon 11th Dec - Full Council Meeting  
Mon 8th Jan 2024 - Full Council Meeting

Mon 13th Feb 2024 - Full Council Meeting  
Mon 14th Mar 2024 - Full Council Meeting

Agendas are posted on our four notice boards (Purton Council Offices, Ridgeway, Moulden View and at the Pavenhill Shops) and our website [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### ***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 six 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](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/data-transparency-sub/policies-procedures)

### ***Keep up to date***

Further Council details and community information are available as follows:

- Call – 01793 771066
- Email – [deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- Follow us on Facebook – @purtonparishcouncil
- Follow us on T Follow us on Twitter – @PurtonPC

### ***Know who to contact***

- To volunteer for Community Emergency Volunteers contact: [Emergency@KevinLaw.co.uk](mailto:Emergency@KevinLaw.co.uk)
- To access victim support if you have witnessed or been impacted by a crime call: 01225 256 925
- Your local MP is James Gray MP. Email: [jamesgraymp@parliament.uk](mailto:jamesgraymp@parliament.uk) Tel: 0207 219 6237
- Your local Wiltshire Councillor is Cllr Jacqui Lay Tel: 01793 770 704 Email: [Jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk)
- Report issues such as those below via - [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting); pot holes, abandoned vehicles, fraud, weather emergencies, fly tipping, dog mess, graffiti.

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## *Prayer for Purton*

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *The Fox, The Pry, Collins Lane, (and from Moulden View) Arabian Avenue, Palamino Place and Eriskay Place*

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[gsbricklaying@outlook.com](mailto:gsbricklaying@outlook.com)

# Update on the Banking Hub

The last bank standing in Royal Wootton Bassett closed its doors back in December 2022. As a customer I was shocked, as too were the many people I spoke with and who lobbied me to do something! I contacted James Gray, MP, for his support and he was able to put me in touch with a company who is delivering Banking Hubs across the UK. Together with Cllrs Bucknell we worked with this company to identify a building in RWB that might work as a Banking Hub. During 2023 we were kept informed of progress but unable to release information due to the sensitive nature of the location. However, finally we are delighted to be able to announce that the Hub will be at 33 High Street, in the same building and next door to the existing Post Office.

When the hub opens, hopefully in the New Year, it will offer a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions. It will also offer a Community Banker service where customers can talk to their own bank about more complicated issues, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. The Community Bankers will work on rotation, with a different bank or building society available on each day of the week:

- Monday: Nat West
- Tuesday: TBC
- Wednesday: Barclays
- Thursday: Lloyds
- Friday: HSBC

A statement made by Cash Access UK when they released the news included: "Finding the right location for a Banking Hub that is convenient, accessible and works for everyone often takes time, so Cash Access UK is delighted to have been able to secure convenient premises in the heart of the community. This development is a significant step forward in bringing a Banking Hub to Royal Wootton Bassett.

The team at Cash Access UK are now working hard to fit out the new premises and will update the community on progress and an opening date as soon as they can. The Royal Wootton Bassett Banking Hub page on the Cash Access UK website - Cash Access UK - Royal Wootton Bassett (Wiltshire) – will provide updates as works progress. In the meantime, a temporary Banking Hub is also being considered to provide the community with access to cash whilst plans for the permanent hub continue to progress."

*Jacqui Lay,  
Wiltshire Councillor for Purton & Braydon  
Tel: 01793 770704/07449 978789*

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## **Why not become a Purton Magazine subscriber for 2024?**

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# Community Defibrillators

Purton Parish Council is responsible for two Community Heartbeat Defibrillators within the village; situated at the Village Hall and on the wall of The Royal George. There is one in Purton Stoke operated by a local team plus others within businesses, schools and the Surgery.

If you know a place of work, meeting place, shop or school that has a defibrillator within our parish, we'd like to publish a list of locations and availability so if anyone in our community needs to use a defibrillator in an emergency, we can all familiarise ourselves with where they all are. Please email [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk) with details (location and if within a building, its opening times) so we can print a comprehensive list in Purton Magazine in the new year.

Thank you

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## One Stop Christmas Fundraiser

The team at One Stop are holding a Christmas Fundraiser at the shop in Pavenhill on Saturday, 9th December from 9am - 1pm. As usual there will be a raffle and cake stall. Raffle prizes include a bumper One Stop hamper, Christmas cakes, bottles and other Christmas items. Pop in and buy freshly baked cakes, scones and mince pies, all homemade, and hopefully have a few laughs with the team.

All proceeds will be donated to one of Purton's worthwhile causes. We look forward to seeing you then, as always.

The team would like to once again thank all our loyal customers for their custom and support during 2023. We would also like to wish you all "A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year"

*Pearl Lait, on behalf of Zac, Zita and your One Stop team*

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## Scout Christmas Post 2023

Scout Christmas stamps are now on sale in the local shops within Purton. 35p a stamp, cheaper than the Royal Mail! Not only that, you get a smiling scout, cub or beaver delivering by hand. Post boxes available from the 17th of November, until the 12th of December. Covering Swindon, Highworth, Latton, Watchfield, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wroughton, and all the areas in between. Please support your local group. Many thanks.



*Zoe Curtis - committee- 1st Purton and Lydiard Scouts*

# Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



## ***Harvest Raffle***

The Harvest Raffle raised a total of £140.50, thank you to all who took part. The six lucky winners were ... Hampers - Ray Butt, Linda Young, Julie Stepp and Gillian Motley; Scarecrows - Elizabeth White and Val Walker.

## ***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 November draw was done by Healthcare Assistant Maria Collins and the winners were £100 Graham Crockford, £15 Nicola Lawrence. 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.

## ***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 be available in the New Year.

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

We need good quality items suitable for Christmas for the Tabletop in Purton Surgery Waiting Room, if you have any that you can donate please hand them in to reception. If you wish to make a purchase from the Tabletop then please hand your donation to the reception team. We are unable to receive any shoes for the table. There are also books in the bookcase for purchase (50p each). 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*



12/23

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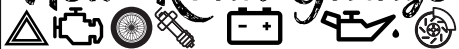
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02/24

# Purton & District Age Concern

# Purton and District AGE CONCERN

## ***Dates for the diary:***

- 2 December: Christmas Party, Purton Village Hall
- 24 December: Carols under the Christmas Tree
- 20 January: Burns Night Celebration

## ***Wine Tasting Evening 3rd November***

Our wine tasting evening hosted by Magnum Wines of Old Town was a new event for us. It proved to be a most enjoyable evening. It was lovely to see some new faces at our fundraising events. We had a knowledgeable audience for each description of the wine we were sampling, accompanied by nibbles to compliment the flavours of each of seven different wines and one port that we enjoyed. Thank you to Georgina and Shirley, who provided the tasty food accompaniments. An opportunity to purchase the wine, if we liked it, with free delivery followed. We had a raffle hosted by Alan and Richard with hampers provided by the committee and friends, all in all a very successful evening; thanks to all who helped.

## ***Christmas Party 2nd December***

It might be a bit late to book for this party, but if you have time and want to come then call Jean on 771304 to see if there are still some tickets left, I guarantee that you will enjoy our party, a good starter for the Christmas period. It will be held at the Village Hall from 5pm to 8.30pm. £7.50 per person.

## ***Carols around the Christmas Tree 24th December***

Our annual event and one that I know a lot of you enjoy. We will be at the Red

House at 6pm on Christmas Eve for a couple of hours singing carols, drinking mulled wine, and eating mince pies. All free of charge as a 'thank you' from us for supporting our events throughout the year. We will be joined by Lockdown Brass & Friends and this year we will be outside, so wrap up warm! Hope to see you there.

## ***Burns Night 20th January 2024***

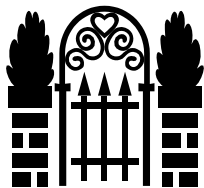
Our traditional Burns Night celebration with a three-course meal (including haggis, neets and tatties), piper and a whiskey toast, ceilidh with a live band, raffle, and auction, plus some fun and games. Come and enjoy this very popular evening at the Village Hall. Ring Andrew on 01793 956059 for tickets at £25 each.

## ***Mick Hull***

It is with sadness that we mention Mick's death. In October, he was for many years part of our committee and influential in inaugurating a lot of the events that we still rely on for income today. He originally lived in Surrey with his wife Shirley and daughter Samantha where he worked for the water board. They enjoyed horse riding and gymnastics and he was a dab hand at restoring furniture and artistic painting. They moved to Purton about 30 years ago with his job and settled into village life. Unfortunately he was plagued with heart problems and was one of the first people in this country to have a complete heart transplant at Papworth Hospital. He later had leg problems and had to start using a wheelchair, which was a shame as he loved country & western music and dancing. He still got out and about

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and was still able to join various groups in the village and enjoy life. He was always a very friendly character with a positive outlook on life. He had only just moved house, into something easier for him to negotiate with his wheelchair and no stairs to worry about. His wife, Shirley, is in the Cedars care home and not well which is unfortunate. We send our condolences to his family and friends and mourn somebody who will be missed in the village.

