

February 2024

Purton Magazine

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Purton Contacts

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

Schools & Playgroups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk

Priest: Revd Father Lucas Rodrigues Tel: 852366

Lucas Rodrigues

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

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

Priest: 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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(*Cygnus olor*) credit: László, Pixabay

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From the Editors

February 2024
Volume 46 No.2
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Opinions seem a little divided of late in the village – some people are enjoying the current cold weather with minus temperatures, often because the bright sunshine gives a warm colour to the bland countryside, and who doesn't like some apricity?*. Others say they prefer the grey, wet weather from earlier in January for the warmer temperatures if nothing else! At least the days are getting longer with numerous bulbs sprouting leaves in readiness to provide some Spring colour.

In your magazine this month there are several articles about recent events and new activities that together provide a new year/new start feeling to the village. Firstly on page 6 we learn that James Kent has been appointed as a Volunteer Councillor with effect from February. It seems that our new councillor is something of a kindred spirit and having only lived in Purton for a year says that it already feels like home. He is married to a teacher and has two young preschool children meaning that family, education and community are all central to his values and priorities.

An exciting new venture is being planned and again, Pips café is being considered as the meeting place. In these days of a consumerist society, the idea of a Repair Shop is to make good and re-use items rather than simply

increase amounts of landfill. The article on page 22 carries an appeal for anyone who enjoys fiddling with broken toys and gadgets or repairing many different household items with one example given being the ability to glue a head back on a garden gnome! The starting point would be a session at Pips café perhaps once a month when items could be brought in to be looked at by local repairers who would give an opinion about the possibility of a successful repair. Such a lovely idea!

Work is now underway to create the new Banking Hub in Wootton Bassett and until fully operational, a temporary home is available at the Wootton Bassett Library. On page 9 we learn which major high street banks will be operating on which days of the week.

Our Nature Correspondent enlightens us with an old fashioned word that was used to describe the call of the song thrush – look at page 30. Someone described the performance as that of a chorister, diligently repeating and perfecting his musical phrases, one by one – what better way to announce the arrival of spring?

**Apricity is an English cold weather word meaning the warmth of the sun in winter, from the Latin 'Apricitus' (warm in the sun).*

4

Lent lunches being served
at Purton Methodist
Church from 14th
February - see page 16

7

Kings took part in the
Nativity Play at St Mary's
Church on Christmas Eve -
see page 19

30

Volunteer litter pickers
cleared up lots of mess
in the aftermath of Storm
Henk - see page 21

Purton Parish Council News



Work starts on the Purton Red House Kitchen

Work will start this month on the development of a small kitchen at Purton Red House and will continue until completion, after a brief pause in February. The new kitchen will allow for customers of the Purton Red House to purchase light meals and snacks. Completion of the kitchen is expected by Easter this year, and further information will be communicated on its completion, about both the official opening and food offerings.

You can keep up to date by following posts on Facebook at 'Purton Red House' and by reading Purton Magazine.

New Council Leadership

Due to the ill health and passing of our Chair Cllr Ray Thomas, we have a change in our Chair and Vice Chair.

As from Monday 8th January, our new Chair of Council is Cllr Neil Hooper and Vice Chair is Cllr Susan Relfe.

Should you have any questions or need any help, please contact either of these or our Clerk Deborah Lawrence.

An introduction to Councillor James Kent

Purton Parish Council has welcomed a new face to its team of Volunteer Councillors this January, following a Co-option at this month's Full Council

meeting, of Cllr James Kent.

Having lived in the village for just one year, after living 5 years in Swindon, it may be a surprise to some that James has already come onboard our rural Parish Council, but the new Cllr Kent is something of a 'kindred spirit'.

James grew up in a small rural village with his family and has a background in farming. There he thrived on the open countryside, rural views, changing seasons, farm produce and festivities.

As a young person he had strong ambitions of becoming a farmer, but steered by his much-loved Grandfather, is now a Chef, who aspires to work on a 'field to fork' basis.

James married a school teacher, and is now a father of two preschool children, so family, education and community are all central to his values and priorities.

Now well settled in the village, James says, 'it already feels like home', and he is keen to preserve, grow and enjoy our rural life here in Purton, with his family.

As a father, James is keen to ensure that there are traditional, seasonal, village festivities for children to enjoy and that children can safely and easily walk to school. And that in their teenage years, they will have enriching places to go, free of concerns like knife crime or county drug lines.

For himself, James wants to live in a community where people work together and can talk to each other when needed. Where local businesses and farms

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continue to grow and thrive. And, where he can play his part in ensuring that rural views and character are protected from unwanted development.

Within our community, James also wants to share his energy and enthusiasm for 'field to fork' food production, the environment, rural living, animals and community life. For example, he has already taken over an allotment, where he plans to grow food for the Pips Community Café and Community Fridge. From February 2024, Cllr James Kent will attend Parish Council Meetings, but there's no need to wait until then to say hello, so if you see him in the Village do make the time to chat!

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

Update On The Royal Wootton Bassett Banking Hub

Work is underway to create the new Community Banking Hub at the Post Office, in Royal Wootton Bassett High Street. It is hoped that this will be ready to open early this year.

Royal Wootton Bassett Library is offering a temporary home for the Community Banking Hub, until the full hub is open.

Opening hours are 9.30am-16.30 on weekdays, but the hub is closed on Tuesdays. On Mondays banking for NatWest is available; on Wednesdays

Barclays, Thursdays Lloyds and Friday HSBC UK.

Services available allow for Personal Banking Customers to pay in cash and cheques, withdraw cash and check their balance.

Business banking customers will be able to pay in cash and cheques, withdraw cash and access change-giving services.

Bill payments in terms of utility payments and top-ups.

The Post Office at Royal Wootton Bassett remains open and is accessible via the side door as you enter Borough Fields from the High Street.

Donations to your community

Purton Parish Council Finance & General Purposes Committee, reviews funding for local community groups.

Over coming months, 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 will be considered in July 2024. Applications are welcome until 30th of June 2024. The form can be found on the Parish Council website at: www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/data-transparency-sub/key-parish-council-documents

Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards 2024

Everyone is welcome to attend the Parish Annual Meeting and Awards Evening on

Monday 8th April 2024, at 7.30pm, when local volunteers will be recognised.

Whilst nominations for this event are now closed, you can nominate volunteers at any time ready for the next round of awards by completing the form on our website.

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

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

Councillors will consider all entries following which Award Recipients will be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in 2025 when the next round of awards will be presented.

