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March 2024

# 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:	Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church
---------	------------------------------------

Father Michael Robertson

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

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# Purton Magazine

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Front cover image: Purton Amateur  
Dramatics Society performers at this year's  
pantomime 'Jack & Jill'. Credit: PADS

**InTouch**  
Design & Print

**H&WPRINT**  
hulbert & woodall

# From the Editors

**March 2024**  
Volume 46 No.3  
1st Published 1975

It has been said recently that approximately half of the entire global population will have their chance at the ballot box this year because there are so many national elections scheduled around the world. The news about the untimely death of Alexei Navalny, the Russian opposition figurehead, might be contrasted with the recent information about the likely two elderly protagonists in the American Presidential election later this year. Together those situations might be compared with our own system and the two by-election results recently declared, although we leave readers to draw their own conclusions about each different system.

In this issue of your magazine you will find several events planned in our village that will help to welcome the emerging springtime in our country. The change of season is clearly evident with many bulbs in flower. As the longer evenings are increasingly lengthening it might be a good time to remind readers that clocks will spring forward on the last day of March.

The craft workshops in Pips community café are returning and the first this year is to make pizzas on Saturday 9th March from 10.00am. It is a 'book and pay' event with all the details on page

16 including the provision of boxes to take your pizzas home. The second is an Easter workshop on Saturday 23rd March that will include making Easter bonnets, followed by a bonnet parade with prizes for the best.

The appeal in last month's magazine for help with the proposed Repair Café in Purton has already received several positive responses. Now the article on page 22 is also seeking help from anyone who can spare perhaps a couple of hours a month to help get the Repair Café up and running.

Purton Surgery is restarting their series of regular health talks. The next will be a talk about Parkinson's Disease on Tuesday 26th March at 7.30pm. Although a free event, patients are asked on page 12 to obtain a ticket from reception so that numbers can be managed effectively in the small space.

It's quite probable that many readers will remember the 1980s even if many will not have been here long enough. On page 29 our Museum reopens on Saturday 6th April with a special exhibition demonstrating Purton in the 1980s – at the opening maybe we should wear any clothes we have from back then that we can still get into!

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**47**

New dwellings have outline approval on land at Restrop Road  
- see page 11

**73**

Breeding pairs of Stone Curlew were confirmed in Wiltshire in 2021  
- see page 32

**500+**

Men from Purton were involved in the First World War - see page 23

# Purton Parish Council News



## ***Donations to your community***

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

At a Finance and General Purposes Meeting on Monday 5th February 2024, Purton Parish Council made donations to local community groups totalling £6701.75, including a gift of £4400, to replace our ageing defibrillators.

Donations made this month supported: Citizens Advice; Purton Football Club; Purton Bowls Club; Purton and Cricklade Young Farmers; Purton Museum; Purton Community Access Defibrillator; and the Purton Community Fridge.

These donations will allow all the charities, clubs, and organisations to continue their existing work; fund new machinery for their grounds; offer crafting activities; and in the case of the museum, to protect and preserve clothing items.

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 June 2024. Applications are welcome until 10th 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](http://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](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 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.

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The closing date for entries is January 31st, 2025.

### ***Housing Needs Survey***

Purton Parish Council is asking its residents to complete and return a 10-minute Housing Needs Survey, to help to make sure that any future homes built in the village meets local needs.

The 10-minute survey will be delivered on paper to every home in the Parish by Monday 19th February and must be returned by Sunday 31st March, giving everyone six weeks to complete and return it.

Residents are actively encouraged to complete this survey online via Survey Monkey, which can be quickly accessed using a QR code or the web address provided in the letter delivered to their homes. Doing so will mean that they can skip questions which are not relevant to them, more easily and will also help to reduce costs of the survey to the Parish Council.

For those who do not find completing surveys accessible online, they are most welcome to complete and return paper surveys.

All data from the survey will be anonymous and will inform into the 'Purton Neighbourhood Plan Revision', a document which will become legally recognised and obligatory for Wiltshire Council to consult, when deciding on new planning applications.

Chairman of the Council, Neil Hooper said:

“Residents who take the time to complete this survey, will best help the Parish steer future development, towards the needs of our community, so I would actively encourage everyone to

make the time to complete and return their survey.”

Everyone in the village will have a number of opportunities to give their feedback on the Neighbourhood Plan Revision through public consultations held in the village this year.

Keep up to date on the Neighbourhood Plan Revision by following us on social media, in the Purton Magazine and on our website.

### ***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.

### ***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.

Please note that changes have been made to parking payments at Borough Fields Shopping Centre car park, in Royal Wootton Bassett. Payments via the smartphone app 'MiPermit' and via contactless card are accepted. Please note that contactless payments cannot be accepted where payment machines need repair.

### **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/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 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 Farm, 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 and watch out for more information and updates:

- Neighbourhood Plan Consultations: Wednesday 27th March 8.00am-11.00am and Friday 29th March 4.00pm-8.00pm
- Children's Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday 30th March, Noon at Purton Red House
- Annual Parish Meeting & Awards Evening – Monday 8th April at Purton Village Hall
- Family Fun Day and Mini Music Festival - Saturday 8th 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 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/2023/05611 - Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area Land Off Church Street, Purton. A tree survey has been carried out which highlights hazard works priority from 3 months to 12 months. Requesting permission to carry out works according to survey at. - Church Street. - Tennis courts and surrounding open space. - Cemetery Woodlands (W83 only). - Purton Church. - The Dingle. Decision: No Objection
- PL/2023/09564, Two Chimneys, Witts Lane, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4ER. Proposed two storey side and rear extension to facilitate a conversion of the bungalow to a chalet style dwelling. Decision: Approve with Conditions.

- PL/2023/02576, Land at Restrop Road, Purton, SN5 4BP. Reserved Matters application including discharge of Conditions 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 pursuant to Outline planning permission 21/01155/OUT for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for a development of 47 dwellings along with associated public open space and associated highways works. Decision: Approve with Conditions.

### ***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 X - @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

- Report issues such as pot holes, abandoned vehicles, fraud, weather emergencies, fly tipping, dog mess, graffiti via - [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting)

## Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG



### ***Patient Feedback A Message from Kai Howard – Practice Manager***

Thank you to all our patients who complete the patient satisfaction questionnaire that is sent as a text message after attending an appointment at the surgery. We receive around 500 responses each month.

The Practice Manager reads and reviews each response and shares the comments with all the team at the surgery. We regularly receive over 99% of patients saying that their overall experience of our service was 'good' or 'very good'.

Thank you for taking the time to complete these.

### ***Monies raised by the PPG in 2023***

In 2023 the PPG has received donations and purchased items for the Surgery as listed below:

#### ***Donations:***

Bequest	£1,125.00
Purton Community Café	£412.50
Purton Parish Council	£2,994.00
Miscellaneous Donations	£221.00
Total	4,752.50

#### ***Purchases:***

Examination Couch	£752.87
FeNO Monitor	£2,994.00
ECG Machine	£1,831.20
Total	£5,578.07

In addition, the following monies were raised:

200 Club	£1,320
Books and Table Top in Purton Surgery waiting room	£785
Raffles	£248.

### ***Talk on Parkinson's – 26 March 2024, 7.30-9.00pm***

We are 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 Disease when we have Rachel Gardner, Lead Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialist at GWH and Vincent Mobey from Cricklade Parkinson's Café. The talk will be in Purton Surgery where the capacity is limited, hence we ask patients to ask for a ticket (free) from reception. Tickets are now available from receptionists in both Purton and Green Gable surgeries.

#### ***Easter Raffle***

The receptionists are organising another Easter Raffle this year. Tickets at £1 each will be available from reception from 1 March.

#### ***200 Club***

New members are welcome!! The 200 Club year started on 1 October, however you may still join part way through

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the year, bearing in mind that you will have missed some of the draws for the year. The cost is just £15 a year and there are two prizes of £100 and £15 each month and 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.



### **Table Top in Purton Surgery**

The Table Top in Purton Surgery Waiting Room is quite a success with over £100 raised in January – very many thanks to those who contributed items and to those who bought. We are pleased to receive good quality donations (no shoes please). Items for the Table should be handed in

to Reception.