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

The Tai-Chi classes will be running weekly at 1.30pm on Thursdays at the Millennium Hall, so come along and enjoy the benefits of this gentle exercise. We will be offering a FREE taster session for beginners. New members will have to fill in a health form at the first lesson. Cost is £7.00 per session. 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 have recently moved into the area or have been here a while but never received any communication from Purton & District Age Concern please contact Georgina, our secretary, to find out what services we offer and who the street warden is for your patch. Email: [secretary@purtonageconcern.com](mailto:secretary@purtonageconcern.com) or call 07966 222967.

### ***Minibus***

If you need to use the Purton Age Concern transport for appointments or to go on one of our shopping trips, and are over 60 years of age, then please contact Hazel on 01793 770862 as usual.

### ***Useful Contacts***

If you have a problem or need to speak to anyone on any other topic, then your first port of call should be your street warden. Failing that, other contacts are 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 that can help and will help.

### ***Wheelchairs Etc***

We have a couple of wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and walking sticks, so if you think you might need any of these at any time then you can contact Peter on 01793 778119 or email [secretary@purtonageconcern.com](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@purtonageconcern.com)

*Peter Berry, Chair*

# Happy Christmas to everyone from Purton Churches

## ***Do you trust a promise?***

We live in an age where promises seem to be quickly made and quickly forgotten - circumstances change - what had seemed so sure and certain now is unrealistic and seemingly unreasonable to fulfil. Politicians and advertisers are but two groups amongst many who have a record of unfulfilled promises. Yet before we become critical of others perhaps we need to take a long hard look at ourselves to examine our own record at keeping the promises we have made. Sometimes our response is to demand that others make and keep promises but to do all we can not to make any promises ourselves.

The end result is that promises can become devalued and apparently worthless, in contrast we discover that the events of the first Christmas are all about promises. For those unfamiliar with what took place - God makes promises through His angel messengers to Mary and then to Joseph, and next to a group of shepherds about the birth of His Son - "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." This promise might have seemed too good to be true but for those shepherds it was worth going to find out if it was true.

They went and checked it out and then "returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and

seen, which were just as they had been told." [Luke chapter 2 verses 10-12 & 20 - The Bible].

This Christmas it is my hope and prayer that we would not dismiss God's promises on the assumption that they are false and worthless but instead that we might all take opportunity to look afresh at the promises God has made, to check them out and to find out if they are true. Please join with us at one of our Christmas services, (some Services also accessible online) as together we look at God's promises to see if they can be trusted and what difference they will make to our lives. And if you would like to explore further we are continuing The Bible Course on Thursday evenings after Christmas. Please use the link below for further details or get in touch with me using the contact details.

*Happy Christmas. Ian Tweedie-Smith  
(Vicar of St Mary's)*

## ***Purton Churches - Christmas 2023***

St Mary's Church - Church End SN5 4EB  
Methodist Church - Play Close SN5 4DP

### ***Sunday 3rd December 2023***

10.30am Church for All - Christmas Tree Festival Service of Dedication to God and a Thank You to organisations displaying trees

### ***Sunday 10th December***

6.00pm Classic Christmas Carols with local School Musicians, Ridgeway Farm & St Mary's School Choirs, St Mary's Church Music Group followed by Refreshments and Mince Pies at St Mary's Church

# Celebrating Age Wiltshire

The stars of our Christmas concert on Tuesday 5th December will be The North Swindon Big Band - back by popular demand! The concert will be from 2-4pm at The Memorial Hall in Royal Wootton Bassett.

On Wednesday 24th January we welcome back the Tor Theatre Company who will be performing their new pantomime at Purton Village Hall, again 2-4pm.

Both events are free but booking is required.

The events continue to be popular and well attended. We are fortunate to have so many talented performers who enjoy coming to entertain us and we look forward to offering another varied programme in 2024. To book a place at the events please contact me.

*Pat Hughes,  
Celebrating Age Volunteer*

*Tel 01793 772382*

*Email: patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com*

## **Thursday 14th December**

7.30pm Chedworth Band Christmas Concert at Purton Methodist Church followed by Refreshments - Tickets £5 available from Rose 01793 770564

## **Saturday 16th December**

4.00pm Christingle Service/Messy Church for children of all ages at St Mary's Church followed by Refreshments - Children please bring an Adult!

## **Sunday 17th December**

10.30am Church for All - Featuring "A Purton Christmas Story" by Purton Ballet

6.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Candlelight Service with St Mary's Church Choir and Handbells followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies - both services at St Mary's Church

## **Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December**

4.00pm United Village Nativity and Carol Service with the Cricklade Band at St Mary's Church. Please bring children with any appropriate costumes for shepherds, angels, stars, kings... We want everyone to join in... come early to guarantee entry

11.30pm Traditional Choral 'Midnight' Communion Service at St Mary's Church

## **Christmas Day, Monday 25th December**

8.00am Traditional Holy Communion at St Mary's Church. No service at Purton Methodist Church - All are welcome at St Mary's.

10.30am Christmas Day Family Celebration with Holy Communion at St Mary's Church - Come and hear of God's Promises

*If you or any of your family or friends need our prayers please contact: Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith 01793 770077 email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk or Revd Judith Wells 01793 770627 for St Mary's Church.*

*Or Revd Shirlyn Toppin 01793 853197 for Purton Methodist Church*

# Ten Years Ago...

Even ten years ago, Christmas came round again. Purton Magazine for December 2013 had plenty of events to attend (pickles were on again), not forgetting two Quiz Nights – as if anyone didn't have enough on their minds with all the preparation for the festival.

Of course, there were many reports of past activities. Bradon Forest had conducted an "Outdoor Education Day" at Cotswold Water Park. This consisted of erecting old-fashioned tents, kayaking and archery – not the style of education I received many years ago but it had the advantage of making the staff seem human. And today I have learned from the Rainbows' report that to turn a light out is to "tweak a beak".

Meanwhile, according to the Guides: "Not everything can be chocolate based, so one meeting was spent discussing Remembrance Sunday and its significance". And the Evening WI chipped in with: "Don't wear black or blue as these colours attract mosquitoes" -- useful advice in mid-winter. Not to be outdone, After8 offered the academic conclusion that TV can improve schoolwork. If only I'd known.



---

## Christmas choral concerts

There will be a rich variety of carols from Tudor to contemporary being performed by AVE, the Avebury Vocal Ensemble, in its Christmas programme this year. There are two concerts, in the Bath Road Methodist Church, Old Town, Swindon, on Saturday 16th December at 7.00pm and again at St. Mary's Church, Uffington, on Wednesday 20th December at 7.00pm.

The centrepiece of the concert is the joyous "Jubilate Deo", an eight-part setting by Giovanni Gabrieli, one of the most influential Italian musicians of his time and who represented the culmination of the style of the Venetian School at the time of the shift from Renaissance to Baroque idioms. Old favourites will include "In the bleak

midwinter" using the lovely setting by Harold Darke and the ever-popular "In dulci jubilo" in Robert Pearsall's masterful and wonderfully elaborate arrangement. At the other end of the spectrum, we will be singing music by local composer Robin Nelson and Norwegian composer and pianist Ola Gjeilo together with a sprinkling of the ever-popular John Rutter's Christmas choral music.

We are very pleased to have Joe Barber as our accompanist who will play solo as well as accompanying the choir and there will, of course, be opportunities for audience participation. More details on our website [www.aveburyvocal.org](http://www.aveburyvocal.org) where tickets can be bought in advance.



# Purton's Peartree Pealers Handbell Ringers

Purton's own Handbell Team, Peartree Pealers, will be ringing handbells all around the village at various events throughout December.

These include the care homes and the lighting of the village Christmas Tree at the Red House.

The team will also be playing in some of the pubs and at Royal Wootton Bassett Late Night Shopping (December 1st).

They will be ringing in St Mary's Church, not only for Nine Lessons and Carols (Dec 17) but also, during that same afternoon, (2.30-3.30 pm) while people are looking at the Christmas Trees in the church. All our fundraising is for Prospect Hospice, so if you hear us play please support us.

*Libbie: 771018*

---

## Jigsaw Sale

Thank you so much for all the amazing people who donated jigsaws to our Jigsaw Sale in Pips on Nov.4th.

I was delighted to travel around the village collecting them up and people left bag-loads ready for me to sell as well. And HUGE thanks to all those who came to buy as well...

We made over £346 and all the money will go to victims of natural disasters... including those in Nepal who suffered

an earthquake over that same weekend of the sale.

A few other charities benefited from the leftover boxes so that every puzzle was used most gratefully. Last but not least, thanks to the wonderful helpers who sorted and sold the puzzles; and to all the staff in Pips that day, who coped with the crowds and provided coffee and cake throughout the morning.

---

## Purton Litter Pick

Ten members of the newly-formed Purton Litter Picking Group carried out a successful litter pick throughout the village on 28th October - finishing with a restorative cuppa and a slice of cake at Pips Community Cafe.

