

July 2026

Purton Magazine

£1



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
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: 105	ssen.co.uk/about-ssen/ customer-support/
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, (10am-4pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)		
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Vets	771869
Pips Community Café	Duty volunteers	07990 340422
<i>(Tuesday-Friday 10am-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-1.30pm)</i>		
<i>www.facebook.com/purtoncommunitycafe/</i>		

Schools & Playgroups

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

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

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

Vicar: Revd Ian	email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk
Tweedie-Smith	Tel: 770077 (773031 emergencies only)
Church Warden	Sandra Horsnall: 770157
Church Warden	Marie Dempsey: 07455 046815
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.*

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

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

www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk

Priest: Revd Father	Tel: 852366
Lucas Rodrigues	

Services: Holy Mass Sunday 10.30am. Tues, Thurs 9.30am.

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

Purton Magazine committee:

Avril Ainscough, Barbara Compton,
Sandra Horsnall, Francis Sheppard,
Richard McCarthy, Neil Miles, Lucy Lewis.

Designed by: Heather Ponting-Bather,
In Touch Design & Print, Purton.

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c/o In Touch Design & Print,
2 College Road, Purton SN5 4AR
Tel: 01793 772954
email: mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Distribution & Delivery enquiries:

Sandra Horsnall Tel: 01793 770157

Email:
distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:

The Secretary, 20 Hoggs Lane,
Purton SN5 4BU

Also online at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

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Front cover image: Village residents
enjoying the sunshine, activities and live
music at the recent community festival.

Credit: Heather Ponting-Bather

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InTouch
Design & Print

From the Editors

July 2026
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In our political system, to win a Parliamentary election with more votes than all the other candidates put together is certainly very resounding. So it is that the self-proclaimed “King of the North” Andy Burnham has recently been elected as the Member of Parliament for the Makerfield constituency. He is now expected to travel south with the anticipated intention of challenging for the Prime Ministership. How resounding the result of that effort will only become clear in the coming weeks and months.

Here in Purton we have our own resoundingly successful event in the shape of the recent Purton Fest. Our front cover photograph shows the event in progress and on page 6 we are pleased to be able to publish a message of thanks from the Parish Council who hosted the entire event.

The overarching objective was to continue the support and contribution to our thriving community as mentioned in this piece last month. The Council is especially grateful to the many community groups and organisations that gave their time and energy to share details about their activities helping to showcase the wide range of opportunities available in our very special community.

Our Purton Magazine team was represented by Richard, Heather and Lucy, who were delighted to meet and chat to local residents. We correspond with lots of different organisations every month and it was lovely to meet so many of our contributors and readers face to face. It was very pleasing to receive lots of positive comments, suggestions and offers of articles and to hear how important Purtonians feel our magazine is to the community.

The Purton Christian Aid team reports about all the various activities from this year’s “week” on page 22. Readers will realise that the overall objective is to raise funds for the international charity through local initiatives. In the article we learn that the Purton team has a nominal fund raising target each year of achieving £1.00 for every Purton resident. With the continued development and expansions with new houses, the latest population figure for the village is not well known. As we go to press, we have just been informed that this year the latest grand total raised by Purton Christian Aid activities was an exceptionally resounding £8,500 – what an amazing total achieved by the very busy Purton team!

£20

For the annual Age
Concern coach trip to
Weston-super-Mare
- see page 14

40

Years of service to
Girlguiding from Gill
Woodward - see page 26

£50

Vouchers for children
up for grabs in Wiltshire
Council poster competition
- see page 19



Thank You for Making Purton Fest: Community a wonderful success!

On behalf of Purton Parish Council, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the Purton Fest Community event such a tremendous success.

To all those who attended, thank you for coming along and supporting the event. Your enthusiasm, participation, and community spirit created a welcoming atmosphere that truly reflected the best of Purton.

We are especially grateful to the many community groups and organisations that gave their time, shared information about their services and activities, and

helped showcase the incredible range of opportunities available within our village. Your commitment to supporting local people is invaluable.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to our volunteers, whose hard work, dedication, and friendly faces helped ensure the day ran smoothly from start to finish. Events such as this simply would not be possible without your generosity and willingness to help.

We would also like to recognise the efforts of our Parish Council staff, whose planning, organisation, and behind-the-scenes work played a vital role in delivering a successful event.

Finally, thank you to our Parish



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Councillors for their support, commitment, and contribution throughout the planning and delivery of the day.

The success of Purton Fest Community demonstrates the strength, kindness, and community spirit that make Purton such a special place. We are proud to work alongside so many dedicated individuals and organisations and look forward to building on this success in future events.

Thank you all for helping to make it such a memorable and positive day for our community.