The February draw was done by Receptionist Dawn Watling, the winners were £100 Anita Blackett, £15 Christine Shailes. 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.pspgg@gmail.com to request it.

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. pspgg@gmail.com

*Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary*

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## **Purton & District Age Concern**

## **Purton and District AGE CONCERN**

### ***Date for the diary:***

22 March: 3Bs – Bangers, Beans & Bingo

### ***Burns Night***

I hope that everyone that came to our Burns Night celebrations enjoyed it as much as I did. The atmosphere was fantastic and that was down to everybody joining in with the theme of the evening and the dancing, which was often hilarious. It's important to listen to the caller but forgivable when it goes wrong, which it often does! Sarah, the caller, teaches the steps with humour and patience, only to throw her hands in

the air when it doesn't work. A lot of fun for all.

It's a lot of hard work, especially for those in the kitchen cooking the meal as we start the prep at 1pm and don't leave until 11.30pm, so I would like to thank all the people that helped prepare, plate and serve a wonderful three course meal with the traditional haggis, neeps and tatties following the cock-a-leekie soup and a delicious dessert as well. I had a lot of feedback from people saying how much they enjoyed it and wondering how we managed to do it. Also, we

must thank Rob Collis for the loan of his equipment, we are very grateful that he is always willing to help us out.

We had a raffle with lots of lovely prizes and hampers and thanks must go to everyone that bought tickets and again our helpers who were busy selling them. We also had our own 'Heads & Tails' game which is always popular. Thanks also to Sarah Hull and her band for providing lively music for the ceilidh, they do it with such energy and they are very good. We are already looking forward to next year's event!

### ***Events in 2024***

This is our 60th Anniversary year so we are arranging an event that will take place in September, it will be limited in numbers only so look out for information later in the year. Our first event after Burns Night will be our 3Bs evening, 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 to attend, with the bingo books 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.

### ***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 who can help and will help.

### ***Wheelchairs etc***

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

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

### ***Keep in touch***

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

If you would like to be added to our events mailing list, please drop us a note email: [secretary@purtonageconcern.com](mailto:secretary@purtonageconcern.com)

*Peter Berry, Chair*

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## **Pips Community Café**

### ***Welcome to the month of March already!***

We've already had a brilliant start to 2024 in Pips; it was great to welcome everyone back after the Christmas and New Year break.

Our Twixmas cafe opening days were very well attended in December and provided a lovely change of scenery and a chance to have a breather and a cuppa with friends and family after the busy Christmas craziness. It's something our volunteers would definitely consider doing again.

In January we held the Purton Historical Society's annual social and the WI Scottish themed New Year lunch in Pips. Both were hugely successful with lots of lovely food and drink and many happy memories made. SALOS (Swindon Amateur Light Operatic Society) were brilliant and Simon, our bagpipe player we had for the WI lunch was amazing!

February has seen the Silver Threads Hall have a brand new floor and strip lights in the hall which I hope you'll all agree look amazing!

The craft workshops are back again!



Our next craft workshop at Pips Cafe

will be on Saturday 9th March from 10am and we will be making pizzas! This is a book and pay in advance workshop and the cost for this will be £3 per person (£4 for gluten free) which will include the dough and all the toppings. Plus we'll even bake it for you to take home in a pizza box too! Please make your bookings at the till in Pips cafe. Both adults and children are welcome to attend; under 13's need to be accompanied by an adult.

We also have an Easter craft walk-in workshop on Saturday 23rd March at 10am. We will be making Easter bonnets/hats, followed by a bonnet parade and prizes for the best ones! This is a walk in workshop so no booking needed and will cost £1 each to cover the cost of your bonnet. If you'd like to bring your own hat to decorate then you can do the workshop for free! All decorations will be included. Again both adults and children are welcome to attend; under 13's need to be accompanied by an adult.

The 2024 craft workshops are voluntarily



12/24

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05/24

12/24

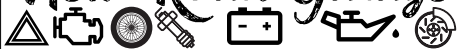
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02/25

run by Louise from the Pips/Purton Community Fridge and Larder and her team of volunteers from Pips Cafe. These workshops have been made possible by generous funds from Purton Parish Council, Purton Community Fridge & Larder and through the generosity of donations of supplies from fellow crafters.

This year's workshops will either be free or some will have a small charge but we will always give you plenty of notice of any charges beforehand.

The next Lou's Hot Lunch will be on Tuesday 26th March which is served from 12 midday. We'll be having roast

pork, roast potatoes, veg, cauli cheese, stuffing, Yorkshire pud and gravy, followed by honey sponge and custard for pudding! Everyone is welcome, as usual we will have at least 30 portions of lunch and pudding available, so plenty to go around. Main meals are still only £5 and puddings are £2 with a free drink of choice if both courses bought together. If anyone needs the mini bus please book by calling Hazel on 01793 770862.

Take care of yourselves, have a great month and we hope to see you soon.

*Pips volunteers*

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## Purton Litter Pick



The Purton Litter Picking Group received great news at the meeting of the Wiltshire Area Board in January, when they heard that their application for funding had been approved. The application for £500 was granted in full and will cover the purchase of safety signs, litter grabbers, safety gloves and bag hoops.

This means that instead of having to borrow equipment from various sources, the Purton Litter Picking group now has all of its own equipment.

The Area Board noted that the group appeals to people of all ages and abilities - and also provides a means

for people in the village who might be experiencing loneliness, to meet with others and enjoy some light exercise whilst litter picking - combined with a natter over coffee and cake afterwards.

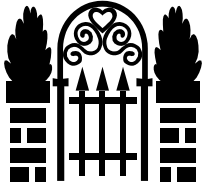
Next Purton Litter Pick - Saturday 6th April at 10.00am. Meet outside Silver Threads Hall, Hooks Hill, Purton, to collect equipment. Children under 16 must be accompanied. Please bring your own high vis vest and gloves if you have them, along with a black bin bag.

Please email: [purtonlitterpick@gmail.com](mailto:purtonlitterpick@gmail.com) if you would like further information.

*Anne  
Organiser, Purton Litter Picking Group*

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# Purton Community Fridge & Larder



We've had a great couple of months so far which has seen several bumper surplus donations from various places including The Modern Milkman. The surplus milks, milkshakes and fruit juices went down a treat, we hope everyone who had some enjoyed them. Thank you for returning your empty bottles. We have since had sourdough, cordial, crumpets, amazing chocolate brownies, eggs and yoghurts which has been such a treat. Huge thank you Dave and Elliot.

Another fabulous sharing donation for the community fridge and larder was from Jo at The Town Pantry in RWB with an amazing amount of various herbs, spices, teas, sea salt, quinoa and oatmeal to share! Thank you so much Jo, we wish you much luck in your future ventures. Big thank yous also go to our regular surplus donors including St Mary's School, Bradon Forest School, Purton House Organics and Charlotte Young and her lovely friend Phillipa. You're all amazing!

At the beginning of January we collaborated with Nick Coppin from Malmesbury Community Fridge to help them distribute large amounts of surplus they'd been given from Aldi around Christmas time! They shared over 100 bags of surplus potatoes with us that they had been given to them from Aldi in Malmesbury; so as a thank you we swapped several crates of chocolate milkshake we had.

More recently we have had over 60

bottles of Aldi tomato ketchup from Nick to share on our shelves. We love this kind of sharing within the community.

Lots of you will have been to our recent craft workshops we've held at Pips Cafe over Christmas and the new year. The attendance on these has been huge and you have to agree if you've been to one it's a fabulous morning! The volunteers in Pips Cafe have been truly fantastic and have worked tirelessly to feed and water us all on these extremely busy events; huge thank you's go to all of them!

These craft workshops are going to continue into 2024 on a Saturday morning at 10am with hopefully at least one per month. Our next workshops are Pizza Making (£3 each booking only at Pips till) on March 9th and Easter Bonnet making followed by a parade and prizes for the best ones (£1 each walk in) on March 23rd. We will try to keep these workshops as cheap as possible, even free if we can!

The workshops are kindly funded by Purton Parish Council, The Purton Community Fridge & Larder and by generous craft item donations from the general public.