The photo shows some members of the group using equipment that has kindly been donated by the Hills Group. An application for funding for further equipment has also been made to the Area Board of Wiltshire Council.

Whilst a dozen bags of litter was collected, the group noticed that some areas of the village are being kept lovely and clear by villagers carrying out their own regular litter picks.

As always, this is a good reminder to dispose of your own litter correctly - and recycle as much as you can.

The next Purton Litter Pick will be in January - watch this space for further details. Please email: [purtonlitterpick@gmail.com](mailto:purtonlitterpick@gmail.com)

# December Nature Correspondent

*“These are a few of my favourite things”*

Sometime in December, as the first “Robin in the snow” Christmas cards drop through the letter-box, I thumb through the diary and recollect the special creatures I have seen over the year and cherish in my mind.

The Robin is not a bad one to start with. It has a song for every season and with that red breast, restless manner and confident behaviour, it’s no surprise that it is the Nation’s favourite bird.

Amongst our wintering birds is a rather special finch that lingers on till March - the Brambling. I heard its distinctive, nasal “chüp” calls in an area of beeches on a morning walk. After a few minutes it perched on a bare tree with a few similar-looking chaffinches, a male, with a dark head, orange belly and shoulder stripe.

In March, searching for Partridges on the approach to Windmill Hill all I could see on a bare field was a clod of earth. But then it came to life, a lovely Brown Hare with big ears and a lolling gait.

Spring is the time for the endless singing of the Skylarks and the arrival of our summer visitors. On April 14th a cock Redstart appeared on a barbed-wire fence in a local meadow,

en route no doubt for some distant welsh location. The name “Redstart” refers to its red tail, which shivers and trembles, especially when it’s trying to attract a mate.

One of my favourites amongst the many early flowers is the Kingcup, which I usually find in damp river margins alongside clusters of Cowslips.

I see that in May and June I went searching for butterflies in various locations: the list included Marsh Fritillaries, Duke of Burgundy, and best of all the gorgeous Adonis Blue, the bright blue wings brilliant alongside the duller Common Blue.

Spring turned into summer and more memories flood the brain: nesting Swallows in the church

porch, a Hedgehog in a neighbour’s drive, Nightjars churring at dusk in a woodland clearing, and then a special moment, as a Kingfisher darted over the water while I plied my rusty angling skills on the River Avon near Amesbury.

It brought back another memory from way back, when I was a coarse fisherman, trying my luck with a ledger line on the River Thames in Oxfordshire. I was waiting for the line to twitch and when it did, I looked up and a Kingfisher was perched on the tip of my rod looking keenly into the water. After that moment I gave up fishing and became a birder!

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



Photo by Vincent van Zalinge on Unsplash

# Purton Historical Society



Purton Museum is now closed 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/](http://www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com/)

## **Purton Historical Society Social Event**

Purton Silver Threads Hall, 7.30pm,  
Friday 5th January 2024

A light buffet will be served but bring your own drinks (alcohol is allowed). Entertainment by SALOS. Quiz and lucky ticket number.

Tickets £15 each, available at monthly meetings or from Marion Hobbs, 01793

770185 or Jim Mosley 01793  
778395

## **Next Meeting**

Thursday 25th January 7.30, Methodist church, Play Close. A Journey Through Time in Wiltshire, by Nick Baxter

The rich history of the county is explored from the arrival of the West Saxon Wilsaetan people in the 6th century to the opening of the M4 in 1971.

Everybody welcome, free for members, guests £3

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

## Bulletin 45

Are you still looking for a small extra Christmas present for a relative or a friend? Something relating to Purton perhaps! A copy of the PHS Bulletin 45 could be the solution - and it's easy to post.

"A good read", "attractive and well illustrated", "some fascinating tales" are a few of the comments received so far.

Read about two of the jewels in Purton's crown: St Mary's Church Renewal project and Purton Cricket Club, established over two hundred years ago. Stories of characters from the past are told by Elle Keating.

This is the longest Bulletin we have produced so far. Hopefully you will consider it £5 well spent!

Jean Belt and Lucy Lewis, Editors

**The Purton Historical Society**  
Bulletin 45 on sale NOW!

In this issue:

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

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

# Hymns we love

You are warmly invited to join us for Hymns We Love, a series of sessions celebrating some of our most-loved hymns. Each time we meet, there'll be an opportunity to enjoy a beautiful rendition of a hymn, before a short talk that explores the story behind its author and the meaning behind the words. And of course, there'll also be lots of time to chat over a free hot lunch. You don't need to know anything about music or the Bible to come and you won't have to sing if you don't want to. Hymns We Love is a relaxed opportunity to enjoy these songs and their stories and discover something new about the Christian message that inspired them. You are sure to find a warm welcome.

The first of these sessions will be presented on Monday the 18th of December at Purton Silver Threads Hall, High Street, Purton. We will gather and be seated by 11am to watch a video presentation including Hark the Herald Angels Sing. This is another chance for Purton to see the Christmas story and what it really means.

At about 12.00 noon we will enjoy a totally free hot lunch and chat over

the presentation and hopefully make friends. If you attend St. Mary's Fellowship of Women on the 3rd Monday then you will be finished in time.

Provided seniors want to continue, then seven more similar events based on hymns, will be followed leading up to Easter finishing with Thine Be The Glory.

You may be asking who is doing this? Well it is a small group of Christians who live in Purton and who have a desire to tell our senior citizens who Jesus is. To enable catering you will need to book your place by telephoning Chris Seals on 07884 212196.

All being well, the Age concern minibus can offer help where transport is needed. Contact Hazel Woodbridge on 01793 770862

If you would like to watch a short trailer promoting this series then follow this link or get someone to do it for you.

[www.thegoodbook.co.uk/downloads/hwl\\_promo\\_b2c\\_v2.mp4%20\(1080p\).mp4](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/downloads/hwl_promo_b2c_v2.mp4%20(1080p).mp4)

We look forward to welcoming you.

*Bob, Chris, Kimberley and Theresa*

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## Church Flowers

If anyone would like to give us flowers for St Mary's Church for Christmas please do get in touch. We especially like using garden flowers or berries, rather than flowers that have been flown across the world, especially as we are now trying to be an eco church.

If you wish to arrange the flowers

yourself then that is great: we are always looking for more people to help with flowers in church. Or please leave them in the porch and we will try and do our best to use them to make St Mary's look even more wonderful at Christmas time.

*Thank you. Libbie (771018) and Jane(772422), church flower arrangers!*

# Purton Community Fridge



Hello everyone: what a year we've had! The community fridge has gone from strength to strength. Although we have changed the way we do things slightly which includes no longer doing surplus collections from the Coop, Aldi or Olio anymore, we've still had lots of surplus donations given to us by Purton Organic Farm, Dora's Dairy, Purton Vets, St Mary's and Bradon Forest schools and our wonderful general public during 2023! The community fridge and shelf system virtually runs itself now and it's really lovely to see. I often notice people coming in with surplus items for the fridge or shelf,

then taking a few different items home for themselves!

Don't forget we can accept any food items after their best before dates like tins, packets, jars and boxed foods. We can also accept any surplus fruit and vegetables too! We have expanded the variety of items we can accept and regularly have surplus donations of nappies, baby milk, baby food, light bulbs, magazines, make up, perfume, greetings cards, pet food, sanitary items, nourishment drinks, unused dressings, incontinence pads, shampoo, shower gels and cleaning items.

The community fridge is

located in the entrance hall of the Silver Threads Hall in the High Street and is open Tuesday to Friday 10-4.30pm and Saturday 10-1.30pm.

We are always very grateful for any surplus donations no matter how small as we love to save food from going to landfill.

Let's hope we can continue to enjoy what the community project gives us all.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year!

*Louise, Community Fridge Co-ordinator*

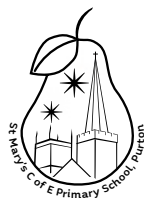
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## St Mary's Primary School

### **Volunteers Needed – New School Governors**

Looking for a new challenge in 2024? St. Mary's Primary School, Purton is looking to recruit new Governors to the school Governing Body. You don't need to be a parent to take up this role – just a keen interest in the education of children within the village.

There are six meetings a year of an evening either in person or online, with other opportunities to visit the school.\* If you think you may be interested in this varied and active role please contact the Clerk to Governors at [clerk@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk) \*All applicants will need to be DBS checked prior to appointment.



# Christmas Tree festival at St Mary's

We are really pleased that so many different groups in Purton have agreed to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's throughout December. We are looking forward to the trees arriving on Friday Dec 1 (10-12 noon) or Saturday Dec 2 (9-12 noon).

(A gentle reminder please no glitter dust or spray! And if you are including battery lights please make sure that someone will come and switch them on and off at the start and end of each day).

On Sunday Dec 3 there will be a Service of Dedication, when all the trees will be admired, lights switched on and the trees and the organisations they represent will be celebrated.