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, 2025.

New homes for local wildlife

This year birds, bats and insects will have new homes in Purton following the installation of homes for them at the Cemetery, Village Centre, Dingle and within Parkland close to the tennis court.

Further homes for Purton's smallest

residents will be installed throughout the year as part of an ongoing programme to support them.

The homes were ordered by Purton Parish Council from the Swindon based charity Twigs, in order to support local wildlife and biodiversity.

It is hoped that the community will be able to get involved with the project moving forwards, and further information will be provided once available.

The decision to provide more homes for wildlife comes following the completion of an ecofriendly survey by local residents who strongly supported such a move.

Rise Trust Youth

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

Footpath Team Update

The below link can be used to access the Report of the informal meeting, held to discuss footpath problems with Wiltshire Council, which took place on 15th November 2023.

www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/services/footpaths

Memorial Testing

Purton Parish Council has completed Memorial Testing at Purton Cemetery.

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

We will endeavour to make contact with owners where available, however if you know the family to whom these graves

belong, we would be grateful if you could let them know.

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

The current graves failing safety testing are:

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| PC/S/7 | Vyvyan |
| PC/S/44 | Maltby |
| PC/Burial/58 | Hiscock |
| PC/Burial/50 | Parsons |
| PC/Burial/53 | Brown |
| PC/Burial/71 | Wheeler |
| PC/Burial/101 | Jones |
| PC/Burial/117 | Bristow |
| PC/Burial/151 | Kennet |
| PC/Burial/162 | Parsons |
| PC/Burial/262 | Matthews |
| PC/Burial/304 | Ardley |
| PC/Burial/357 | Eatwell |

Parish Council Meetings 2024

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

Mon 12th February 2024 - Full Council Meeting

Mon 14th March 2024 - Full Council Meeting

Mon 15th April - Full Council Meeting

Mon 13th May - Full Council Meeting

Mon 24th June - Full Council Meeting

Mon 29th July - 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

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 at Purton Village Hall
- Family Fun Day and Mini Music Festival - Saturday 1st of June at the Purton Red House
- Kids Summer Sports Days – At the Village Centre, dates tbc.
- Christmas Lights Switch On – Saturday 30th November at Purton Red House
- Children’s Christmas Party – Saturday 14th December at Purton Village Hall.

Planning

Planning applications are received and 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, Wiltshire Council. Details of applications are posted on our website should you wish to view or through the Wiltshire Council portal link also on our site. Applications to be considered at our meetings will be posted on our agenda, which can be located on our notice boards and website at: www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/services/planning-highways Applications received, granted, and refused at the date of submission for this edition of the Purton Magazine, are as follows:

a) Permission Granted

- PL/2023/01829 - Full Planning Permission, 6 High Street, Purton, Swindon, Wilts, SN5 4AA. Proposed change of use from restaurant to two

ground floor flats. Decision: Approve with Conditions.

- PL/2023/08744 - Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. Old Coach House, 85 High Street, Purton, SN5 4AB. T1 Apple - Good prune by 30% to previous points to formalise. T2 Apple – Good prune by 35% to formalise. Decision: No Objection.
- PL/2023/03741, 6 Cowleaze Purton SN5 4FQ, 2 storey side extension, single storey rear extension, and convert garage. Decision: Approve with Conditions.
- PL/2023/09238 - Prior Notification – Demolition Former Youth Club, Reid’s Piece, Purton, Wiltshire, SN5 4AZ. Proposal: Removal/Demolition of Former Youth Club. Decision: Prior Approval Not Required.
- PL/2023/03931 - Full Planning Permission, Pry Farm, 4 The Pry, Purton, SN5 4JP. Proposal: Change of use of former agricultural buildings to provide two warehouses (Use Class B8), one of which to include a ground-floor ancillary reception and trade counter, with upper-floor office space (E(g)(i)); two business start-up units (Use Class E(g)(i)); repositioned access; and associated car and cycle parking, drainage works and landscaping. Decision: Approve with Conditions.
- PL/2023/09239 - Full Planning Permission, 60 Pavenhill, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4DA. Proposal: Erection of 1 block, containing 6 cattery pens to supplement the original number of cattery pens. Pens will be of the same type wooden structure with concrete

base. Decision: Approve with Conditions

- PL/2023/09821 Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area, 17 Church Path, Purton SN5 4DR. Goat Willow - Crown reduction by up to 3 metres. No Objection
- PL/2023/06960 Approval of Reserved Matters, Land Adjacent To 49 The Hyde, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4EA. Erection Of Single Dwelling Access and Parking Following Outline Permission REF PL/2022/03841 Decision: Approve with Conditions

b) Withdrawn

- PL/2023/03608, Widham Farm, 26 Widham, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4EW, Proposal: Conversion and alteration of former stable range to private dining venue (sui generis), together with ancillary development and landscaping. Decision: Withdrawn by Applicant.
- PL/2023/03792, Works to a Listed Building, Widham Farm, 26 Widham, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4EW, Conversion and alteration of former stable range to private dining venue (sui generis), together with ancillary development and landscaping. Decision: Withdrawn by Applicant.

Keep up to date

Further Council details and community information are available as follows:

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

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

Purton & District Age Concern

Purton and District ~~AGE~~ CONCERN

Date for the diary:

22 March: 3Bs – Bangers, Beans & Bingo

Carols at The Red House

We had a great night on Christmas Eve with our Carols Under the Christmas Tree and our thanks go to Mark Blackwell and his Lockdown Brass + Friends for the music which was really great. We had a huge crowd turn up and the singing was excellent. We supplied mulled wine and mince pies half way through, thanks to our committee members who heated it all and served it to everybody there. We avoided the rain until almost at the end when it drizzled for the last 15 minutes or so, managing to soak everything, but we managed to dry it out along with ourselves! Thanks to everyone that turned up, it's a great way to start the festive period.

Hampers and Mince Pies

I would like to thank Romana and her staff at White Lodge Care Home for once again sending us some lovely hampers before Christmas for us to give out in the village. There were nine in all so we had

to decide who we gave them to and this year they went to a selection of people that had supported us in the past. What a lovely thing for White Lodge to do. Also I must thank Lesley Bayliss and the pupils at Cricklade Manor School when she rang me to say that her pupils had made mince pies to be delivered to some Purton residents and I duly sent them a list, so I hope that some of you were recipients of this lovely gesture.