We have applied for a grant from Wiltshire Area Board just recently, and if we are successful we're hoping to have our FREE community meals again this year! Dates and details hopefully to follow.

Also we have an old newspaper recycling point at the community fridge

now. There are so many uses for newspapers that it seems a shame to clog our recycling bins with them when we can put them to good use locally. If you have any please can you leave them on the floor under our larder shelf in the hallway at the Silver Threads Hall, thank you.

Lastly, does anyone have a working laptop and possibly a printer they no longer use and would like to rehome please? I do most of my admin for the community fridge on my phone and it would really help if I had the correct tools for the job! I know it's a big ask but like they say if you don't ask you don't get. If you can help please email Louise at [purtoncommunityfridge@gmail.com](mailto:purtoncommunityfridge@gmail.com) thank you in advance.

Best wishes

*Louise*

*Purton Community Fridge & Larder Coordinator*

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## Do we want a Repair Café in Purton?

In last month's magazine we appealed for fixers...people who enjoy tinkering and mending, sewing and fixing damaged goods.

I am delighted that there are some Purtonians coming forward to help!

Already we have offers for sewing and patching, mending and hemming. We also have a general handyman who is very experienced at mending various items belonging to his children and grandchildren. These are such valuable skills. Can anyone else offer a bit of time to come and help... maybe a couple of hours once a month? Then we can get the Repair Café up and running and can save precious items from being thrown away into landfill.

Please contact Libbie if you would like to get involved.

[libbie@sheppard.org](mailto:libbie@sheppard.org) 771018

### 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.

# Ten Years Ago...

There was big news in Purton Magazine for March 2014. The road at Church End no longer flooded.\* After much procrastination, Wiltshire Council had agreed to dig out a drain. Lo and behold, they found a dustbin inside.

Much of the magazine involved the run-up to the Centenary of the start of the First World War. The monthly "Project" told how the Balkans were being devastated as at least five nations warred, not in alliances but in shifting patterns. Changing sides was the order of the day but the conflicts were as indiscriminate and vicious as they are today. Elsewhere, there was an article showing how over 500 men from Purton were involved in the war in various ways.

It also covered horses arriving by train with labels identifying experienced temperament that were taken to the Manor Hill Remount Depot to be broken in for war work. The purpose of the depot was to 'break in' difficult horses

and mules so that they could work in some appropriate arenas of the war.

Around the village, and indeed in the surrounding area, many preparations were being made for exhibitions covering both Swindon and Wiltshire.

There was also an article highlighting an opportunity for people to abseil inside Cricklade church – although if that's a bit too much, there will also be a Teddy Bear Parachute event – all in aid of Christian Aid.

Brownies continued to live in their own world where running a game of bingo is work and they made a kangaroo. They didn't say where he hopped off to.

*\*Sadly there has been further flooding recently.*



# Twenty Years Ago...

In the March 2004 issue, an article from Ps & Qs looked closely at the term "sustainable" especially as used in planning documents and applications, usually as a prefix for some things that were not sustainable. These days we have learnt to be suspicious of

terms such as sustainable transport, sustainable housing and sustainable waste management among other sustainable principles.

In 2004 five sites in the village and a further two still in the Parish had been put forward for development. However,

none were recommended by the Development Control Committee of the North Wiltshire District Council because enough brownfield sites were available to meet the required housing allocation determined by the central government. Of those seven sites, planning has now been approved for 700 houses at Ridgeway Farm and 200 have been built at Moredon Bridge with another 50 on appeal. Within the village Widham Farm has been appealed twice – and lost twice – while other applications have been submitted or are expected.

The March 2004 magazine also included an introductory article about the new Purton Priest in Charge Jane Haslam, her husband Mike and their then 3 children, who were planning to move into the village towards the end of that April. Since becoming the full time vicar at North Petherton in Somerset after her time in Purton, Jane was appointed last year as Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester, Oxford

On the sporting front, four junior members of Purton Cricket Club had been invited to attend coaching courses for selection to the North Wiltshire teams.

Since then, one of those juniors, Craig Miles, has gone on to play professionally and is contracted with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club. In 2004 the “recent rain” had increased the width of the River Key flowing under the aqueduct from 2 feet to more than 30 feet wide – sadly something else that appears not to have changed much recently especially when reading the 10 years ago article as well.



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## Homes for Ukraine - new accommodation sought

Purton has become a temporary home for a number of Ukrainian families who have fled from their home country following the Russian invasion. These families have become part of our community; attending schools and churches, volunteering and working in the local area.

A mother and her 12 year old son,

currently residing in the village, are now seeking new hosts while the war in Ukraine continues. If you have spare rooms; perhaps an annexe, guest accommodation, a small property to rent or a house sitting opportunity please get in touch. They are able to pay £600 pcm. Contact Olha Rozmaita Tel: 07767 829672 or email [olha.rozmaita@icloud.com](mailto:olha.rozmaita@icloud.com)



# Purton Post Bag



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



## Thank you from PADS!

We would just like to say on behalf of everyone in Purton Amateur Dramatic Society a huge

thank you to everyone who came to support the annual pantomime this year 'Jack & Jill', pictured on the cover of this magazine and below. Everyone involved had a fabulous time and thoroughly enjoyed performing for you.

We are always grateful for the lovely comments and feedback.

This year 10% of the pantomime's net profit will be donated to Purton and District Age Concern in memory of



Duncan Joslyn (Jos) who we dedicated this year's panto to.

As a committee we are already working hard to plan what's to come in 2024/25. Watch this space!



## Parish Council Donation

On behalf of Purton Museum I wish to thank the Parish Council for their generous monetary donation. The donation given enables us to purchase specialist textile preservation equipment and cover stationery costs. The museum is run by a small group of enthusiastic Purton Historical Society volunteers. It generates only a small income from our visitors so the opportunity to apply for a donation is appreciated.

Lucy Lewis



# Life, Work, and Faith Presentations for Lent

Back again after a four year break are these stimulating local presentations by National Figures. Danny Kruger of Channel Four's Danny and Prue's famous 'Death Road Trip across America, each arguing a case over the knotty assisted dying debate, will have passed by the time of this publication.

But others are well- worth catching by anyone interested in informed debate on moral issues and how Faith might interact with contemporary culture and increasingly demanding modern life.

## ***From the world of Science and Invention – Saturday 2nd March***

Professor Andrew Briggs - Oxford professor at forefront of developing micro small materials for medicine, electronics and environmental protection.

## ***From entertainment, arts, and media – Saturday 9th March***

JB Gill - TV Presenter, member of the band JLS with collectively five number one hits and formerly X Factor Finalists.

## ***From world development - Thursday 14th March***

Bishop Neil Warwick – Former Development worker working with communities living in poverty. instigator of various innovative campaigns especially against HIV. Newly appointed Bishop of Swindon.

And if you get an early copy of this edition:

## ***From the world of sport***

Tony Jarrot - Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist - Saturday 24th February.

Entry is Free Reserved Tickets are available from [grahamdligh77@gmail.com](mailto:grahamdligh77@gmail.com) 759181 or [David Martin davgramart@gmail.com](mailto:David Martin davgramart@gmail.com) 770171.

All events start at 7.00pm and are held in St Sampson's Church, 12 Bath Road, Cricklade SN6 6AX.

*David Martin*

---

## *Prayer for Purton*

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in:  
*Restrop View, Restrop Road, Battlewell, Bagbury Lane, (and from Ridgeway Farm) Quarry Field, Lower Mill, and Mill View*

# Purton Annual Flower, Arts, Craft & Produce Show

The annual show will take place on Saturday 17th August 2024 in Purton Village Hall. The committee is busy planning the event and hope that we can build on the success of last year's show.

It was encouraging to see people attending who had not been to the show before and it would be lovely to receive entries this year from new exhibitors. This is a community event and we hope that the show schedule will include something for everyone. You don't need to be an "expert" to enter!

We realise that people are taking photographs all year round; with this in mind we are now publicising the photography classes which are as follows:

- The Beauty Of Plants
- Patterns In The Garden
- Sunrise/Sunset
- On The Farm
- Tickled Pink

It may be of interest to keen bakers and makers of preserves, that we are expanding Section 5 of the class schedule. Previously known as "Industrial" this will now be "Home Produce - Baking" and Home Produce - Preserves". The classes for preserves will be jam, chutney, lemon curd, marmalade and any vinegar based preserve.