If any participants in the Tree Festival would like to come and join in the Service at 10.30 you would be extremely welcome. You can even say a few words about your tree and how it was put together if you wish!

The trees will stay in St Mary's until Friday December 29th. Please remove them during the morning if possible. We do hope that many people, from the village and beyond, will come to see the trees during the month.

Each tree hopefully will have a card explaining the group that put it together. There will also be a chance to see the trees when Church Services are taking place...for example we have Christingles, Nine Lessons and Carols and the Village Nativity and Carol Service as well as the usual Services. Please see the Village Diary on page ?? for more details of dates and times.

Thank you again to everyone who has taken part in this Festival. We hope you have enjoyed it!. We are sure that those who come into the church to see the trees will enjoy looking at them all!

## ***Come and see the wonderful Christmas Trees for yourself!***

Come to St Mary's Church any time from Sunday Dec 3 onwards throughout the month, to enjoy the Purton trees! Look around and enjoy the spectacle. Every tree will be so different.

Each has been created by different people, groups, organisations from the village and they are a wonderful sight!

There are so many contrasting ideas. Please come and support the event. You are so welcome.

The Church will be open every day as usual, from 9am-5pm (or thereabouts) so please just walk in and enjoy.

If you come on Dec 3 at 10.30 the trees will all be 'switched on' and dedicated.

If you come on Sunday afternoon Dec 17 you may hear the Peartree Pealers as well, (2.30-3.30) and there may even be a cup of tea for you to enjoy at the same time!

(When there are Services taking place in the church we would be grateful if you didn't walk around...maybe wait until the end of the Service.)

More details available from Libbie:771018 or Jane:772422 or St Mary's website: [www.stmaryspurton.org.uk/437/Christmas-Tree-Festival-at-St-Marys-Church](http://www.stmaryspurton.org.uk/437/Christmas-Tree-Festival-at-St-Marys-Church)

# Church Floodlighting



- Nov 5 St Mary's was floodlit for All Souls Day, to remember those we love who are no longer with us.
- Nov 19 The Church was floodlit for **Duncan Bamford's** Birthday. Always remembered with much love by Jean and all the family.
- Nov 28 St Mary's was floodlit for **Mary Wightman's** birthday and life. Dearly loved and sadly missed by Roderick, Mark, Ben and all the Wightman family.
- Dec 3 The Church celebrates the start of Advent and the start of the Christmas Tree Festival.
- Dec 6 The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Colin Normington** on what would have been his 80th Birthday. Always lovingly remembered by all the family.
- Dec 9 The Church will be floodlit in loving memory of the birthdays 9th/14th December of our Mum **Elsa Trotter** and her sister, our Tante, **Carole Carey**. We love you both so very much. Jude, Deb, Steph and our families.
- Dec 19 The Church will be floodlit for my wife **Elsie Goodings** on what would have been her birthday.
- Dec 19 St Mary's will be celebrating **Janice Normington's** 80th Birthday. Many Happy Returns and love from all the family.
- Dec 24 The Church will be floodlit in memory of **Monica Kinnett** and John Bentley. They both loved Christmas.
- Dec 25 The church will be floodlit to wish all Purtonians a very Happy Christmas
- Dec 29 St Mary's will be floodlit to celebrate The Golden Wedding of **Peter and Lorraine Goodall**. Best Wishes from your Purton friends and neighbours.
- Dec 31 The Church will be floodlit to wish all in Purton a very Happy New Year.

*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*

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

# Purton Village Diary - December 2023

2	Sa	10.00am	Jubilee Gardens Project Christmas open day
		10.00am	Free salt dough workshop for children at Pips Community Cafe
		5.00pm	Purton Age Concern Christmas Party at the Village Hall
3	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Christmas Tree service of dedication and 'switch on' at St Mary's Church as part of Church for All
9	Sa	9.00am	One Stop Christmas Fundraiser
		10.00am	Purton Bowls Club Christmas coffee morning at the club house, Red House and Village Centre
		10.00am	Christmas cookie decorating workshop at Pips Community Cafe
10	Su	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Classic Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church
11	M	10.00am	Purton WI welcome Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire 2022, Shirley Ludford to their meeting at the Silver Threads Hall.
		2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women Devotional Christmas meeting with Sylvia Freemantle
		7.00pm	Full Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
12	Tu		Last day for Christmas Scout Post
14	Th	7.30pm	Chedworth Silver Band concert at Purton Methodist Church
16	Sa	4.00pm	Messy Church Christingle at St Mary's Church
17	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	A Purton Christmas story in Dance by Purton Ballet, part of the Sunday morning Church for all service at St Mary's.
		11.00am	Purton Craft Market
18	M	11.00am	Hymns we love at the Silver Threads Hall
		6.00pm	Christmas at the Pear Tree community event
24	Su		Christmas Eve
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		4.00pm	United Village Nativity Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Carols around the Christmas Tree at the Red House
		11.00pm	Midnight Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
25	M		Christmas Day
		8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Christmas Day Family Communion at St Mary's Church
26	Tu		Boxing Day
31	Su		New Year's Eve
		10.30am	Holy Communion TBC at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church



### **Every week**

M	6.30pm	to 7.30pm Purton Village Voices choir practice at Purton Methodist Church (term time)
Tu	9.00am	to 11am Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	2.00pm	to 7.00pm Purton Library open
W	10.00am	to 12 noon Coffee and Chat at Pips Community Cafe, Silver Threads Hall.
	7.00pm	to 8.30pm Purton Youth Club for school years 7+ at The Millennium Hall
Th	1.30pm	to 2.30pm (during term time) Tai Chi at the Millennium Hall
	3.15pm	to 4.15pm (during term time) IMPACT after school club at Pips Community Cafe. Games, snacks and Bible exploration. Parents need to stay but need not get involved.
F	2.00pm	to 4.30pm Purton Library open
	3.30pm	to 5.00pm Weekly group for Ukrainian families and their hosts at Royal Wootton Bassett Library
Sa	10.00am	to 12.30pm Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-end of Oct)

### **Every month**

2nd Monday	Purton WI meet at 10am at the Silver Threads Hall
3rd Monday	St Mary's Fellowship of Women at Purton Methodist Church
3rd Monday	Royal British Legion meet at the Red House
2nd & 4th Tuesday	10.00am Purton Probus meet at Hook Village Hall.
3rd Wednesday	2-4pm Purton Charity Knitting group meet at Pips Community Cafe 10.30am-Noon Parkinson's UK Cricklade Cafe at the Cricklade Club
4th Thursday	(September to May) Purton Historical Society meet at 7.30pm in Play Close Methodist Church.

The Purton Village Diary is now kept at Pips Community Cafe, add your events and check what's happening in our village.

If your Club or Organisation's events are not included in the Diary pages, contact Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Design & Print, 2 College Road, Purton, Tel: 772954 or email: [mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk)

#### **DISCLAIMER**

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

# Bradon Forest School



## ***Remembrance***

We will remember.

The two minute silence was observed at school on Friday 10 November. Thank you to all our uniformed students and Head Students for being present for the laying of the wreath by Mrs Haines. Head Students, David and Faiza attended the Purton Remembrance Service on Sunday 12 November and laid a wreath on behalf of Bradon Forest School.

We set students the challenge over half term to create something to acknowledge Remembrance. We had over 50 varied and wonderful entries. Each student has been awarded five House Points. We are proud of you all for using your own time to pay your respects. Students also made candle holders during lunchtimes in History with Mrs Loxton. They were lit on Friday as part of our Remembrance service.

## ***Hedgehog Houses***

Freya B reports: “Year 10 GCSE DT students were asked by Mr Bray and his Horticulture class to make hedgehog houses for the school garden. We used reclaimed pallets, pine battens, plywood and roofing felt. In groups of 3-4 we worked with each other to build the houses, using different screws, drills and saws.”

We are pleased to say we already have some tenants! It's the perfect time of year for Hedgehogs to hibernate and they are in danger of extinction....so every little helps.



## ***Grandparents' Coffee Morning***

Mrs Wiltshire reports: "Year 7 welcomed more than a hundred grandparents to their Celebration Assembly to mark the end of term 1 on Friday 13 October 2023. Grandparents were entertained by pianists from Years 8-11 before sharing in the many successes and triumphs that Year 7 students have enjoyed since starting at Bradon Forest School on 4 September. After the assembly, Year 7 were able to take their grandparents on a tour of the school site and to meet their teachers before bringing them back to the hall which had been transformed into a cafe for cups of tea and slices of cake. Amongst the visitors were several former students, including Ruby-Isabella's grandad who was Head Boy in 1973 and part of the team of students who designed our school logo!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the school catering company ABM for generously providing the cake and Mrs Elias for creating the table centrepieces." Lots more photos on our website!