Events in 2024

Here we go again, lots of events for us to think about in 2024 especially as this is our 60th Anniversary year. We are trying to think of what we can do to celebrate this momentous achievement and of course fit it in with our already busy calendar. Our first event after the Burns Night celebration will be our 3B's event, for those that don't know it stands for "bangers, beans & bingo" a meal consisting of local sausages, beans and a jacket potato followed by a selection of desserts, with bingo games in between. It costs £8 with the bingo tickets bought separately. It's on the 22nd March and

you will need to book quickly as this event is very popular. Call Andrew on 956095 for tickets. Any suggestions for our Anniversary year would be much appreciated.

Thanks to One-Stop

The One-Stop staff have sent us a cheque for over £1,000 as a donation from their amazing events they have run during the year. This has included raffles, cake sales and even a sweepstake, what a fantastic effort and we thank them so much for the donation. They continue to raise money for charities and must be applauded for their work.

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 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 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

Peter Berry, Chair

One Stop fundraiser

Once again the community and in particular our customers have shown their generosity at our Christmas Fundraiser. We are pleased to report that we made £866.29. All with the sale of home made cakes, scones and mince pies, and our raffle. There were twenty eight raffle prizes, all prize winners have been contacted and hopefully claimed by the time you read this. Thank you to those who gave us raffle prizes and as usual to Neil and Deb, and Jean and Des for the loan of your tables and for the ladies contribution to the cake stall. Also thank you to everyone who came along to support us. This wonderful amount was added to £75 that Zita raised on her Grand National sweep and £133.71 from the till point collecting buckets, some of which was donations for cakes made during the year. We were pleased to give the total of £1,075.00 to Purton Age Concern for their work in the village.

Although fundraising in our community is of uttermost importance to us at One Stop, we also raise money for charities set out by head office. During 2023 they included Children in Need who had £208, The Alzheimer's Society £88 and Children versus Cancer £116. The British Legion Poppy Appeal also benefited by £327, as well as £260 being collected at till point for Marie Curie.

None of this would be possible without the kindness from our Customers. Thank you all so much for your contributions, especially now that things are hard for everyone.

Pearl Lait

On behalf of Zac, Zita and Your One Stop Team

Lent Lunches 2024

Our first lunch is planned for Wednesday 14th February at 12 noon at Purton Methodist Church, then on the following three Wednesdays: 21st, 28th February and 6th March. Please come and enjoy soup, a jacket potato meal and a cup of tea/coffee for £6, plus cakes as priced. We welcome anyone who would like to join us for an informal and friendly get-together. No need to book a place. Monies raised will be sent to Mercy Ships, a Christian organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.

Sylvia Freemantle (770686)

12/24

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03/24



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05/24

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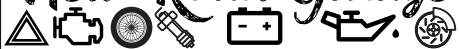
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02/24

United Churches Nativity Play and Carol Service on Christmas Eve

We had the most joyous United Nativity Play Carol Service in St Mary's on Christmas Eve. For many families this now seems to have become the start of Christmas Day festivities!

The Church was full to the brim, with 150 adults and at least 75 children, most of whom took part in the play.

We had seven kings and a camel (the numbers of kings is never mentioned in the bible, so why not?!); about 12 shepherds including one from Thailand in a Nasa space outfit (why not!); a few sheep and the rest were angels and stars. Mary and Joseph were beautifully calm throughout and the baby Jesus, acted by three month old Hugo, was absolutely wonderful... lying in the manger, interested in all the excitement around him and staring in amazement at everyone!

Thank you to all who helped with the service, including Rev Judith, Mary Smith (from UJC); and the versatile Readers.

The Cricklade Band was fantastic in every way, really helping to build up the Christmas spirit in Church.

We were also so grateful to Liz, the techie desk operator and Richard who set up a superb powerpoint presentation for us.

Most of all we were delighted to see the children and all the parents and grandparents who came and took part. A magnificent £311 was raised for Julia's House Children's Hospice. Thank you so much for coming to join us.

Libbie and Mary H

Purton's Peartree Pealers

The Purton Handbell Ringers, The Peartree Pealers have been very busy recently. Leading up to Christmas we played festive tunes and carols in Church, in care homes, pubs, in shopping centres and at various Christmas events in and around Purton. We hope you managed to hear us at one of these events and enjoyed the unique sound of the hand bells.

When 'busking' we collect money for Prospect in Swindon and over the years we have donated thousands of pounds to their charity.

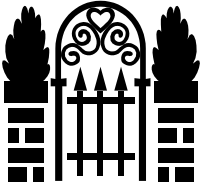
Should you be interested in joining us, we are always looking for people to join our band (you just need to be able to read music), or if you would like us to come and play for you at an event, then please get in touch.

You can find us on our Facebook page or contact Libbie 01793 771018



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News from Purton Methodist Church

On December 9th we had a Carol Evening with the Village Choir singing for us and what a wonderful sound they made along with our own Soloist Sylvia singing several lovely Christmas songs. The evening was a wonderful start to Christmas with a full house and everyone joining in with the traditional carols; along with mince pies and mulled wine, a wonderful evening was had by all. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated gifts to the Christmas table. It was much appreciated. Then on that Thursday Chedworth Band entertained another packed house along with the audience joining in with some of the carols. What a wonderful happy evening it was, along with yet more mince pies. Thanks to all the ladies who helped on both evenings with the refreshments.

The amount raised from both evenings was £679.80 which will go towards the repair of the Church windows so thank you to all who attended and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Rose Stump

Purton Litter Pick

It would appear it was perfect timing that the latest Purton Litter Pick took place on Saturday 6th January - as members of the group found themselves clearing up a lot of debris from both the recent festivities and also the aftermath of Storm Henk - which had ripped through the village on recycling bin collection day, upending a number of bins. This meant the group achieved a record haul of bags of litter.

It was also perfect timing that the rain had finally stopped and the volunteers were able to enjoy the weather on what was a glorious winter morning.

With 30 volunteers taking part, including a number of accompanied children and teenagers, this was also a great social event, with many staying on afterwards for refreshments and a chat

in Pips Cafe.

Special thanks go to a volunteer who couldn't join in the main event, so carried

out his own Litter Pick - filling 7 bags and 4 builders' bins! In fact, there are a number of people in the village, who are constantly Litter Picking - not just on the organised events.

Please join us for the next Purton Litter Pick on Saturday 6th April - we always meet at 10.00am, outside Silver Threads Hall (weather permitting).