The committee are very grateful for the support of The Community Fridge and Larder project for sponsoring the "preserves" section.

Offers of help with the show will be welcome - we are a small, friendly team whose aim is to keep the show viable, fun and accessible whilst raising funds for The Royal British Legion.

*For further information please contact Pat Hughes. Tel no: 01793 772382 or email [patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com](mailto:patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com)*

---

## We Record...

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

21 January 2024 Sienna Blackmore

Grace Blackmore

Isabella Blackmore

Mason Blackmore



# Purton Open Gardens

This year Purton Open Gardens will run on the weekend of 6th/7th July. POG is a great way to share what Purton gardeners are working on, from those with established plots to gardeners just starting out. It is an informal weekend, and not a competition (even Monty has problems and weeds!)

Programme sales money goes to local charities. Some gardeners also sell refreshments or have stalls to raise

money for their own favourite charities. There is always a wonderful variety of plots, including back gardens, gardens to be viewed from the pavement, window boxes or allotments.

Do let us know if you might consider joining in, and/or be able to support organising this Purton event.

*Bridget Howse 07970 644995  
Diana Meares 770046*

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## Sale of Puzzles and Paintings

### ***Saturday 13 April at Pips***

There will be yet another sale of jigsaw puzzles on Saturday March 13, from 10.30 at Pips.

Please do come and buy them: and please do give us any puzzles (that are complete) that you no longer want or need. They are sold from £1 each ...and a bit more if they are unopened ...and are very popular.

Puzzles can be brought to Pips café on Thursday afternoons, or delivered to 20 Hoggs Lane.

At the same time as selling the puzzles we have been given some paintings that no longer have a home. A Purtonian has moved to a smaller house and does not have room for all the paintings. So they have been given to us for our Christian Aid fundraising.

Please come and have a look at them on April 13, whilst you have a coffee and cake at Pips Café.

*Contact Libbie: 771018 : Mary H 770505 if you need more details.*

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## *Purton Profferings*

- Hotpoint Aquarius DWF 33 600mm wide dishwasher available free for collection owing to kitchen reorganisation. Phone 01793 771018

# Christian Aid Conference in Purton

## **Saturday 2 March**

On Saturday March 2 there is to be a conference organised by Christian Aid called 'Changemakers' .

It will be in London but we have an opportunity to watch it all, as it will be live-streamed to Purton Methodist Church from 10.30am - 1pm

This is an opportunity for anyone and everyone interested in Christian Aid to come and watch and learn about

Christian Aid activities in 2024.

There will be coffee and cake available from 10.15 onwards, throughout the Conference;

and soup will be provided from 1pm, for those who want to stay and chat and discuss what they have learnt.

Please let Libbie or Mary Hodges know if you would like to attend...or please just turn up!

*Libbie: 771018, Mary H: 770505*

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## Purton Historical Society



All meetings are held at the Methodist Church, Play Close, Purton (but don't let that put you off, all religions, or none, are welcome).

### **Thursday 21st March, 7.30pm - Society AGM followed by How WWII came to North Wiltshire**

The AGM will be followed by a presentation by Keith Allsop on the WWII defensive line that ran between Royal Wootton Bassett and Purton and explains why there are pillboxes in Lydiard Millicent. This replaces the original talk which had to be withdrawn because of the illness of the presenter.

### **Museum re-opens Saturday 6th April (open 10.00am - 12.30pm every Saturday until the end of October)**

This year's exhibition will be Purton in the 1980s. Yes, the 1980s are already

history! The museum is above the library and accessed by the same entrance.

The catalogue of everything held in the museum is now available on the website: [www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com/museum-catalogue](http://www.purtonmuseumandhistoricalsociety.com/museum-catalogue)

### **Thursday 25th April 2024, 7.30pm The Ship Wilhelm Gustloff: Eve Booy**

The sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff was the biggest disaster in maritime history, yet few people have heard of her. She was a German ship sunk by a Russian submarine. The reasons why she is so little known will be the subject of this talk.

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

# Purton Village Diary - March 2024

1	F		St David's Day
2	Sa	10.30am	Christian Aid 'Changemakers' conference broadcast live at Purton Methodist Church
		7.00pm	Professor Andrew Briggs give his lent lecture at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade
3	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
4	M	7.00pm	Full Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
		7.30pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Gardening Club meet at RWB Memorial Hall for their AGM and a talk from Chris Rummung.
6	W	12noon	Lent Lunch served at Purton Methodist Church
9	Sa	10.00am	Pizza making workshop at Pips Community Cafe
		7.00pm	JB Gill gives his lent lecture at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade
10	Su	10.30am	United Mothering Sunday service at St Mary's Church
11	M	10.00am	Purton WI meet at Silver Threads Hall for a talk about Richard Jefferies
14	Th	7.00pm	Bishop Neil Warwick gives his lent lecture at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade
15	F		Red Nose Day
17	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 St Patrick's Day
18	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship meet at Purton Methodist Church for an Easter devotional afternoon with Revd Shirlyn Toppin
20	W		Spring Equinox
21	Th	7.30pm	Purton Historical Society AGM followed by a talk on WWII in North Wiltshire at Purton Methodist Church
22	F	7.00pm	Age Concern 3Bs event
23	Sa	10.00am	Easter crafts at Pips Community Cafe
24	Su	10.30am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning worship at Purton Methodist Church
		4.00pm	Messy Church at St Mary's
26	Tu	12 noon	Lou's hot lunch served at Pips Community Cafe
		7.30pm	Parkinson's Disease talk at Purton Surgery
27	W	8.00am	<i>until 11.00am</i> Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan consultation
29	F		Good Friday
		4.00pm	<i>until 8.00pm</i> Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan consultation
30	Sa	12 noon	Children's Easter Egg Hunt at the Red House

31 Su		British Summertime begins, clocks go forwards
	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Easter Sunday morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
	10.30am	Easter Celebration with family Communion at St Mary's Church Parish Council Housing Needs Surveys to be completed and returned

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### **Every week**

M	6.30pm	to 7.30pm Purton Village Voices choir practice at Purton Methodist Church (term time)
	6.00pm	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
	6.00pm	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)

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### **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.

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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)



## March Nature Correspondent

### *Wiltshire Waders*

On a recent visit to the Slimbridge Wetland Reserve in Gloucestershire I listed an impressive range of wader species: Golden Plovers and Lapwings by the 1,000s, a flock of Black-tailed Godwits, Redshanks, Curlews, Avocets, Ruff, Dunlin, Snipe and Oystercatcher.

Back in Wiltshire we cannot compete with that variety and number of birds, but with the advent of Spring in mid-march we do have one or two special wader species returning to their favoured haunts, year after year.

The **Stone Curlew** is perhaps the most iconic of our downland species, arriving from Southern Europe and Northern Africa to nest on barren, flint-strewn fields along the Pewsey and Marlborough Downs and on Salisbury Plain. Seventy-three pairs were confirmed breeding in Wiltshire in 2021, making it scarce, but now increasing after a former decline. It is not a bird of marsh or wetland, the bill is short and stubby, so how can it be classified as a form of Curlew? The answer lies in its eerie calls of “Coor-lee, Coor-lee,” often heard at dusk and at night when it is most active. With its cryptic, oatmeal-brown plumage and secretive manner it is difficult to pick out against a background of broken earth, flints and low vegetation.

Its companion in this habitat is the **Lapwing** or **Peewit**, but this is now a decreasing breeder. This is especially sad, for the display flight of the male is an entertaining sight on cold bright mornings in early spring. The bird rises slowly from the ground then quickens, rising at an abrupt angle before suddenly plunging downwards, turning



and twisting with wings thrown about as if out of control. As well as the characteristic “peer-weet” call, another sound is created by its beating wings-a strange, vibrant throbbing noise.