## ***The Big Sing***



Mr Knibbs reports: "Congratulations to all our wonderful Year 7s who took part in last term's Big Sing, their first public performance at Bradon Forest! Special mention for the solos from Eliza N, who sang in Korean, Kayleigh C who sang a song she'd written herself, and Maddie B who, quite frankly, brought the house down! The evening ended with "Let me Entertain you", sung by everyone. Thank you to

all the staff who supported this great event, the Year 7 families and, of course, all our performers!" Lots more photos on our website!

### ***Spelling Bee***



Miss Fennell reports: "The final of this year's Year 7 Spelling Bee was on Monday 16 October. All students who had scored highly in the class test were invited to take part in the live Final in front of the rest of their half of the year. The standard of the competitors was amazing and the audience were very enthusiastic when it came to cheering on their peers and friends.

Following several competitive stages of difficult words and of students getting eliminated, we had two very tense head-to-head rounds to find the top speller from each year's side. Our final winners were Poppie G from 7B2 and Maeher O from 7R2.

Thank you to all students that were part of the audience, the teachers and teaching assistants that came along and helped out, all the students that took part and a massive congratulations to Poppie and Maeher."

### ***Bloodhound Education***

On Tuesday 10 October Bloodhound Education visited us to give a full presentation to the whole of Year 7. This 20-minute assembly focused on engineering, specifically the land speed record and high powered rocket cars. Workshops were then delivered to classes throughout the day where students used their scientific knowledge and engineering skills to build strong and fast prototype rocket cars that can run at speeds of up to 50 mph, whilst learning how to work together effectively and developing skills useful for the workplace. This



hands-on workshop builds students' confidence in their science and engineering abilities and brings the curriculum to life in an engaging and exciting way.

Mr Sturla commented: "Thank you so much to Bloodhound Education for such an engaging day! A huge thanks also to the The Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett & District for funding this excellent educational opportunity. It's been such an enjoyable experience and has been great to see students working together and challenging themselves!"

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## Community information from Wiltshire Council

### ***Protect yourself and others by getting vaccinated***

Eligible people who've not yet come forward for the flu and COVID-19 vaccines are being urged to 'get winter strong' and join the millions of others in taking up the offer ahead of the festive and new year season when flu and COVID-19 are expected to peak.

Eligible people for the flu and COVID-19 vaccines include pregnant women, those aged 65 or over, carers, people with certain health conditions including a learning disability, those who live with someone with a weakened immune system, people living in a care home and frontline health or social care workers.

The children's nasal spray flu vaccine is offered every year to protect children against flu. It is for children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2023, all primary school children and some secondary school aged children.

### ***Recycle batteries responsibly***

Take Charge is a national campaign to encourage residents to recycle batteries responsibly.

Batteries contain valuable materials that can be recycled, yet fewer than half of all batteries discarded in the UK are recycled. This is not only wasteful but can be very dangerous. Batteries contaminating household waste or recycling bins can also result in fires or

harmful chemicals being released into the environment.

Support this campaign and our goal of recycling more of Wiltshire's waste by making sure you place your batteries in a clear bag on top of your blue lidded bin, or next to your blue weighted bag on collection day.

Battery collection for small batteries are also collected alongside your kerbside recycling collection every fortnight. These should be presented in a sealed clear sandwich bag, on top of your blue-lidded recycling bin (not inside the bin).

We can collect the following size batteries: D, C, AA, AAA, 9V, Button, Rechargeable. Other size batteries (including car batteries) can be recycled at the household recycling centres

### ***Household Recycling Centres switch to their winter opening times***

Our Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) have now switched to their annual winter opening hours. The opening hours of all 10 of our HRCs is now 10am to 4pm on each day that they're open.

Like previous years, Salisbury, Trowbridge and Stanton St Quinton HRCs will also be closed for an additional day a week, so will not be open on Thursdays and Fridays. The opening days of the other centres will remain as they are.

If you are visiting one of our recycling centres, please remember to sort your waste before you arrive, so that together we can recycle as much as possible. Also, don't forget to bring proof of your address.

### ***Young people encouraged to stand for election and have their say on local issues***

Young people can get involved in local decision making and influence funding for youth projects as part of the Wiltshire Youth Council.

The Wiltshire Youth Council was launched last year, with representatives from secondary schools across the county elected to speak out on issues that are important to them.

Schools are now being invited to encourage 11-17 year-olds to stand for the next election, which takes place between Monday 29 January 2024 and Friday 2 February 2024. There are also three youth councillor community seats available for young people who live in Wiltshire but do not attend school in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire youth councillors have the power to:

- Meet with Wiltshire Council leaders and have their say on local decisions.
- Work with area boards to ensure funding for youth projects has the right impact for them and their peers.

- Inspect services to ensure they represent young people's best interests.
- Easily communicate with their peers so young people's views are properly represented.

Youth councillors will be elected to a one-year term and will be asked to commit one evening per month to attend a full youth council meeting, which will focus on issues important to them. They will also be expected to talk with their peers about issues and represent their views. There will be training to support youth councillors in their roles, covering topics such as debating, running a youth inspection and delivering presentations.

Current youth councillors have provided valuable input in a wide range of areas including the Wiltshire Healthy Schools programme, the allocation of youth grant funding, mental health services and cost of living advice and support for young people. Wiltshire youth councillors also supported the first ever Wiltshire Youth Pride event and the Youth4Ukraine campaign which raised over £12,000.

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, said: "The best way to ensure that we are meeting the needs of children and young people is to empower them to influence the key decisions that will have an impact on them. The Wiltshire Youth Council gives young people an influential voice that can take forward their priorities in a wide range of areas including transport, climate change, youth services and education.

"We will support anyone who wishes to stand as a Wiltshire youth councillor and we want to encourage a wide range of young people to take part."

For further information people can contact [childandyouthvoice@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:childandyouthvoice@wiltshire.gov.uk)



# Pips Community Café



Hello, what a fabulous couple of months we have had in the cafe despite all the recent wet weather!

Pips Cafe became five years old at the beginning of October and to celebrate we gave away cupcakes to all our customers. It's an amazing achievement for us but we couldn't have done it without all our lovely volunteers, customers and supporters, thank you.

We held our first free craft workshop in October which was a huge success. It was a very enjoyable event for both children and adults which resulted in 24 beautifully carved pumpkins! Our next craft workshops are listed below and welcomes both children and adults to attend.

- November 18th - FREE walk-in Christmas Card Making Workshop under 12's to be accompanied by an adult.
- December 2nd - FREE walk-in Salt Dough Workshop under 12's to be accompanied by an adult.
- December 9th - Christmas Cookie Decorating walk-in Workshop £3 for 5 cookies under 12's to be accompanied by an adult.
- December 16th - Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop - SOLD OUT

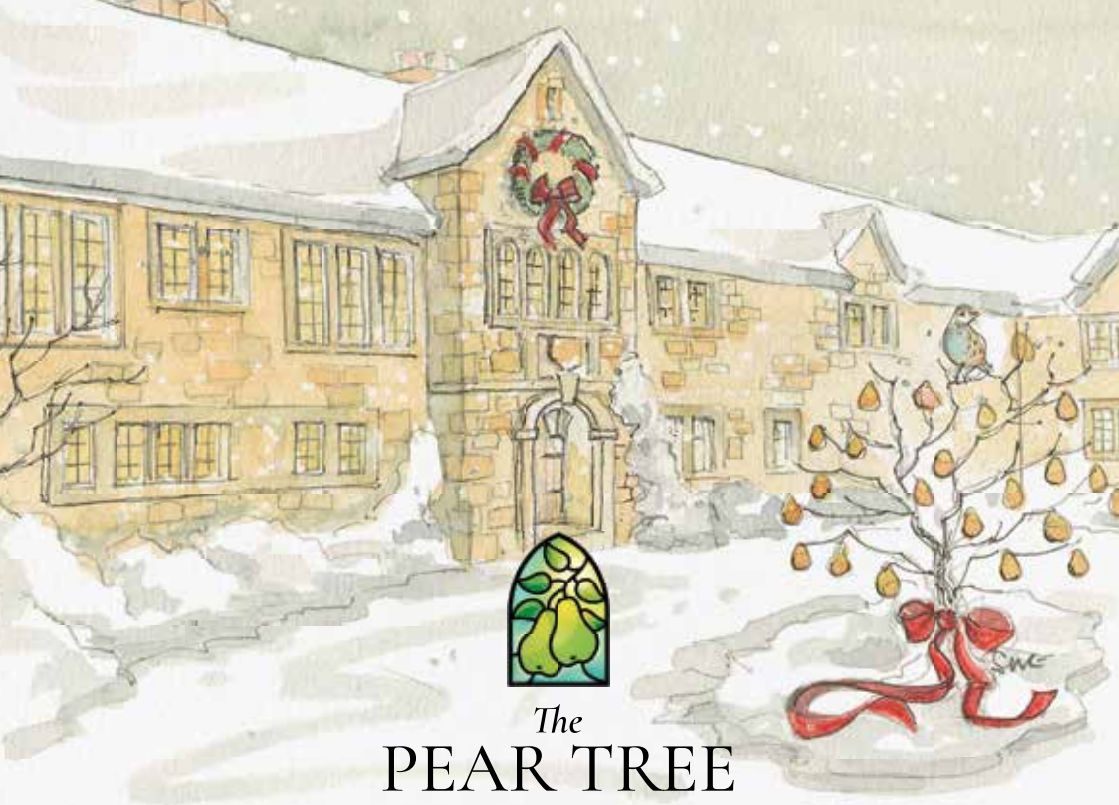
The jigsaw puzzle sale organised by Libbie Sheppard and her team in November raised over £340 with all proceeds going to DEC Appeal which provides relief to victims of natural disasters. They hope, maybe, to have another sale around February/March time.