If you require any further details, please email Anne Maddison at: purtonlitterpick@gmail.com



movies@Mary's

Rescheduled for Saturday, 10th February, join movies@Mary's for a family 1940s evening at St Mary's church with the film, *Carrie's War* (PG). Set during World War II, this popular and moving story by Nina Bawden, follows the lives of two evacuees from London to a small Welsh village; and the adults who receive and befriend them. A children's story it may be ... but Carrie's return with her two children explores grown-up lessons too!

Doors open at 5.30pm for a 6pm start. Forty-fy February. Raid the dressing up box, or great-grandma's wardrobe for

1940s clothes. Style your hair a la 1940s; or, come just for the film. Fresh popcorn and conviviality available to munch - just like the old days!

Tickets, by donation on the night, are bookable on Eventbrite*. Donations split between St Mary's and the Swindon Harbour Project. Or contact Liz Martin (01793 770171) or Tsara Hodson (07525 258800)

Saturday, 10 February 2024, 5.30pm for 6.00pm start. *We are using Eventbrite to ensure we have sufficient chairs available.

Repair Café in Purton!

Have you ever thought what a shame it is to bin something when a small repair could save it from being thrown away? We are looking for some handy people who can 'fix things'...or at least have a go! We want our shout out to be 'repair and re-use rather than bin it!'

Are you someone who likes fiddling with broken toys or gadgets, or mending clothes or generally repairing items in the house? Could you sew on buttons, change a plug or repair a home-knitted sock? Could you mend a hole in a lilo, or glue a broken dish or darn a hole in a pair of gloves,

Could you fix a broken zip or sharpen the garden shears? Or tighten up the arms on glasses?

Could you fix a radio or a clock; or glue the head back onto a garden gnome?!

I am sure there are many people in our Purton Community who have the skills to repair many of the items that we throw away. And we just can't continue to throw things away all the time.

We need to try to repair and re-use rather than bin things that are broken. If YOU have any repair skills can you let us know? Maybe we could have a session once a month, for a couple of hours, when people could bring items into Pips Café, to be checked over to see if they could be mended.

Whatever your skills please get in touch and let's see what we can do to repair and re-use.

Libbie: 01793 771018/07811 104910

Ten Years Ago...

February 2014

As the editorial in Purton Magazine for February 2014 welcomed the longer days that mark this time of year, another perennial feature was the state of parking in the village. Cars parked on double-yellow lines, pavements and even parking bays. The authorities had a system for dealing with transgressors – Wiltshire Parking Services passed a report to Civil Enforcement Officers who passed the parcel round their office and then investigated, assuming there was someone available on the ground to do so. By that time the car had probably moved. Sometimes the police could be involved, but how often do you see a policeman in Purton?

There was very little news in the month's

edition; even the Brownies had been behaving themselves. But there was so much being organised, from cricket practice to fish-and-chip suppers and two choirs recruiting. Then there were four special services, on different themes, at St. Mary's and the 50th anniversary of Purton Age Concern. Last, and not least, preparations for the centenary of the start of the First World War were underway. They were a lively lot in Purton back in 2014!



Twenty Years Ago...

In the February 2004 issue, the Purton Historical Society were, along with others, bemoaning the inevitable conclusion that Beagle 2 should have reported back by now on its mission to Mars. Professor Colin Pillinger was a regular interviewee facing many awkward questions about the fate of the spacecraft when no one could really know what had happened. To put that in a 2014 context, India successfully launched its first Mars Spacecraft in November last year and, at the time, was

scheduled to travel for 300 days before being ready for entering Mars orbit later in 2014.

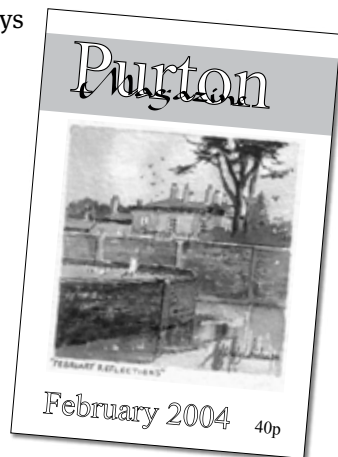
Much nearer to home – but perhaps not in terms of a mystery – was the news that the Last Supper painting was nearing the end of a painstakingly careful restoration in Bristol. New readers might not know that the painting now safely returned to the reredos below the east window in St. Mary's church was stolen 20 years ago and recovered in Florida in 1998 – a

story in itself that was told in Purton Magazine later in 2004. However, the painting was in such a bad state that it would take 6 years to restore.

Right at home and maybe without any mysteries, Purton football club's first team had remained unbeaten in 19 Hellenic League games with 13 wins and 6 draws placing them proudly at the top of the league; Eurshell Fearon was the leading scorer at that stage with 11 goals.

But it wouldn't be Purton without a few things being the same, would it? Tadpole Lane was scheduled to be

closed for 7 days in February 2004 while a new sewer was being constructed.



1st Purton Rainbows is looking for new leaders!

We have a lovely Rainbows unit for girls aged 5-7 in Purton and are looking for some new leaders to take over running the unit from Summer 2024. If you think you might enjoy planning and running fun sessions for the Rainbows and would like to know more please send us an email to firstpurtonrainbows@hotmail.com, or give Sarah a call on 771984.

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 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.

Trees in Purton

It is with sadness that I have noticed that several beautiful, healthy and prominent trees have been felled in Purton over the past few months.

I can understand why diseased or scruffy trees are felled, but I fail to see why apparently healthy, beautiful, native trees; which take decades to grow, are allowed to be cut down within just a few hours.

The most recent casualty was in the Dogridge area of Purton and as it was a lone tree, its loss is even more prominent. I wonder if planning permission was needed, and if, and why it was granted?

JS

Village Centre Defibrillator

Surely with the recent incident involving Tom Lockyear at Luton Town FC with a cardiac arrest on the pitch consideration must be paid by the Parish Council/ Trustees to have a defibrillator installed at the Village Centre.

This is not just a football issue with many activities being held at the Centre inside and outside during the year with Bowls, Tennis and regular bookings for the Millenium Hall.

The nearest one is at the Village Hall which is 150 metres away and that is not in my opinion acceptable when you consider bookings being taken by the people for the above locations who may not even know where the Village Hall is.

Comparisons can be made to the Leisure Centres at RWB and Cricklade so why are we not able to facilitate one at Purton Village Centre.