A few Oystercatchers and Redshanks breed in the Cotswold Water Park and they’re joined by another special bird, the **Little Ringed Plover**, a diminutive summer visitor that favours a drained or working gravel pit as a nest site. Like the Lapwing, its courtship routine is eccentric - a butterfly-like display flight involving endless circling on slow wing-beats, followed by steep ascents or plunging dives. Injury-feigning is another of its tricks, dragging a faked broken wing to draw a potential predator away from the nest-site.

They are all a bit bonkers these Wiltshire waders: the **Snipe** with its bleating flight, caused by the vibration of its outer tail feathers and the “roding” **Woodcock** marking out its territory at dusk, calling with comical grunts and squeaks!

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

**Pictured on opposite page, far left: Stone Curlew,  
Left: Courting Lapwings, both credit: David White**

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## Purton Football Club

Well our good progress from all teams continues and first of all let me begin with the Ladies.

Yesterday, Sunday February 11th they continued their good form by reaching the final of the Wiltshire County Cup by beating Bemerton Heath at Devizes 3-0 to play against Swindon Town Ladies in the final at the County Ground on April 14th. What a fantastic achievement and of course if you get along on the day I am sure they will appreciate your support.

Our other teams continue to make good progress. Although both the first team and development sides suffered a

defeat in January they still remain within the top 3 of their respective leagues ready to pounce if any slip up by the top 2 as they have games in hand so still all to play for. The Sunday side and the Girls under 14s still remain in top spot in their league and seem pretty confident with the run-in they have that they will stay in pole position until the end of the season so further good news in the progression of the club.

On the social side of the club I mentioned in last month’s magazine that we were close to finalising our next



Sporting dinner and I have managed to secure one of the best speakers around in Matt Le Tissier the ex Southampton and England player ably supported by comedian Gary Marshall.

The date for this event again held at the Purton Club is Monday April 22nd so please make note of the date in your diary as your support for your LOCAL

teams are much appreciated and they are keeping their part of the deal on the pitch so please try to attend because this is also a financial benefit to Purton Football Club.

*Terry Crumbie, Chairman and Treasurer  
of Purton FC*

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## Purton Tennis Club



Welcome to Spring! It is so nice to be able to play tennis outside in good weather. The nights are getting lighter and the days are getting warmer. If you enjoy tennis or used to play, then why not think about joining Purton Tennis Club? We are an inclusive club where everyone is welcome. Members have unlimited access to the courts for social play, and for the more competitive players, we enter teams in the local league.

Our courts are based in the Red House area of Purton. Please take a look 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.

At the time of writing, the winter league is drawing to a close, with just a couple of matches still to be played. Unfortunately, due to illness and injury we have had to concede some matches, meaning that the B & C teams are at the wrong end of the division. Our A team has fared much better, currently standing 3rd in division 3. Our A team consists of some very strong players,

which goes to show just how good the standard of tennis is in the local league. Well done to everyone who took part in the mixed doubles winter league this year.

If you are interested in improving your tennis or perhaps picking up a racquet for the first time, we have two excellent coaches who work at Purton: Sid Falconer and Dave Morris and can offer group or individual tuition for adults or juniors, from total beginners to elite players. Sid is currently coaching Sophie who is ranked 5th in the country, representing Wiltshire in the under 11s. She is a dedicated young player who we hope will go on to great things in the future.

You can contact Dave or Sid by email, they will be pleased to hear from you. Email: [davidmorris11@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davidmorris11@hotmail.co.uk) or [sjfalconer12975@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sjfalconer12975@hotmail.co.uk)

In the meantime, thanks go as always to our maintenance crew, who will be working hard, getting our courts ready for another summer season of tennis.

*Janet Saunders (secretary)  
on behalf of the Committee PTC  
Email: [janetcsaunders@gmail.com](mailto:janetcsaunders@gmail.com)*

# News & wattles from the Turkey Shed

As you'll know from reading my ramblings, I'm passionate about food traceability. We should all strive to know where and how our food is produced and that's why many of our customers buy our meat. They know that the person selling it is the person who has overseen nearly the entire process. One of the key points in this chain of stages from field to frying pan is the abattoir. It's not the part any of us want to dwell on while we're enjoying a steak but it's very important – so please stick with me.

We're fairly lucky, the cattle and sheep we produce are killed at a very small, family run abattoir near Stroud. These small abattoirs are vital in the supply chain for people like us, who grow and sell their own meat - we know all the staff, we've been around the entire facility, we've seen how the animals are respectfully treated and we've seen the entire process – to us this is very, VERY important.

The supermarkets use large abattoirs that would not be interested in killing one or two cattle a month for a small customer, they would want a whole lorry load at a time. The trouble is, the small abattoirs are being lost. In the 50s and 60s you would have found an abattoir in most villages (many were at the back of the butcher's shop) and certainly in every town, but by 2007 there were just 96 and by 2023 that was down to 49. At the current rate of decline they'll all be gone by 2030.

The down side of this is multiple. Transport times and costs go up, animal welfare decreases and the supermarkets and big corporations take a tighter grip on our food system. I think the main reason for the decrease is due to the change in how we buy our meat, 80% of which is purchased from the supermarket rather than the local butcher. This has a knock on effect on where those cattle are slaughtered, the supermarkets will each use just a couple of massive abattoirs and the economies of scale kick in.

The abattoir we use is safe for the time being, but we could be about to lose another local(ish) one. Long Compton, a village near Chipping Norton has an abattoir which is about to be sold for building. It serves a large area and our good friends at Paddock Farm Butchery



**Top: Hazel flowers, a seasonal highlight**

**Above: Scarlet Elf Cup in our woods**



use it weekly for their pigs and cattle. If it's lost, the next nearest abattoir with capacity is an hour and 40 minutes away. As it's very close to them, and a critical part of their very successful business, they are poised to launch a campaign to sell shares and raise £3 million to buy the site so it can carry on trading and servicing its 900 customers. This is all still in the early stages but it will be very interesting to see if the business can be saved. We deliver about two of our cattle a month to this abattoir, for supply to Paddock Farm, so we'll do what we can to support the project.



The farm maternity ward is busy at the moment with lambing

### ***Farm Wildlife***

It's been a great month for birds, with five species cropping up that I only occasionally see. We had a Nuthatch on the farmhouse bird feeder, Mum has been seeing it regularly, although I've not seen it yet. Nuthatch are common in Lydiard Park but we've not recorded one here since 2020.

While returning across the fields, I spotted a Peregrine Falcon toying with a Cormorant which was just trying to get to Lydiard Park for a spot of fishing. The falcon was very half heartedly chasing with no real intent, but the Cormorant looked a little unnerved by the experience! I only see Peregrines occasionally, perhaps twice a year, always fantastic to see, and one of the birds that 30 years ago you'd never think would live locally.

One bird that you might think I would see frequently, but you'd be wrong, are Swans. Again, only seen once or twice a year here. They are right up there with my very favourite birds, not because of the way they look but the way they sound. If you've ever been lucky enough to have a Swan or pair of Swans fly low over your head, you'll know exactly what I mean! The sound of the air rushing around their wings I think is the (or one of the) best sounds in nature.

Finally, two types of waders have put in an appearance. During the



very hard frosts in the middle of January we had several flocks of lapwing over, some were very low so it was a great view. They're very easy to recognise in flight as they look rectangular and they appear to flash black and white as they beat their wings. The other waders were some very high, probable Golden Plover. This was right on the limit of my bird identification skills but given the shape of the flock and the shape of the birds and the fact that they probably wouldn't be anything else, I'm guessing Golden Plover.



**Hedge laying**

Hedge laying has started – just. The section allocated for hedge laying this year is a hedge where neither the hedge nor fence is stock proof. In fact the cattle pushed through it last year.

The first job is to pull down the decrepit fence before thinning and laying. Laying a hedge involves cutting the stems nearly all the way through and then folding it over. It causes the hedge to thicken out and makes a much better habitat for nesting birds. It's the single biggest thing many farmers could do to increase biodiversity. This year I'm going for speed over looks which means laying more stems and thinning less. This will be better for the wildlife in the short term but may make it harder for the next person to lay in 20 years time. I've not had much time to do the hedging yet but hopefully I'll get plenty done in February.

The next pop up shop is the 2nd March, 10.00am-12noon.