We have recently extended our menu choices to include dishes suitable for both vegetarians and vegans with the introduction of vegan chickpea and butternut squash curry with rice and paninis with hummus, vegan cheese and falafel. So far the demand for these has been very slow and sadly we may have to reconsider stocking these in the future due to wastage.

You may have noticed some new faces in the cafe recently. We've had a little flurry of new volunteers which is fabulous, I hope you will all join us in welcoming them to our community cafe.

Our new monthly Lou's Hot Lunch has been a great success; it's been lovely to see so many attend. Our next hot lunch is on Tuesday January 30th and is available to everyone, no booking required just turn up on the day. Served from midday we will have a hot cooked





*The*  
**PEAR TREE**

PURTON · WILTSHIRE

## CHRISTMAS AT THE PEAR TREE

**MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER | FROM 6 - 10PM**

Join us at The Pear Tree this December for a special evening of festive fun that's sure to make you feel merry and bright!

We have invited the wonderful Purton Village Voices to perform a selection of the best Christmas carols that we all know and love. The venue will be adorned with festive decorations, including our sparkling 12ft Christmas tree, and we'll be serving some delicious mince pies and mulled wine, helping you soak in that Christmas feeling as you listen to the choir.

This is a free community event, and we will be extending a warm welcome to all. Whether you've been part of a wedding at The Pear Tree or not, we would love to share this wonderful evening with you!

[f](#) [@](#) [thepeartreepurton](#) | [peartreepurton.co.uk](#)

The Pear Tree, Church End, Purton, Wiltshire, SN5 4ED

homely lunch for £5 and a pudding for only £2. If both courses are bought together you can have a drink of your choice thrown in for free, we will have 30 servings of each course available.

The mini bus is available for those who would like it, spaces can be booked by calling Hazel on 01793 770862.

There have also been some great improvements to the Silver Threads building too!

We now have a brand new side door which will eventually lead out to our new outdoor seating area coming in the springtime. This will be a perfect area for dog walkers, cyclists, walkers and those preferring to sit outside in the warmer weather. Our toilets have also had a revamp too and are looking fabulous!

We are selling Scout Christmas postal stamps again in Pips this year, a Scout post box will also be available soon. You can also purchase Pips Cafe gift vouchers, perfect for Christmas presents. Both Scout stamps and gift vouchers can be purchased from the till.

We will be opening the cafe for three days between Christmas and New Year to provide a warm space to escape to during the festivities. Menu choices will be slightly limited over these three days to include tea, coffee, cake and light snacks/lunches. The days and times we are open are Thursday 28th, Friday 29th and Saturday 30th December between 10am and 1.30pm (last orders 1pm).

We will be open as normal on Wednesday 3rd January at 10am.

This just leaves us to say a huge thank you to everyone's support with Pips this year, especially our hard working volunteers we certainly couldn't have done it without you all.

We wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

*Best wishes from Pips Community Cafe volunteers*

## *We Record...*



### ***Marriage Blessing at St Mary's Church***

28 October 2023 Ricky and Vicky Furze

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

29 October 2023 William Laurence Woodward

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

3 November 2023 Michael Vernon Hull (80)

# Purton & District Probus Club



At our second meeting of October, the 24th, Doctor Ernest Hill, the retired Director of the Centre for Mesoscience & Nanotechnology at the University of Manchester, gave a talk on “Graphene”, a two dimensional allotrope of carbon; a single layer of carbon molecules- “The Truth and The Myth”.

Graphene is a one-atom-thick layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice. It is the building block of graphite, which has known and familiar uses, but graphene is a remarkable substance on its own, with a multitude of astonishing properties which has dubbed it a “Wonder Material”.

Dr Hill began with an explanation of the atomic structure of Graphene. It consists of a single layer of carbon atoms which can occur in 3 primary/different forms. As a Tubular structure, it can only be grown in one direction. As a layer, it has a two dimensional structure – the most capable for further development. A third atomic structure is as Fullerenes or buckyballs, closed forms of spheres and hollow shapes. Anyone who has drawn on paper has created portions of a single layer of graphene. Dr Hill passed around a sample of graphene, about one millimetre in diameter, taken from graphite by the Scotch Tape Method and still attached to the substrate. This was used to illustrate that although the presence of graphene has been known for 76 years (Phillip Wallace 1947}, the extraction costs have been prohibitive, the layers being very difficult to separate.

However, in 2004, working at Dr Hills own university - Manchester, Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov, during a Friday evening off-duty experiment, removed some flakes from a lump of bulk graphite with sticky tape. They noticed that some flakes were thinner than others. By separating the fragments repeatedly they managed to create flakes that were just one atom thick. Their experiment led to Graphene being isolated for the very first time. Geim and Novoselov, in 2010 were awarded the Nobel Prize for this surprising breakthrough.

Graphene, mounted on a substrate, often Silicon Dioxide, is strong, flexible, lightweight, nearly transparent and is an extraordinary conductor of electricity. It has promise as an auto-sun-roof or window blind which can generate its own electrical power. Graphene is made exclusively of Carbon, an element which is quite literally everywhere. Its remarkable characteristics have put it in the centre of cutting-edge research for a whole range of commercial projects.



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

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

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

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Researchers, around the world, are struggling with ways of exploiting its commercial promise.

The properties of graphite are wide-ranging. It can achieve tensile strength which is 100 times that of steel; useful in the construction and building industries. It has a high thermal conductivity, favoured for heat-sinks and high temperature applications. The electrical conductivity of a single layer can be 70% higher than that of copper. As a filter, graphene oxide membranes filter out antibodies, heavy metals and other contaminants. They form an effective barrier when handling liquids and gases; hence water treatment plants. In the form of synthetic diamond material it has a hardness suitable for cutting tools, drill bits and emery sheets. As liquid, it can be added to lubricants to improve performance and reduce wear. In paint it can offer resistance to corrosion.

In medicine, targeting for drug delivery is being researched, safer brain surgery, portable self-testing kits and 'smart' implants are expected. In electronics, it can be used as a coating to improve current touch screens on phones and tablets and for circuitry in computers to make them even faster. Items already in use are shoes, fishing rods, skis, bicycle frames and lightweight headphones. Graphene is slowly taking over roles in industry.

Dr Hill's talk was enlightening and hopeful. Keep your eye on the Buckyball.

There are no ordinary Probus meetings in December, but the Presidents Lunch will be held at Wrag Barn Golf Club on Tuesday 5th at 12.30 for 1pm.

*Bob Stevens*

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## Purton Tennis Club



Christmas Greetings to everyone from Purton Tennis Club!

If you visit the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church at Purton this December, please look out for our 'Christmas Tennis Tree', which will be decorated with tennis related items and the eagle eyed amongst you will recognise the Wimbledon colours. This will be a lovely event with lots of clubs

and societies taking part, so do visit if you get the chance.

With Christmas on the horizon, we are currently planning our Christmas party night, which all members are invited to; this will be a chance to just eat, drink and be merry!

On court we have been playing socially and competitively. Our A team had a good win against Wanborough and a

very tight draw at Calne. Our B & C sides are playing in the same division, so do actually play each other, so these are fun matches and not taken too seriously. Everyone is enjoying their tennis, especially if we get a bright autumn day on which to play.

Thanks as ever, go to our maintenance crew; recently we had a problem with some of the flood lights, but as usual, our team sorted the problem out. Anyone who volunteers at a sporting club will know about all the work that goes on behind the scenes, so that players can actually use the facility. You

are the unsung heroes!

Looking towards the New Year, we will be renewing our memberships in January, so it is the perfect time to think about joining Purton Tennis Club. Members have unlimited use of the courts throughout the year, so whether you are an individual or a family, it works out as excellent value for money. All details about our fees and how to sign up are on our website.

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

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## Purton Football Club

Following my article in the October magazine with regards the progress of our teams, I am pleased to say we are still keeping up with favourable results with the 1st team now lying in third position in their league and through to the second round of both cup competitions entered which is the Wilts Senior and Junior Cups.

Writing this on 12th November we have been two weeks without a league game due to the postponement on consecutive weeks of a cup game due to be played away but the opponents pitch deemed unfit for use we will try again this week(18th) to play it with the fixture now being played at the Red House instead.

The Development side stay in their winning ways and sit second in the league with a very healthy goal tally and have high hopes of reaching the top of the league within the next few weeks, weather permitting as they have suffered

from postponements like the first team.