Terry Crumbie

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: Pavenhill, Upper and Lower Pavenhill, Paven Close, Bunce Court, Glead Close, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Cob Hill, Saxon Mill and Cowleaze

Purton Village Diary - February 2024

| | | | |
|----|----|---------|---|
| 3 | Sa | 10.00am | Lydiard Turkeys Pop up farm shop until midday |
| 4 | Su | 8.00am | Holy Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 10.30am | Church for all at St Mary's |
| 9 | F | | St Mary's & Bradon Forest School finish for half term |
| 10 | Sa | 5.30pm | Chinese New Year, 2024 is the year of the Dragon movies@Mary's RESCHEDULED showing Carrie's War at St Mary's Church. 1940s themed evening - raid the dressing up box, enjoy 40s music and the old-fashioned taste of popcorn. |
| 11 | Su | 10.30am | Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 10.30am | Holy Communion at St Mary's Church |
| 12 | M | 10.00am | Purton WI meet at the Silver Threads hall for a Valentine themed Meeting |
| | | 7.00pm | Full Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall |
| 13 | Tu | | Shrove Tuesday |
| 14 | W | | St Valentine's Day |
| | | 12noon | Lent Lunches served at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 7.30pm | Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at St Mary's Church |
| 17 | Sa | | Random Acts of Kindness Day |
| 18 | Su | 8.00am | Holy Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 10.30am | Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 10.30am | Church for all at St Mary's |
| 19 | M | 2.00pm | St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church for a talk from David Reed about hearing loss. |
| 21 | W | 12noon | Lent Lunches served at Purton Methodist Church |
| 22 | Th | 7.30pm | Purton Historical Society meet at the Methodist Church for a meeting about Romans in Purton |
| 25 | Su | 10.30am | Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church |
| | | 10.30am | Holy Communion at St Mary's Church |
| | | 4.00pm | Messy Church at St Mary's Church |
| 28 | W | 12noon | Lent Lunches served at Purton Methodist Church |

Every week

| | | | |
|----|--------|-----------|---|
| M | 6.30pm | to 7.30pm | Purton Village Voices choir practice at Purton Methodist Church (term time) |
| | 6.30pm | to 7.30pm | 2nd Purton Brownies meet at the Millennium Hall (term time) |
| Tu | 9.00am | to 11am | Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time) |
| | 2.00pm | to 7.00pm | Purton Library open |
| | 6.30pm | to 7.30pm | 1st Purton Brownies meet at the Millennium Hall (term time) |

| | | | |
|----|---------|------------|--|
| | 7.30pm | to 9.00pm | 1st Purton Guides meet at the Millennium Hall (term time) |
| | 7.30pm | to 9.00pm | Purton Rangers meet at the Millennium Hall (fortnightly, term time) |
| 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

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.

Purton Historical Society



Purton Museum is now closed for the winter months and reopens in April 2024. Talks and events have been published on the website, www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com/ in the Purton Historical Society section.

Next Meeting: Thursday 22nd February 7.30, Methodist Church, Play Close, Purton, The Romans in Purton, by Andy Hood

The talk will describe and discuss excavations at Willis Way, which revealed evidence for a Roman villa complex, with an associated late Roman high-status cemetery. Everybody welcome, free for members, guests £3

ADVANCE NOTICE: Society AGM Thursday 21st March, Methodist Church, Play Close, Purton

The AGM will be followed by a presentation by Brian Coe, 'Purton Carnival during the 1980s'. Please be aware that the images reflect the attitudes and behaviours of the time.

Society Secretary

The current secretary wishes to relinquish her role at the AGM. If anybody is interested in taking up the role please contact the chairperson, Marion Hobbs, on roy.marion@btinternet.com. This voluntary role mainly involves communicating with

members and external contacts, but the Secretary is also expected to get involved with Society events.

Subscriptions For 2024

The membership subscription for 2024 will be £18 and is now due. Subscriptions can be paid in cash, or by cheque made payable to "Purton Historical Society" and sent to Jim Mosley at 1 Jewels Ash, Purton, SN5 4DW. Subscriptions can also be paid by bank transfer; the account details are:
Account name: Purton Historical Society
Account number: 00662136
Sort code: 30-98-41

If paying by bank transfer, please record your name in the reference field on the payment authorisation. If paying by cash, please include a note of your name.

The Committee would be very grateful if existing members could renew their membership as soon as possible.

New members are very welcome; please include a note of your postal and email addresses with your payment, or, if paying by bank transfer, please email Jim Mosley at J.Mosley1@btinternet.com with that information.

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

Visit www.purtonmagazine.co.uk for previous issues of our village magazine, and our advertisers' database for local businesses. We welcome submissions for publication in the March issue. Our copy deadline is the 10th February, please email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Friends of Lydiard Park

Happy New Year to all our Members of the Friends, Lydiard Park Archive users and community supporters. January may be a quiet month, but we wanted to let you know that there is plenty to look forward to in 2024. We are already jostling for space in a varied programme of public events, with several 'Music in a Mansion' concerts; history talks, a Lydiard Tregoze farm visit, and special displays, alongside our exclusive member events. We will begin promoting our Spring events from 1st February.

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Vernon St. John, 6th Viscount Bolingbroke, in 1974. Vernon, a World War I veteran, was the last Lord of the Manor to live at Lydiard Park. His passion for music and nature has inspired our programme. We will be telling his story and revealing hitherto unseen material relating to this reclusive and little understood aristocrat.

In the meantime, we are immensely grateful to so many of you who have contributed to the Lydiard Tregoze Family History Project with your stories and photographs; some dating back to

Lydiard during WWII. They will all be free to view in The Lydiard Archives. This year we are especially pleased to be able to publish digital copies of the daily diaries of Elliott Woolford of Hook Farm from 1899-1940. Their digitisation is a major milestone in our project to preserve this important record of social and agricultural history in England.

The Lydiard Archives continue to expand, with over 2,500 items already at your fingertips. Working with our partners at Lydiard House Museum, much of their reserve collection is now reaching a world-wide audience. The Archive has also been enriched because of loans and donations as well as access to images from major institutions such as the Victoria and Albert Museum, The British Museum, The British Library, The Royal Collection Trust, The UK Government Art Collection, The Museum of London, and The Yale Center for British Art. Thanks to the work of our tireless volunteer archivists, The Lydiard Archives are brimming with fascinating social history, and are free to access. www.thelydiardarchives.org.uk/

We Record...

Funeral at St Mary's Church

20 December 2023 Phillip Allen Bryant (Phil) (97)

Baptisms at St Mary's Church

7 January 2024 Florence Ava Marquez

7 January 2024 Emilia Sophia Marquez



February Nature Correspondent

“Throstling”

Strong winds in December, floods in January then getting colder, the possibility of snow for a few days and soon it's February, never a month for reliable weather. Can the natural world lift our spirits and banish the gloom of persistently grey winter skies?