*Chris Rumming*

# Church Floodlighting



Feb 17 The Church was floodlit for **Peter Osborne, Sheila Osborne and Lil Vincent** who all died on the same date, but in different years. Missed by all their family and friends.

Feb 19 St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of my husband **Robert Totterdell** who passed away Feb 19 2009. Loved and always in our hearts. Wife Jean, sons Robert and Simon and daughter Rebecca.

Feb 22 St Mary's Church was floodlit on the anniversary of the passing of **Ray Suddaby**. Loved as always by his wife Pat.

*Request 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.*

## Swindon Croquet Club

### **Great News!**

Swindon Croquet Club has secured an extension to its Swindon Borough Council lease which means that the Club's ambitious expansion project can go ahead. As part of the £6.3m Moredon Sporting Hub development, the Club has been allocated an area of land to enable expansion from the existing 3 full lawns to five full lawns so it's now all systems go!

There is much to be done, including erection of perimeter fencing, procurement of additional balls and hoops, levelling of ground and preparation of smooth lawn surfaces along with installation of a storage unit and a players' shelter.

Having 5 lawns will provide significant benefits such as all year round play and

the ability to host major national croquet tournaments.

Club Chair Clive Smith said "there is a lot of work ahead but this is certainly an exciting time for the Club as we will be able to welcome community groups and, of course, we are keen to attract new members. Croquet provides gentle exercise, mental stimulation and it's a competitive game but the emphasis at our Club is always on enjoyment in a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. The Sporting Hub development at Moredon will attract far more interest from the Swindon community – it's all positive and very exciting!"

Interested? Visit our website ([swindoncroquetclub.org.uk](http://swindoncroquetclub.org.uk)), find us on Facebook or email [swindon.croquet@outlook.com](mailto:swindon.croquet@outlook.com) for further information.

*Beverly Briggs*



## ***Global Warming: fact or scaremongering by Ken Ingamells***

Ken Ingamells began his talk about Global Warming by describing it as a 'hot' subject, which is a regular focus of attention – excusing the pun as he spoke! He then briefly referred to the title of his talk by suggesting how difficult it is to differentiate the facts from fiction regarding the topic. He went on to explain that he intended to present the basic scientific facts and let us (the audience) make up our own minds.

By way of introduction to the fact or fiction element of the talk, Ken described how he had spent time on board a destroyer in the Arctic in the 1980s. Previously, in the early 1950s, Princess Elizabeth had spent time, before ascending to the throne, on the very same destroyer. During her stay the princess was given the captain's cabin to sleep in. After the Princesses' visit, the captain discovered in the shower a piece of mahogany wood which he later had made into a coffee table. As Ken Ingamells explained, during his time on the destroyer, the captain had quipped as he was entertaining the presenter in his cabin, 'the future queen of England stood naked on this coffee table'. The point of this anecdote is to express the idea of whether the coffee table story was actually fact or fiction? The same he suggested stresses the controversy surrounding concerns about global warming.

## ***The facts***

We get a share of energy from the sun's radiation. Short wave radiation hits earth's atmosphere. When the sun's radiation hits Earth it strikes the surface and is reflected back into Space. What is reflected is still shortwave radiation keeping the temperature reasonably equitable. The impact of this radiation works in a similar way to a greenhouse. There are six gases relevant to Global Warming:

1. Water vapour accounts for 97% of radiation. The amount of water vapour is gradually increasing slightly but is considered not a major problem.
2. Ozone is a very feeble gas but very important to Earth as it absorbs ultraviolet rays. Ozone in limited amounts is necessary but it is relatively unstable.
3. Carbon dioxide is not a particularly vigorous greenhouse gas. It is significant because it is mainly produced by industrial action and has obviously increased dramatically since the dawning of the industrial age.
4. Carbon CFCs have only really been in our atmosphere over the past 60 or 70 years and are typically used in refrigerants and aerosol propellants which attack the ozone layer. Holes in the ozone layer are a disaster but have been gradually decreasing since their discovery.



**Open 10am-4.30pm Tue-Fri**  
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**10am-1.30pm Sat (last orders 1pm)**

**For the latest information visit:**  
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5. Methane is a more vigorous gas and is 5 or 6 times more vigorous than the others. Made naturally through decaying vegetation. It is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas and oil. It also is the result from livestock and other agricultural practices, and by the decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills. Waste action usually deals with some of this. Although absorbed by the tundra that is permanently frozen, methane must be controlled.
6. Nitrous oxide is emitted during agricultural, land use, and industrial activities. It is also caused by the use of fertilisers and agricultural practice.

Over the past 250 years, these various gases in the Earth's atmosphere have increased by 50% especially during the past 50 years. Carbon Dioxide and Methane are the two increasing the most.

### ***More facts***

The movement of tectonic plates is a further issue. They move, at a mere 2 centimetres per annum, but cause serious problems as shown by the current earthquakes being experienced in Iceland. The Earth's orbit around the sun is an ellipse not a circle so the reflection is not always the same due to the Earth's tilt, which has a 43,000-year cycle. The Earth's actual cycle is over a period of 100,000 years. We have passed the warmest period of the cycle. Thus the Earth should be getting colder but is, in fact, getting warmer. Thus due to this fact there is strong evidence to suggest that climate change is an issue. The main effects mean that the global

temperature could rise 0.3 degrees per decade leading to more hot and less cold days.

Tropical storms may be evidence of global warming. They need a heat in the oceans of 28 degrees, but when they lose the heat in the oceans they die very quickly. If seas grow warmer, initially we will get more tropical storms but this may not be a permanent issue in terms of the inland damage they cause.

Glaciation also needs to be considered. Albedo, the scientific term for reflection, increases during glaciation. 10,000 years ago the last glacial age ended. A foram is a minute organism that dies depending on the temperature of the ocean. Observing these organisms can provide essential scientific information about glaciation. Looking at glaciers provides scientific knowledge about how warm or cold a year will be determined by the thickness of glaciers. The fact is that 7,000 years ago the temperature was 2 degrees warmer than it is now. This has been deduced by the study of forams. Glaciers are important because they are attached to land. They do slowly hold back the amount of ice behind them. The Larsen B ice shelf is now slowly breaking up. A huge iceberg, 56 miles long, broke off in 2023. Most icebergs are approximately 1,000 yards thick and, as they melt, sea levels rise. If all of Greenland's ice was to melt it would raise the sea about a foot. This is significant depending on the rise of the land; for example, Gloucester docks would be under water as would Bristol docks. In fact, 34% of the British Isles would be underwater if the Greenland ice completely disappeared. Some glaciers can actually be seen moving if

observed closely by the eye. 34 of South Georgia's glaciers are no longer near the sea out of 37. Glaciers are receding at approximately 5 kms in a decade.

Tree rings give us more ideas about the temperature cycle. Tree fossils can be used to observe the tree rings. As a result of all this means we are reasonably sure about climate change.

### ***Changes needed to maintain stability***

Carbon Dioxide must not get worse. If this goes up by say 2% plus methane, the outcome could be disastrous. Carbon Dioxide must be reduced by 60% and methane by 20%. The North Sea can have a significant impact on this as it contains elements that are able to combat the impact of Carbon Dioxide and Methane. However, the Gulf Stream has in turn an impact on the North Sea taking some of these elements from the sea, and 'washing' them up to the Arctic Ocean and then back into the other oceans.

Mistakes have been made by scientists and governments. For example, during the 1970s the UK government decreed that petrol was worse than diesel and drivers were encouraged to use diesel vehicles, but this has been subsequently discredited because it emits nitrogen dioxide.

### ***Further Solutions***

Are solar panels the answer? The lifespan of a solar panel is supposed to be 25 years but because of the lack of daylight only usually lasts 15 years. Also at night the energy must be stored by using large wasteful batteries and the materials for creating these are running out.

Wind turbines are useful but only work with the appropriate amount of wind. They are providing quite a lot of power, but do not work if there is no wind and have to be closed down during gales.