Our Women's team have notched up a couple of very good wins against Poole Town and Shaftesbury respectively to push them up the league and today (12th) are playing away at local rivals RWB Town. Our Sunday side have exceeded both the 1st.and Development sides by going one better and presently sit top of their league with a game in hand over those behind them so well done to them.

Your support on match days is much appreciated by all teams on those days when the weather is starting to bite a bit and with little shelter at the Red House ground it is not the best of viewing locations on matchday so well done to those who brave the elements.

*Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer  
of Purton FC*



# We are looking for volunteers to help at Purton Library

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

## Opening times:

Tuesdays 2.00pm-7.00pm

Fridays 2.00pm-4.30pm

**Contact:** Jane Hunt, Library Service Volunteer Co-ordinator

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

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# Purton Cricket Club



Another month has passed which means we are another month closer to the 2024 season, which seems a very distant thought in the current time with the colder weather and darkness arriving earlier.

However, a few weeks ago, in and amongst the rain, the club packed the ground up for the winter months. The club would like to thank everyone who came up and helped and allowed the process of cleaning/tidying up the pavilion and other buildings along with the necessary preparation to the square be as smooth and quick as possible.

Building on that, the club's first event of the winter took place on Saturday 11th November with a 'Race Night' held successfully at the Sun Inn. The proceeds from the event went to the club and Sarcoma UK, a charity close to the heart of those involved in the adult section at the club.

Back to the action on the field and several of our youth players have been recognised with awards at the upcoming Wiltshire Youth Cricket League awards evening.

From the Under 11 team, Albie M finished as the leading wicket taker with eight including best figures of 4/2 as Jessica S will also pick up an award for her 5/5 against Sherston Magna. From the batters, Nate P scored 52\* against

Sherston and Nischay K made his own half century with 51\* against South Wilts.

Also, recognised were two players from the Under 15 team that also forged key roles in our adult teams this summer in Will C and Om T. Will finished as the leading run scorer in both competitions with two centuries and three half centuries across the season with Om the top wicket taker in the longer format with best figures of 6/11.

Turning the attention elsewhere, 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 you have further enquiries about getting yourself or your child/children involved with the club then don't hesitate to email: [membership.purtoncc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.purtoncc@gmail.com).

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 below photo.

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*

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

# Purton Placard

## Purton and District AGE CONCERN

### Forthcoming Events

#### Dec 2 **Christmas Party**

Contact Jean on 01793 771304 for details.

#### Dec 24 **Carols under the Christmas Tree at the Red House**

#### Jan 20 **Burn's Night Celebration**

Contact Andrew on 01793 956095 for details.

### Purton WI

On Monday 11th December, at 10am in the Silver Threads Hall, our speaker is Shirley Ludford, Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire 2022. All visitors are most welcome

### Jubilee Gardens Christmas Open Day

Saturday 2 December 10.00 am to 2.00pm - Free Admission  
Christmas gifts and wreaths, plants, preserves and vegetables. Tea, coffee and cakes

### North Swindon Big Band Christmas Concert Royal Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall Tuesday 5th December, 2pm - 4pm



Celebrate Christmas with the North Swindon Big Band.

Come along and enjoy a free afternoon of festive live music, socialising, tea and cake.

All welcome.

**This is a free event, but booking is required.**  
Please contact Pat Hughes on 01793 772382 or email [patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com](mailto:patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com)

### Christmas Wreath Workshop

Get the festive season started by creating your very own beautiful christmas wreath.

**10:30am - 12:30pm on Friday 15th December  
at Cotswolds Rise, The Buffer, Swindon, SN5 4GT**

**Free event** - Limited spaces available - 10 spaces!

Contact us to book your place today! Email us at [cotswolds.admin@hartfordcare.co.uk](mailto:cotswolds.admin@hartfordcare.co.uk) or call 01793 208090

  
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**Swindon  
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Christmas Concert**

Saturday 16th December  
7.30pm

Memorial Hall Royal Wootton  
Bassett

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Tickets@swindonconcertband.co.uk



**Christmas Tree Service of  
Dedication & 'Switch-On'**

Sun 3rd Dec 10.30am,  
St Mary's Church

An expression of thanks for the work of all the organisations displaying trees with dedication & blessing in our service at the start of advent.

**A Purton Christmas - A Story in  
Dance By Purton Ballet**

Part of the Sunday morning Church-  
for-All service, 17th December –  
10.30am, St Mary's Church

Who starts trying to spoil Christmas?  
And who then gets surprisingly  
changed by the message of  
Christmas? The children of Purton  
Ballet help us explore

**Chedworth Silver Band  
Christmas  
Concert**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>  
December  
7.30 p.m

**Purton Methodist Chapel**

Sponsored by the Unite the Unise Branch from Saffron Landing Systems Gloucester



Royal Wootton Bassett Choral Society

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

with  
**Carols & Readings**

Wenceslas &  
the True Meaning of Christmas

**MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023**  
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**ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT  
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**Purton Bowls Club  
Christmas Coffee  
Morning and fair**

Saturday 9th December  
10am to 12.30pm in the  
clubhouse.

# News and wattles from the Turkey shed

It's been a busy month on the farm. All the cattle are inside due to the weather. Ideally half of them would still be out but the farm is currently wetter than anyone can remember - over 300mm of rain in September and October combined. Hopefully the rest of the winter will be cold and dry and some of the cows can go back outside where they can eat the bales of hay which are lined up for them ready to be eaten. Our type of beef cows are happier outside. I plan well in advance where the cows will be through the winter, I choose our drier fields and allow the grass to grow long. In the autumn I place lines of bales out ready to be unrolled. The plan then is that by using electric fences I move the cows each day across the field, this gives them fresh grass and a bale to munch. The long grass and frequent moving prevents damage to the soil. Having said all that I know when I'm beaten so a few weeks inside while its as wet as it is now is fine as a plan B

I let the turkeys out first thing in the morning regardless of the weather. On fine days they mooch in and out as their fancy takes them with mid morning normally being time when all the turkeys are outside foraging. I like seeing the shed completely empty as I know then that they all fully embrace the outdoor life. I'm sure this is because I let them out from three weeks old so being outdoors is where they're happiest. The trouble is that to minimise any risk of avian influenza the feed and water is all inside so the birds keep walking in and out and make the doorways muddy. It doesn't worry them but I'd like to improve the drainage so I don't slip over in the dark when shutting them in for the night!

The sheep have to stay out in all conditions but we were still careful to keep them moving over the ground; again, this is done with electric fencing. Moving the sheep every few days ensures they don't re-graze grass before it has rested and fully recovered. Re-grazing too

**Pictured: Turkeys enjoy foraging in the dry weather. The rams get a bit of silage over the winter. Lots of Hawthorn berries this year for the fieldfare, redwing and hopefully waxwing.**



soon can cause the plant stress, roots contract so it becomes weaker and less resilient. The rest period between the grazing is always a great subject of debate between farmers, essentially it depends on if you're focusing on livestock growth, the quality of the grass in the next grazing period or the biodiversity benefits. I'll stop now or I run the risk of being boring but it's fascinating stuff!

Sales have been great for the turkeys this year and we expect to sell out in the next couple of weeks, so if you're interested please have a look on the website. We're busy making lots of improvements to the shed where we will house our Christmas pop up shop and host our turkey collections, we won't have it quite finished but it will be a massive improvement and we'll be able to offer so much more than previous years.

I'm pleased to report that the trial two day opening of the pop up shop was a great success! We had more customers but more importantly they were spread more evenly across the opening hours. This was really our goal as the shop had become so popular that the first hour was incredibly busy. The 2 day opening meant a more pleasurable experience for customers, staff and our vehicle movement technicians (that's Mum and Dad on the car parking), so if you've not been lately because of the queue, please come again and have a look!

The next openings are 9th and 10th of December 10am-12pm and 22nd and 23rd of December 10am-6pm.

Happy Christmas from everyone at Park Farm and Lydiard Turkeys, and I do hope the new year brings us some drier weather.

*Chris Rumming*



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## Magazine subscriptions for 2024

We are delighted to be able to confirm that the annual subscription for Purton Magazine next year will remain at £10.00 for a fourth year to include delivery in and around the village by courtesy of our vital volunteers. The cover price for retail sales will remain at £1.00.

Early payments help our cash flow and would be much appreciated through your respective distributor. New subscribers in the village are always welcome and are asked to contact our Distribution Manager, Sandra Horsnall, on 01793 770157 or at [distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk) and she will be happy to add you to the list of the nearest distributor. Thank you.

# 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.



## **Appreciation for our village magazine**

I would like to thank Heather and everyone who works so hard to produce our monthly magazine and keep us up to date with what is going on in our village. I'd like to thank Mary who delivers to me, and all the other people who distribute the magazine to our door in all winds and weather. Merry Christmas to you all.