Well of course it can, given a few hours of sunshine and warmth. Flowers appear, the first butterflies are on the wing and a few of our resident birds are beginning to clear their throats and sing: Robin, Hedge Sparrow and Chaffinch for example.

Then from the high branches of a bare tree a more persistent songster starts up:

Bo-peep, bo-peep, bo-peep!.... shurlair, shurlair!.... chuh-chuh-chair, chuh-chuh-chair!

Such a varied collection of loud piping calls, repeated in little sets, is the speciality of the song thrush or **throstle**, to give it its old-fashioned name. Someone described its performance as that of a chorister, diligently repeating and perfecting his musical phrases, one by one. The nightingale may be the premier songster in the British countryside, but for sheer variety of calls the song thrush takes some beating and it certainly brightens up a cold February morning.

The mistle thrush has a quite different song: a prolonged series of drawling, mournful phrases uttered from its perch on a tall tree, throstling away as early as January and continuing into February. There is no such word as “throstling” by the way (I have just looked it up) but I fancy that is what thrushes do - they throstle! A traditional name for the mistle thrush is “stormcock”, for it is one of very few birds that will continue to sing during a thunderstorm. On bright, sunny mornings blackbirds are trying out the first of their sweet, fluty tones: what a striking bird the male is at the start of the breeding season, with his shiny black body and bright orange-yellow bill and eye rim!

In February too, fieldfares and redwings have stripped all the berries from the hedgerows and are venturing into garden orchards to feed on fallen apples under the trees. These gregarious thrushes arrive in autumn from colder climes such as Scandinavia, Russia and Iceland, following warmth and the promise of food. In late March keen birders will sometimes spot several thrush species together, as a migrant Ring Ouzel mixes with departing Blackbirds, Fieldfares and Redwings that have wintered here. Something disturbs them suddenly-perhaps

a Sparrowhawk or a Merlin - then they are up and away, becking, chattering, chacking and seeping!

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



Song Thrush Credit: Chris Gomersall/RSPB Images.



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CEMETERY CHRISTMAS WREATHS NOTICE OF REMOVAL

The Parish Council staff will commence removal of all Christmas related wreaths/plants and ornaments on the 5th February 2024
Any items that are not compostable will be placed by the side of the entrance area for collection and remain for one month (Monday 4th March 2024)
After this period, they will be removed permanently.

**IF YOU WISH TO KEEP ANY ITEMS PLEASE REMOVE BY
THE 5th FEBRUARY 2024 LATEST**

Any questions or queries contact the office on the number below or email
deborah.lawrence@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Church Floodlighting



- Jan 3 With grateful thanks for floodlighting St Mary's Church in memory of **Ernie Paish** of Purton, on what would have been his 100th birthday. Dorothy, Heather, Jenny and families.
- Jan 28 St Mary's was floodlit in remembrance of **Susan Morley** on her birthday. Remembered with much love by her family and friends.
- Feb 7 The church will be floodlit for **Ann Ritchings** on the 2nd anniversary of her passing. Loved and missed by all the family.
- Feb 14 St Mary's will be floodlit in loving memory of **Maureen Valentine Quincey** on what would have been her 87th birthday.
- Feb 20 The Church will be floodlit to celebrate **Monica Kinnett's** birthday. She would have been 77 years old. All our love: Pete, Mandy, Paul, Jenny, Jerilynn and family xxx

Apologies to those who booked floodlighting over the weekend of the New Year. Unfortunately on Dec 29th the floodlight switch tripped, with all the rain. Some people were left disappointed. We shall do our best to sort this problem in the future but apologies for those who were let down. We shall happily provide a complimentary booking for another date to try and make amends.

It is possible to ask for St Mary's Church to be floodlit for the evening. The cost is £20 (to help with the electricity) and it is a beautiful sight. Many people request this as a memorial for a friend on their anniversary; or for a wedding anniversary or any other special event. Please contact Libbie: it helps if she has a couple of weeks warning. Thank you 771018.



Purton Football Club

While feeling I should keep our local residents and supporters of the football club up to date via the monthly magazine there has been very little game time played during the month of December due to the weather and the festival period of Christmas and the New Year falling on a weekend prior to those the leagues had no fixtures pencilled in. The few games that were played in late November/early December brought continued positive results for our teams with the first team sitting 4th in their league with games in hand on the second and third teams but a mountain to climb to catch the table topping Faringdon Town FC who ironically we play this Saturday January 13th so an update on that game will be in my next item next month.

The Development team and Sunday teams continue their good form and sit

2nd and 1st respectively in their leagues and the Women's team who have been very sparse in fixtures due to aforementioned weather and festive period their league is quite small with only 8 teams and their pitches not always available due to priority of the men's senior teams requiring it.

I am hoping to finalise our next Sporting dinner event shortly and I will give more information regarding that in next month's magazine.

Finally before I sign off to start a hectic second half of the season a bit of up to date news that our fixture last on Saturday 6th January against Shrivenham Town resulted in a 2-1 win for Purton on our opponents ground.

*Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer
of Purton FC*



Purton Tennis Club

After a very soggy start to the New Year, we are hoping February may bring some welcome sunshine. We are a hardy lot at Purton; wrapping up warmly and playing tennis outside despite the chilly weather. However, just as in cricket; if it is wet, then it means 'rain stops play!' So far this winter, a couple of our matches have been postponed due to rain and social tennis has been practically non-existent due to the heavy rain.

So, onward and upward, the evenings

are gradually getting lighter and there is a hint of better weather to come and we will give a review of our winter fixtures in the next edition.

Memberships are renewed at the start of each calendar year via the Clubspark link on our web page. We have adult, junior and family memberships, which allows for unlimited use of the courts throughout the year, so this is excellent value. New members are always very welcome. Please take a look



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at our website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PurtonTennisClub/> for all the information about the club, including the fees for 2024, or contact our membership secretary: Jo Adams who can answer any questions you may have. We are a friendly, inclusive club, where everyone is welcome and we have procedures in place to ensure that all our members have a safe environment in which to play.

Tennis is an enjoyable sport that can

be played and enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities and disabilities, so, why not give it a go?

.....and finally, at the time of writing, several of our members are busy rehearsing their lines for the Purton Panto, Jack & Jill, so 'break a leg' everyone!