Purton Parish Council – Clerk of Council

The Council is keen to hear your views on Purton Fest: Community, whether or not you attended. We've put together a short online survey to find out what you liked, what stopped you from attending, and what kind of event you'd like next year. Please look out for it on Facebook or www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Purton's important monument

Did you know that St Mary's churchyard is home to a nationally important monument? The medieval preaching cross was erected outside to mark a preaching place and may have been moved from elsewhere to the churchyard. It was designated as a scheduled monument in 1957 and is included on the National Heritage List for England.

The cross is made of limestone, which is particularly susceptible to damage as moisture can easily penetrate its layers. The moisture then freezes and expands, forcing apart pores in the stonework, leading to fracturing.

The condition of the cross has



deteriorated rapidly in recent years and the Parish Council, having enlisted the support of qualified conservation specialists, is applying for a number of grants to stabilise the cross and prevent further deterioration.

Grounds Team

June was hectic for Luke and Dan, our hard-working Grounds Team. Not only did they have to catch up with the mowing after No Mow May, but they also had to get the village ready for Purton Fest: Community. Putting up bunting and gazebos, tending to the planters at the Village Hall and pressure-washing bus shelters are just some of the jobs that have kept them busy.

If you see them out and about do stop and say hello and look out for regular updates on their work on Facebook and Instagram.

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.

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 noticeboards and website at:

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

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

New Applications

- PL/2026/02931 – Redwings, 24 Upper Pavenhill. SN5 4DQ. Replacement of existing canopy over the front door and construction of a new covered gateway and replacing window with large, glazed doors.
- PL/2026/02424 – Hayloft, 11 Manor Farm Court, Purton Stoke. SN5 4LA. Loft Conversion – Amended Plans.

Determined Applications - approved with conditions

- PL/2026/01708 - 126 Reids Piece Purton, SN5 4AY. Single-storey side extension.
- PL/2025/08588 - Land adjacent to 5 New Road, Purton. SN5 4HF. Change of use of land from equestrian to residential curtilage (re-submission of PL/2025/04801) hardstanding partially retrospective.
- Redwings, 24 Upper Pavenhill, Purton. SN5 4DQ. Replacement of existing timber fence with a 2m high timber fence.

Full public Parish Council Meetings 2026

Public Council Meetings will be held at the Village Hall from 7.00pm, as follows:

- Monday 13th July
- Monday 14th September
- Monday 12th October

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. Don't forget you are welcome to come and observe a meeting or ask a question.

Dates For Your 2026 Diary

Do add the following date to your diary and watch out for more information and updates:

- Saturday 28th November – Christmas Lights Switch On, The Village Centre

Keep up to date

Further Council details and community information are available as follows:

- Call – 01793 771066
- Email – Clerk@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Follow us on Facebook – [@purtonparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/purtonparishcouncil)
- Follow us on Instagram - [purtonparishcouncilofficial](https://www.instagram.com/purtonparishcouncilofficial)

Know whom to contact

- To volunteer for Community Emergency Volunteers contact: emergency@kevinlaw.co.uk
- To access victim support if you have witnessed or been impacted by a crime call: 01225 256 925
- Your local MP, Dr Roz Savage MP roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
- 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; to the following: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting

Purton Litter Pick



After raining for most of the day, the storm clouds cleared at just the right time to allow the 1st Purton Girl Guides to carry out the Village Litter Pick, at the beginning of June.

This was another great example of volunteer groups working together in our village, because all the litter picking equipment was loaned to the Guides by the Purton Litter Picking Group - with three volunteers from the Group working alongside the Guides and the Guide Leaders.

It was wonderful to have so many young people involved in the Litter Pick - and we hope to welcome them back with their families to join our regular volunteers for the next Village Litter Pick on Saturday 5th September. We will meet at Silver Threads Hall/Pips Cafe at 10.00am.

For further information, please email: purtonlitterpick@gmail.com

*Anne Maddison, Organiser,
Purton Litter Picking Group*

Purton Surgery Patient Group



News about the Patient Group

Are you interested in finding out about the work of your surgery? Would you like to be a part of its support? There is currently an exciting opportunity to join the PSPG committee so if you are interested, we have information packs available from reception at both surgeries. The group helps with fundraising, information evenings and is a link between patients and the surgery staff. We would love to welcome you to it!

200 Club

New members to the 200 Club are always very welcome. It's never too late to join! It costs just £15 a year, paid by standing order. Every month, we award two prizes—one of £100 and another of £15. All proceeds go toward buying equipment for the surgeries that the NHS does not supply. Please enquire at reception if you wish to join.

Our lucky June winners have been notified. Many congratulations!

Tabletop/Book donations

Please hand in any good quality books and items for sale at the surgeries. Again, funds raised through these donations provide all the 'extras' needed. Thank you for your donations to both!