*Best wishes Pearl Lait*



## **Margaret Owens**

Reg, Sharon, Amie & Hollie would like to say a big thank you to everyone who sent cards and messages of condolence on the loss of Margaret Ann Owens on the 30th September; she will be greatly missed. Thank you to everyone that attended the funeral, all proceeds will go to Purton Age Concern.

*Sharon Owens*

## **Swindon Croquet Club**

Swindon Croquet Club's teams have experienced mixed fortunes this year with disruption due to the Moredon Sports Hub development impacting on the season.

The Short Croquet team started the season off in fine style with an impressive victory at the South West tournament which was hosted by Nailsea CC. The Golf Croquet Handicap team recorded 2 excellent wins, a hard fought draw and 2 losses. The High Handicap team also recorded 2 wins but suffered 3 losses. The Association Croquet team endured a tough season, competing valiantly but failing to secure any victories with recruitment of additional players into the squad being sought. SCC's members enjoyed the internal club competitions which have been well attended and, as always, the Club has warmly welcomed community groups to experience this fascinating game.

*Beverly Briggs*



**Photo: The Golf Croquet Handicap Team**

**L-R: Colin Bailey, Martin Briggs, Dave Booth, Beverly Briggs, Terry Clements, Clive Smith (Captain)**

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## New Carer Cafe

Carer Support Wiltshire are holding a new carer café in Royal Wootton Bassett and inviting anyone who is caring for someone to come along every month, meet other carers, gain information and enjoy free cake and a hot drink.

The café will take place at The Angel Hotel, 47 High Street between 10.30-midday on Tuesday 7 November, 5 December, 2 January, 6 February and 5 March. There's no need to book - people who are caring for someone can just drop in and stay for all or some of the café.

The charity is also looking for 1-2 volunteer facilitators to help to run the café going forward. Full training will be provided. To be considered for this role, you will need to be reliable, patient, friendly and approachable with good interpersonal and verbal communication skills. Contact Martina on 01380 908 055 or email [volunteer@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk) for further information.

*Kath Brice, Carer Support Wiltshire*

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## 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 Sunday 17th December. If you'd like to book a stall please contact: Sue Richardson: Tel: 01793 772581 Email: [tonysuerichardson@gmail.com](mailto:tonysuerichardson@gmail.com) Facebook Page: [facebook.com/purtoncraftmarket](https://facebook.com/purtoncraftmarket)



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## Free 'solar powered' energy advice service shortlisted for national award

A free energy advice service run by Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy (WWCE), one of the county's largest not-for-profit solar energy enterprises, has been named amongst just three national finalists in the Fuel Poverty Action category at the Community Energy England Awards 2023.

The UK wide awards recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements by organisations in the burgeoning

community energy sector, including acknowledging those who have made remarkable contributions to address the multifaceted challenges of fuel poverty and energy efficiency in England.

WWCE has been shortlisted for its 'Keeping Warm This Winter' pop-up energy advice initiative which was introduced in November 2022. Led by its carbon reduction champion, the organisation ran a total of 16 sessions



05/24



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which helped over 360 residents from Melksham, Purton and surrounding areas to better understand how they could stay warm while reducing their energy bills over the colder months.

The programme proved so successful that it attracted the attention of

Chippenham MP and Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, Michelle Donelan. Ms Donelan initially wrote to the team to thank them for their efforts and went on to join them for a morning at Melksham Library to see first-hand the positive impact the programme was having.

She said of her visit, “It was great to see for myself the community support being offered by WWCE in Melksham. These energy workshops have been proving invaluable for local people, providing them with the much-needed tools to reduce their bills with advice, tips and support.”

Speaking about the award nomination, Julian Barlow Chair of WWCE said, “I’m all too aware of the impact of the energy crisis on the more vulnerable members of our community in Wiltshire, which is why I was so pleased that our community energy group was able to play its part in supporting them over what proved to be a challenging winter. To have our efforts recognised by Community Energy England with this award nomination is fantastic and serves to reinforce our commitment to developing our Keeping Warm This Winter initiative further, offering



practical help and advice to even more of those in need this year and beyond.”

Winners of the Community Energy England Awards will be announced at a ceremony at the Lowry Theatre in Manchester on Friday 17th November.

### **WWCE**

WWCE develops renewable energy projects to reduce carbon and protect and enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity in Wiltshire. We concentrate on projects that reduce the impact of climate change and increase our energy security, whilst at the same time generating significant community benefit and supporting the local economy.

We believe a community-owned structure is the right model to create local support for renewable energy installations, and that a local and decentralised supply offers a viable and resilient business model.

Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy was created in 2013. We adopted 3 rooftop schemes from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust buildings and then set about to develop more local community owned projects. Since then, we have successfully raised the necessary funds and built two community solar farms: Chelworth and Braydon Manor.

Surplus funds generated by our solar farms go into a community fund which other community groups in Wiltshire can apply to use.

# Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett & District

The Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett & District has once again proudly sponsored a hands-on engineering workshop delivered by Bloodhound Education to local year

7 students. This is the third successive year of doing so and on this occasion the benefiting school was Bradon Forest School in Purton.

Bloodhound Education is a charity that brings STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects to life. STEM subjects are key skills for the careers of many young people.

Pam, an experienced trainer for Bloodhound Education, presented an engineering overview to all of nearly 200 year 7 students. This was followed with two practical sessions for around half an hour of the year group. In small teams the students had fun building an air powered rocket car using K'nex to be powered by compressed air and capable of travelling a distance of 10m. The sessions concluded with timed runs to determine the overall winner.

During the process, teams were encouraged to think about what they were doing, test their models constantly, observe what happened, learn and redesign to improve. These are the skills that real engineers need.

It was evident the students were fully engaged in what they were doing and thoroughly enjoying the experience. It was very interesting watching the different ways that the students chose to construct their cars. Delivery of the workshops was assisted by Graham, a STEM Ambassador for Bloodhound in addition to assistance from attending Rotary club members.

Mark Mudd and other attending Rotary Club members were delighted with how the students were engaged. "It was a fantastic workshop, enjoyed by everyone and clearly of great value to the students who all embraced the challenge with determination and interest. The quality of the workshop delivered by Bloodhound Education was once again outstanding, and the event was very well organised by the Bradon Forest School"



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

# Mini crossword

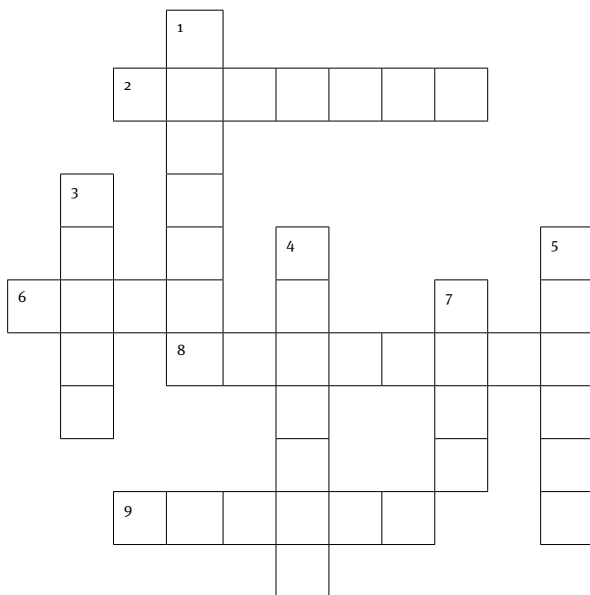
Here is the next in our series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun. Again there are no prizes but the answers to November's puzzle are 1D) Candle 2A) Roman 3D) Banger 4D) Sparkler 5D) Bonfire 6A) Catherine 7A) Rocket 8A) Wheel

This month there are nine clues.

- 2 across Wax light (5)
- 6 across Woody plant (4)
- 8 across Storing up (8)
- 9 across Circular flower decoration (6)
- 1 down Trinkets with bangles and beads (7)
- 3 down For playing and greeting (5)
- 4 down Frosty for instance (7)
- 5 down Illuminates (6)
- 7 down Present (4)

This is the next crossword created by Neil and Rob Miles to challenge readers. Answers for this quiz will be in the January 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](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)



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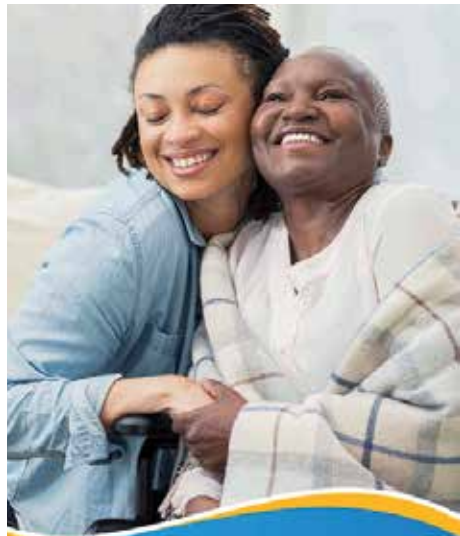
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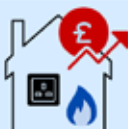
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