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

Swindon Croquet Club

Dressed in festive attire, 21 hardy Swindon Croquet Club members braved the elements just before Christmas to compete in the annual Sausage Sizzle tournament. Competitors were paired with the format being the best of 9 hoops, i.e. the first pair to win 5 hoops, with everyone playing 4 games.

Teresa Hill and Jeff Hannath were in top form, dominating throughout to remain unbeaten and win the tournament.

Social Secretary Sharon Smith did a super job, serving hot dogs and trimmings along with liquid refreshments. A very enjoyable, fun event.

The club is currently closed until 1st April for the grounds team to work their magic and restore the lawns to their immaculate best for the 2024 season.

If you would like to give croquet a try please see our website swindoncroquetclub.org.uk, find us on Facebook or email swindon.croquet@outlook.com for more information.



Beverly Briggs

**Pictured: Chairman Clive Smith (centre)
with winners Teresa Hill and Jeff Hannath**

Purton Cricket Club



We're into 2024 and with fixtures being announced and winter training programmes underway, the new season is fast approaching to the delight of everyone involved at the club.

Looking back on 2023, the club held its first event of the winter on Saturday 11th November with a 'Race Night' held successfully at the Sun Inn. A fantastic £1600 was raised from the evening with the proceeds being split between the club and Sarcoma UK, a charity close to the heart of those involved in the adult section at the club.

Also, we would like to offer our congratulations to our youth players who were named in the Wiltshire county and development winter training programmes.

The club itself has begun our winter training across the senior and youth sections. The men's training sessions take place on Wednesday evenings at the Cricklade Manor Prep School. They are in two blocks January 10th - February 7th and February 21st - March 27th with each session running between 8-9:30pm. Any new members are welcome to attend these sessions and to do so simply get in contact with the club via Play Cricket or social media.

Building on that ahead of the outdoor season, new players across all of our men's, women's and youth sections are more than welcome and can get in

contact with the club by the same means as mentioned above.

To add to the excitement, the fixtures for our men's first and second teams have been announced. The first XI will kick off life back in the West of England Premier League Wiltshire Division with a trip to face Potterne – Second XI. Whilst our second XI, after maintaining their spot in Division Four of the Wiltshire County Cricket League, begin at home to Corsham – Third XI.

Ahead of those games we are looking to fill one remaining pre-season friendly slot. On Saturday 27th April we are on the hunt for a home friendly fixture. If your club is interested, then don't hesitate to get in contact with those at the club.

Away from the on field action, we are looking to continue to grow our sponsor base for the new summer. Sponsorship packages involve having a sponsor board on display on the fencing around the boundary. The price for the first year is £200 before reducing to £175 in years two and three as part of a three year agreement. 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 Burrige

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



News and wattles from the Turkey shed

Some people I speak to think turkey farmers take January off and go skiing, I'd love to but sadly there's still plenty to do! One of the main jobs straight after Christmas is trying to get everything back straight. There's a lot of equipment associated with the turkey processing and as everything is finished with it's all palletised, wrapped and stored in the nearest clean dry shed. This means by the end of the operation the sheep shed is full of kit which all has to come out and back to its rightful home so we can use the sheep handling pens. This all had to be done as soon as we have a chance as the sheep get a trim up around the rear end prior to lambing. This makes things much easier to see when the action starts. We don't like handling them late in pregnancy so the sooner we can get it done the better.

The cows are also keeping me busy, the 34 cows that were outside came in on boxing day to join the other two groups as I could see we had a fortnight of wet weather ahead. Having three bunches of cows in rather than two makes the logistics of feeding, bedding up and scraping out the dung much harder and I have to stop and think carefully how everything gets shuffled about to be efficient. Getting it wrong wastes a lot of time getting on and off tractors and moving cows back and forth more than needed.

All of this means most of my time is taken up with essential farm work leaving little time for all the (also essential) winter conservation jobs – hedge laying and tree planting. Tree planting could be done as late as March but the hedge laying wants to be finished by the end of February so as not to disturb nesting birds. The clocks are ticking and I need to crack on!

I wasn't surprised to see the supermarkets having a price war with each other this Christmas but it was a shame that it was so extreme and that the battleground was in the vegetable aisle. With prices slashed to 15 pence a bag and rumours of even free veg in some

places. Who knows what price the farmer got for it but in this very difficult veg growing year, it seems disrespectful to undervalue good food. Why not slash the prices of biscuits, chocolate or wine. I've a feeling no supermarket buyers have done a 10 hour shift in the rain cutting cabbages, if they had they may not be so keen to give them away.

2023 Weather

Last year was the wettest year since I started keeping records six years ago but other locals who also have rain gauges do show that it was not exceptional. We had 1036mm as opposed to the average for our area of 719mm, it wasn't spread very evenly through the year with an incredibly dry February, a showery summer and finished with six wetter than average months including the 80mm in 75 minutes on the night of the 18th of September – a night I'll not forget.

Many central areas like Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire along with the north east coast received double the expected rainfall which must have been grim.

Signs of spring

It may still be the depths of winter but the Skylarks are starting to sing over the fields with the Great tits and Song thrushes making themselves heard from the hedges. A coot appeared on the farm pond over Christmas, which was joined by a second a few days ago. I've noticed Jackdaws pecking at straw bales in the yard, I wonder if they're thinking about nesting materials. The old apple tree across the pond from our kitchen window has both Stock Doves and Jackdaws perching on it, for the last few years these two species have taken it in turns to nest in the large cavity where a bough broke off in bad weather many years ago, it's the Stock Doves turn this year, we'll see if the Jackdaws agree.



I'm very lucky, the view from my armchair is out across the farm pond which means I get to see all the comings and goings of the birds and the seasons. In March the reeds begin to poke up through the water's surface and by June they are six feet tall and completely obscure the view. The first bad weather in October and the reeds begin to die back and the pond is once again revealed. Our next pop up shop is on 3rd Feb, 10-12pm.

Chris Rumming

Purton Placard

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Purton WI

Monday 12th February,
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for a Valentine themed. All
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Hook and District WI

We are hosting a Table Top Sale, on
Saturday, 16th March 2024 at Hook
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News from Wiltshire Council

2024/25 budget proposals published

Our draft budget proposals for 2024/25 have been published, with our prudent and preventative approach putting us in a strong position to deliver high quality services for residents, businesses, and communities.

Our proposed budget for 2024/25 stands at around £486m, more than half of that is spent on adult and children's social care services.

We have allocated an extra £10m over the next two years to spend on filling potholes and a road resurfacing programme. The budget proposes an additional £1 million investment into extra gully cleaning work and reactive pothole filling.