Nuclear power has been prone to terrible accidents although only 3 of such major accidents have actually occurred; there was one on Long Island in the USA, and one in Japan. By far the worst was Chernobyl (Ukraine), which was declared a wasteland but the wildlife is now gradually reviving. Thus recovery from nuclear power accidents is possible. However, nuclear power does create a lot of nuclear waste and the problem is what to do with it.

Nuclear fusion is a possible answer as it creates water but, for example, the UK is still 35 years away from creating nuclear fusion although progress is occurring in the Alps.

The use of hydrogen driven vehicles is an important solution according to the speaker. Thanks to Honda, it is possible to fill up a hydrogen vehicle in Swindon but nationally the required infrastructure is virtually non-existent.

Finally, are concerns about global warming fact or simply scaremongering? Certainly the amount of pollution in the atmosphere being created is causing what is called a 'dimming' effect and so that global warming is a serious concern but 350 years ago (pre-industry) the earth was when the first tentative temperature readings began to be made. The millions of such readings taken today cannot be compared with those so long ago. We can only look at trends and these certainly suggest that global warming is occurring.

*by John Slaght on behalf of Purton Probus*

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***The spirit of Brunel – how engineers transformed the world 19th century – Age of Iron By Bjorn Watson***

The presenter, Bjorn Watson is a retired engineer. He worked on several important engineering projects in the UK during his career and also had experience of working overseas. He strongly believes that the incredible contribution that engineers have made to society should be much more widely acknowledged. He began his talk by explaining the title of his presentation indicating that Isambard Kingdom Brunel epitomises the spirit of late pre-industrial and the industrial revolution of Victorian England. As Bjorn explained it was just prior to the nineteenth century that ‘rationalism took over from superstition’.

From this point in the talk, the presenter provided a broad sweep of engineering feats throughout history beginning with Vitruvian man, which was actually a ‘painting’ produced by Leonardo da Vinci. In fact, the Emperor Vitruvius lived in the first century BC and is mainly credited with writing the first known text book on architecture resulting in the construction of numerous massive structures. During the much later Renaissance period, the fourteenth building of Milan cathedral exemplifies the penchant for constructions of such massive size. Bjorn at this point added the Latin phrase ‘Scientia est unum, ars est aliud’ that basically means that such buildings were far from, what he called, ‘based on applied science as there was a lack of any idea of compression in constructing very tall buildings up to this point’.

In the speaker’s view, in fact, it was

Abraham Darby who started the industrial revolution with his design of the Iron Bridge at Coalbrookdale, which was the first ever based on compression in order for it to remain standing. Darby was followed by Thomas Telford. He was what the presenter described as a ‘dynamo of a man’. Telford was born in 1757; the son of a shepherd but who was brought up by his widowed mother. He is said to have changed the face of Britain and is referred to as the ‘father of modern engineering’. In the UK, Telford’s most famous canal works include the 60-mile long Caledonian Canal and Ellesmere Canal. In the Highlands of Scotland, Telford was responsible for some 1200 miles of new or improved roads. During his prodigious life, apart from roads, Telford is credited with the building of over a 1,000 bridges, 40 harbours and piers, and numerous canals. The fact that Telford had little formal training in engineering makes his achievements even more striking. Arguably, the Menai suspension bridge joining Anglesey to mainland Wales was his greatest achievement. It was started in 1819 and completed in 1826, it was made of riveted wrought iron plates.

Robert Stephenson was an English engineer and designer of locomotives. The only son of George Stephenson, the “Father of Railways”, he developed on the achievements of his father. Robert has been called the greatest engineer of the 19th century, or as the presenter called him the “colossus of the railways”. He worked with his father on the Stockton railway and, at the age of 20, was already in charge of the railway works. He is most famous for inventing the Rocket, also known as Stephenson’s

Rocket. It was built in 1829 and won the prestigious Rainhill trials. This improved steam locomotive was designed using a multi-tube boiler and a separate firebox. The Rocket's locomotive number was 1829 and the famous train reached speeds of up to 47 mph.

With his growing reputation for railway engineering, Stephenson was able to travel overseas on various consultancies. His most notable structures were tubular bridges: the Victoria Bridge over the St Lawrence River, and the bridges over the Nile; astonishing at the time. Born in the age of horse drawn transport, all had changed by his death in 1859.

One of Stephenson's friends was Brunel. Although the pair were competitors, they often helped each other with projects and gave advice when needed. Brunel, of course, was famous for his engineering work. His best-known and most innovative constructions were the bridges and viaducts he built on the Great Western Railway. He also created steamships that travelled faster than sailing ships and used coal as fuel. He was a workaholic and a task master. Son of a Frenchman. Brunel was educated in Caen. In fact, rather ironically, he was more French than British. During his lifetime he built five railway lines, over a hundred bridges, including five suspension bridges, eight piers and dock systems, three ships and a prefabricated army field hospital. However, his most famous projects include the Clifton Suspension Bridge, The Great Western Railway and the SS Great Britain.

During the final part of the talk, Bjorn Watson briefly described the work of Joseph Paxton, who designed the Crystal

Palace; Brunel's design was rejected. Using prefabrication, the details of the Crystal Palace were in place within two weeks. This was all done on site and built without scaffolding and the structure was up and running within 10 months. There was also a brief description of the work of Joseph Bazalgette who, in 1856, the year of the 'Great Stink', was appointed Chief Engineer of London's Metropolitan Board of works. His major achievement was to build miles of sewers throughout London. This greatly reduced the number of deaths from cholera and other related diseases in the capital. For his work, Bazalgette was knighted. Finally, we were given a brief description of the engineering achievements of Gustave Eiffel. Many of his best-known structures were mentioned during the talk, in particular the Garabit Viaduct, the Maria Pia Bridge, Notre – Dames – des – Champs and the Konak Pier. The Eiffel Tower was built by Eiffel for the 1889 Exposition Universelle, which was to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution.

At the end of the talk, the Purton Probus President, Nick Yerberry, asked for a show of hands to see how many of the audience had an engineering background. Well over half the audience raised their hands and there were a good number of questions asked of the presenter. Clearly, this proved to be a very popular and relevant talk.

If you're interested in joining Purton Probus, we meet at Hook Village Hall every other Tuesday morning at 10.30. New members are always welcome.

# Purton Placard

## **Life, Work, & Faith Presentations for Lent**

Sat 2nd March Prof. Andrew Briggs,  
Scientist and Christian

Sat 9th March JB Gill From JLS, TV  
Presenter and Musician

Thurs. 14th March Bish. Neil Warwick, Aid  
Worker, now Bishop of Swindon

With St Mary's Church – held at St  
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grahamdlight77@gmail.com to reserve  
tickets.

## **Purton WI**

Monday 11th March, 10.00am  
Purton WI will meet at the  
Silver Threads hall for for a  
talk about Richard Jefferies.  
All visitors are welcome.



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Our March meeting takes place on  
Monday 4th - Chris Rumming of Lydiard  
Turkeys talks about farming with wildlife,  
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***If you'd like your event featured in the Placard, please send details  
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Royal Wootton Bassett Choral Society

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# Information from Wiltshire Council

## ***Free water-based paint at your local household recycling centre***

Thinking about refreshing your home in 2024? Why not head to your local household recycling centre (HRC) and browse the free water-based paint that is on offer.

Our community paint reuse scheme aims to give people and community groups an opportunity to collect free water-based paint which would have normally gone to waste, giving people the opportunity to make savings in the process.

If you have any leftover water-based paint that is in usable condition and the tin is over half full, you should bring it to the recycling centres so it can be redistributed to the public or community groups.

Paint which is not usable, or paint in a tin which is under 50% full, cannot be used for this scheme. Tins of paint under half full or paint which is not usable should be hardened before being taken to any recycling centre for disposal. This can be done by removing the lid and drying the paint or by adding sawdust, sand, soil, or paint hardener to solidify it.

The free water-based paint available for reuse is clearly marked in a separate yellow cabinet at the HRCs. Members of the site staff can direct you to the yellow cabinet if needed. You are welcome to take away any water-based paint in the yellow cabinets for free. Before collecting, you will need to fill out a short disclaimer form which is in the cabinet.

Charities and groups are welcome to take the water-based paint from the recycling centres to support community projects. This could include decorating community spaces, community art projects or carnivals, please speak to the site staff on arrival for more information.