For more information visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/council-continues-along-prudent-and-preventive-path-as-budget-proposals-published

Joint operation to fight fly-tipping

Our Enforcement Officers and officers from Royal Wootton Bassett police have worked in partnership on a joint operation to target vehicles carrying waste, in a bid to crack down on fly-tipping, unlicensed waste carriers and unlicensed scrap metal dealing.

As set out in our Business Plan, we take fly-tipping and illegal scrap metal dealing very seriously here in Wiltshire, and working with Wiltshire Police, we are cracking down on this criminal activity, which is harming the environment. For more information visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/wiltshire-council-and-wiltshire-police-work-together-on-stop-and-search-operation-to-fight-fly-tipping

Recycle more in 2024

Recycle Now has estimated that recycling saves 18m tonnes of CO2 in the UK a year! If you're still thinking about New Year's resolutions, Recycle Now has put a few together to add to your list. These include:

1. Getting to know recycling symbols - did you know that there's a specific symbol telling you when something needs to be recycled with the lid left on? Leave lids on plastic bottles such as cooking oil bottles, drinks bottles and bleach bottles.
2. Recycling one more material – 80% of households miss one or more items that could have been recycled. Our data shows that the most missed items in Wiltshire are foil, jar lids, and plastic pots, tubs, and trays.



05/24



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3. Put the right things in the recycling bin – keep up to date with what you can recycle at home.

For top tips on maximising what you can recycle from home visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/recycling

News from White Lodge

Residents and guests at White Lodge Care Home in Braydon enjoyed an afternoon of grins with a live music performance that took place at the home. Local group, RWB Dementia Choir from Royal Wootton Bassett performed a selection of songs which included “Somewhere over the rainbow”, “My favourite things”, “He's got the whole world” and “Try a little kindness”.

Lisa, leader of the RWB Dementia Choir said *“it has been a great pleasure to meet so many people, having an opportunity to chat with the residents following our singing performance; our group always look forward to coming to White Lodge.”*

General Manager, Ramona Gherendi said, *“Our residents and guests had a wonderful time singing along with the wonderful performers. We do our best to provide a wide range of activities and entertainment at White Lodge as part of the lifestyle enrichment programme for residents, and this was one of our favourites.”*

White Lodge care home is run by Barchester Healthcare, one of the UK’s largest care providers, which is committed to delivering personalised care across its care homes and hospitals. White Lodge provides residential care, nursing care and dementia care for 80 residents from respite care to long term stays.



Lenten Choral Concert in Tetbury

The season of Lent has provided a rich canvas for choral composers over the centuries and the Avebury Vocal Ensemble (AVE) will be making much of the musical opportunities at their concert in St. Mary's Church, Tetbury on Saturday 16th March at 7.00pm.

The two main works make musical use of the chanting that was common in liturgical settings in times past. Allegri's *Miserere* is a Latin setting of Psalm 51 written for the papal choir in Rome around 1638 and alternates choral verses with verses of monophonic Gregorian chanting for the exclusive use of the Sistine Chapel during Holy Week.

The second main work is Bairstow's

Lamentation. It is an English setting of the poetic Lamentations of Jeremiah for the destruction of the city of Jerusalem. The work makes use of the Anglican style of chanting and is also used in Western Christianity at services during Holy Week.

There are many other choral works for the season of Lent in the concert including movements from John Stainer's much loved oratorio *Crucifixion*, Anton Bruckner's *Christus Factus Est*, Antonio Lotti's eight part *Crucifixus* and Max Reger's *Unser Lieben Frauen Traum* (Our Lady's Dream). It promises to be an excellent evening's musical enlightenment for Lent.

Are you the giving type?

The NHS Blood and Transplant Service is celebrating its amazing donors and inviting the nation's giving types to donate.

As a nation we're a generous lot. Whether that's giving up our seat on the train, to giving hard earned cash for good causes.

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Most people aged 17-65 can give blood and plasma, to find out more and to register visit www.blood.co.uk

Mini crossword

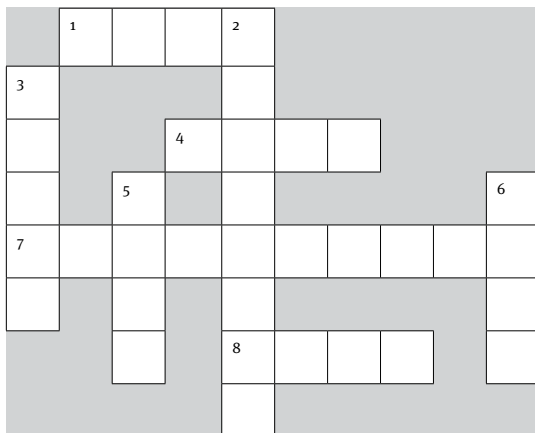
Here is the next in our series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun. Again there are no prizes but the answers to January's puzzle are 1D) Celebrate 2D) Leap 3A) Reminisce 4A) New 5D) Happy 6D) Year 7D) Twenty 8A) Twentyfour

This month there are eight clues.

- 1 across Salad or dog maybe (4)
- 4 across Celestial body (4)
- 7 across Highest score in a cribbage hand (10)
- 8 across Precipitation (8)
- 2 down Briefest (5)
- 3 down Twelve in a year (4)
- 5 down Look before you make this jump (4)
- 6 down Could be school, light or calendar (4)

This is the next crossword created by Neil and Rob Miles to challenge readers. Answers for this quiz will be in the March issue and if any reader would like to create their own mini crossword, we would be delighted to include it in a future issue of your magazine. Some of the words can come from recent

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



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



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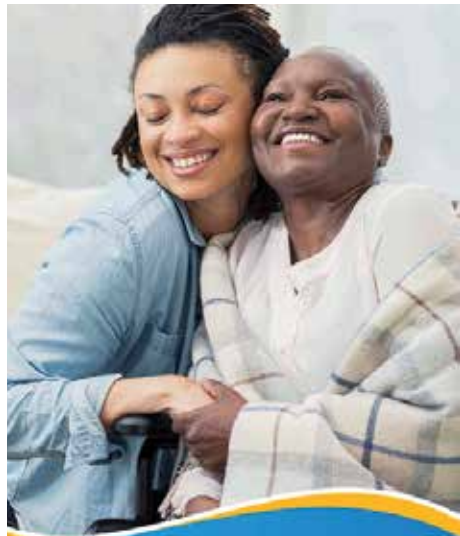
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