Charities and community groups are not able to dispose of waste at Wiltshire's recycling centres, see Voluntary and Community Group Household Recycling Centre Permit for information.

When paint is put in a bin it can cause considerable damage and mess to the containers and vehicles and so this should be avoided at all cost. Liquid wastes are also banned from landfill sites. It is only acceptable to put paint in a bin if it is completely dried up.

If the water-based paint is still liquid, reusable and the container is over half full, you can donate this for reuse.

Paint which is not usable, or paint in a tin which is under 50% full should be hardened before being taken to any household recycling centre. This can be done by removing the lid and drying the paint or by adding sawdust, pet litter, or soil to solidify the paint. You can also buy paint hardener from DIY stores to solidify it. Paint should never be poured directly into a sink or down the drain or sewer.

## ***Have you had your measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccinations?***

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has reported an increase in measles across the country and is encouraging people to check that they and their

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children have had two doses of the MMR vaccine.

The free MMR vaccine is a safe and effective way of protecting against measles, as well as mumps and rubella. It's important for parents to take up the offer of MMR vaccination for their children when offered at one year of age and as a pre-school booster at three years, four months of age.

### ***Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust join forces to promote wellbeing programme for men***

Wiltshire Council is working alongside Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to promote a new wellbeing programme for men aged 20-59. The free initiative seeks to support improved wellbeing through nature based and physical activity where men can develop strong social networks. Sessions will be shaped throughout the programme based on the interests of those attending. Examples of activities on offer include hiking, woodwork and bush craft skills which will be implemented alongside wellbeing techniques including stress management and mindfulness.

Starting from 19 February, the first programme will run over 12 weeks in Salisbury with more wellbeing programmes being arranged for later this year in Trowbridge and Chippenham. Participants will be able to engage in activities that they enjoy whilst developing new skills and learning about the benefits of being outdoors. Having access to wellbeing techniques and advice will contribute to positive behaviour change, benefiting those who are currently struggling.

We regularly see the positive impact that connecting with nature has on people's mental health and wellbeing. The new

outdoor men's wellbeing programme will build on our existing work and offer a great opportunity for early support and intervention with men who are struggling with their mental health.

To find out more, or to make a referral, please visit [www.wiltshirewildlife.org/mens-wellbeing](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/mens-wellbeing) (opens new window) or people can contact Wiltshire Wildlife with any enquiries at: [wellbeing@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:wellbeing@wiltshirewildlife.org) (opens new window) or call 07702802961.

### ***Don't Mess with Wiltshire campaign aims to tackle litter in the county***

Wiltshire Council has launched a new campaign to help reduce littering in county.

The striking Don't Mess with Wiltshire campaign focuses on littering in towns and parishes, plus litter hotspots such as laybys and on main roads.

The campaign, which will be seen on media, buses, social media posters and on-demand television, will be backed up by more enforcement of litter offences - including CCTV cameras in lay-bys on main roads and new officers to prosecute persistent fly-posters - along with more community litter collections, litter picks on main roads, plus educational resources to encourage behaviour change.

Rural litter can be a big problem for us and we currently spend more than £1.5 million per year cleaning up litter across the county.

Last year, we estimate that community litter picking groups, such as Purton Litter Pickers, saved the taxpayer in the region of £32,000; if we can encourage more people to help us in the fight against litter, we can spend money on other essential services instead.

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# News from White Lodge

White Lodge care home in Braydon prepared a traditional Burns celebration to the tune of bagpipes and the fun continued well into the afternoon.

Staff and residents at the home were involved in learning the art of Scottish Country Dancing and the Ceilidh to mark the Scottish institution, including giving the time-honoured address to the 'Great chieftain O' the puddin race' – the haggis. Tony H. from Wiltshire Bagpiper came to White Lodge wearing an amazing tartan outfit and played some tunes for us in the lounge. Also he walked through the corridor playing tunes for the residents who are bed bound. Coming back to the lounge he addresses the haggis and says goodbye with another popular tune.

General Manager, Ramona Gherendi, at White Lodge, thought it was a perfect occasion to celebrate an afternoon steeped in age-old tradition as well as getting in a spot of getting to know about Scottish tradition. She said: "Burns Night is always a fantastic event at White Lodge, it's so important to continue these traditions. Our residents enjoyed shortbread & scones all prepared by our stellar Chef Richard. We also had great fun discovering how much, or in some cases how little(!), we knew about Scotland with our brilliant Scottish quiz."

Susan S, resident of White Lodge said: "I enjoyed listening to the bagpipe and it is my favourite form of music as it's in my Scottish blood. Burns celebration is always a brilliant event to attend. Thank you White Lodge for arranging this for us".

Staff and residents at White Lodge welcomed the Year of the Dragon with a day of celebrations and activities.

Inspired by Chinese culture and traditions, lucky red envelopes were exchanged and the home was decorated with hanging red lanterns. Residents learnt all about the traditions and superstitions of Chinese New Year. Our chef cooked up an oriental feast including chowmein, spring roll, dumplings, prawn crackers and residents enjoyed the delicious food washed down with a cup of tea.





Ramona Gherendi, General Manager said: “We have had a brilliant day, the home looks absolutely wonderful decorated all in red and we all had such fun finding out what animal we are, the associated traits and reading each other’s horoscopes.

Val, a resident at White Lodge said: “I loved the music, the vibrant colours, delicious food and learning about the Chinese Zodiac animal traits. A person born in the Year of the Dragon is said to be kind, confident and strong. I find it fascinating to learn all about different traditions.”

Our varied life enrichment programme keeps residents active, and provides a daily choice of engaging physical, mental and spiritual activities tailored to residents’ interests and abilities.

For more information please contact Ramona Gherendi, General Manager at White Lodge Care Home on 01666 860381 or [Ramona.Gherendi@barchester.com](mailto:Ramona.Gherendi@barchester.com)”

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## 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 The 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.

[www.aveburyvocal.org](http://www.aveburyvocal.org)

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# Mini crossword

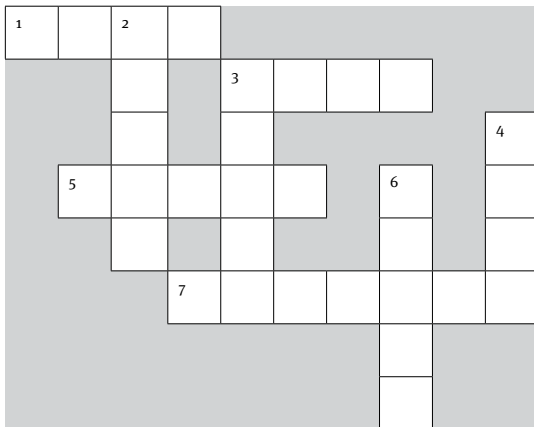
Here is the next in our series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun and without prizes. The answers to February's puzzle are 1A) Days 2D) Shortest 3D) Month 4A) Moon 5D) Leap 6D) Year 7A) Twentynine 8A) Snow

This month there are eight clues.

- 1 across Grown up leveret (4)
- 3 across Bygone (4)
- 5 across Take unlawfully (5)
- 7 across Marriage (7)
- 2 down Could be driven or plotted (5)
- 3 down Accord (5)
- 4 down Amphibian (4)
- 6 down sand or silver, maybe (5)

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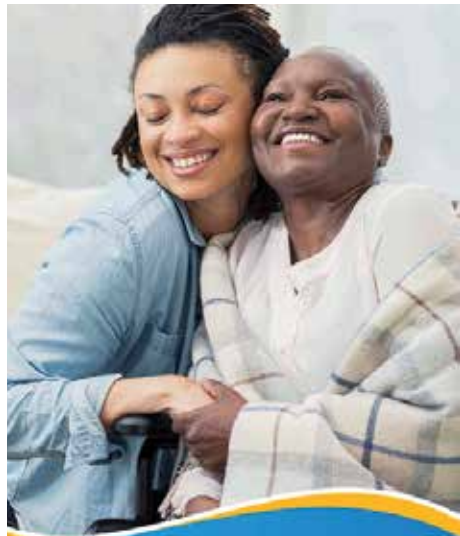
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