As always, your support is much appreciated.

Please support our magazine advertisers

Your magazine continues to seek out ways to keep our finances as positive as we can, especially in these difficult times. One way our readers can help is always to mention Purton Magazine when contacting any of our advertisers.

With many electronic methods easily available when reaching companies and organisations, those who advertise in our pages are often not able to link

enquiries to their advertisements published in our magazine.

If readers could remember to refer to advertisements in Purton Magazine when contacting advertisers it will confirm the impacts which, in turn, will encourage them to renew their advertisements when the time comes. Many thanks from your magazine committee.



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Purton & District Age Concern

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AGM Update

We held our Annual General Meeting in June and would like to thank everyone who came along and supported us.

All our officers have agreed to continue in their roles for another year, which means we can carry on building on the activities and support we currently provide for older residents in Purton and the surrounding area.

We're also delighted to welcome Richard Amey onto the committee. It's always good to have new people getting involved and bringing fresh ideas, and we're looking forward to working with Richard over the coming year.

Although the committee remains small, we're always keen to hear from anyone who might like to help. Whether you can spare a little time regularly or simply want to find out more, we'd love to hear from you.

Coffee Morning – Friday 4 July

Our annual Coffee Morning is nearly here, and we hope you'll be able to join us.

The event takes place on Friday 4 July in Bentham, with gates opening at 10am. Entry is £2.50, which includes tea, coffee, and biscuits.

As always, we're extremely grateful to Dick and Jackie Scott for once again opening their beautiful garden for us.

If you can donate a cake, plant, or raffle prize, we'd be very grateful. Most importantly, come along, have a chat, and help us raise funds for Purton & District Age Concern.

Chatter Club

Our Chatter Club continues to go from strength to strength and it's lovely to see both familiar faces and new people joining us each month.

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month from 11.30am to 2pm. Whether you'd like a chat over a cup of tea, a game of pool, some bowls, cards or just a slice of cake, there's something for everyone.

Best of all, it's completely free. The next Chatter club is Wednesday 1 July 2026.

If you'd like transport on the minibus, please book with Hazel on 01793 770862.

Coach Trip to Weston-super-Mare

Our annual trip to Weston-super-Mare will take place on 26 August.

The cost is £20 for qualifying residents and £22 for non-qualifying residents or those living outside the village.

If you'd like to come along, please contact Peter on 01793 778119 to book your place.

We're also organising more trips for later in the year and will share details as soon as arrangements have been finalised.

Could You Help Us?

Purton & District Age Concern is run entirely by local volunteers and a small committee.

We're proud of the activities, support and friendship we provide for older people in our community, but we need new people to get involved if we're to continue and grow.

If you've ever thought about helping a local charity, this could be a great opportunity. You don't need any special experience – just a willingness to lend a hand and support older residents in Purton.

If you'd like to find out more, we'd love to hear from you.

Wiltshire Connect – Free Travel for Bus Pass Holders

If you need help getting to hospital appointments, Wiltshire Connect could be worth looking into.

The service can collect passengers locally, or from home if mobility is an issue, and can take you to destinations such as Great Western Hospital. It can also be used for shopping trips and other journeys depending on the route.

Travel is free for bus pass holders and reasonably priced for everyone else.

To book, call 01225 712900. Journeys can be arranged up to a week in advance.

Swindon WOW – What's On When

Looking for local activities?

Swindon WOW (What's On When) is a useful guide produced by Home Instead that lists activities and groups for older people, including those living with dementia.

For more information call 01793 234439 or email cat.attewell@homeinsteadswindon.co.uk. A link to the guide is also available on our website.

Are You Registered for Priority Services?

Many people don't realise they're entitled to extra support from utility companies. The National Priority Services Register is free to join if you're

over 60 and can provide additional help if your electricity, gas or water supply is interrupted.

For example, you'll receive updates during power cuts and may be eligible for emergency support such as bottled water during longer outages.

To register visit www.thepsr.co.uk or call 0800 294 3259.

If you'd like help signing up, contact Emma Wheeler on 07496 809035.

Tai Chi at the Village Hall

Our Tai Chi sessions continue every Thursday at 1.30pm during term time at the Village Hall.

Tai Chi is a gentle form of exercise that can help improve balance, mobility and general wellbeing. Many people find it relaxing as well as beneficial for their health.

Your first session is free and after that classes cost £7 per session. No booking is needed – simply come along and give it a try. For more information contact Graham on 07950 510420.

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust continues to offer free home security checks and can install smoke and fire alarms for eligible residents.

If you'd like to arrange a visit, call 01225 256867 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Could We Help Your Group?

If you're involved with a local club or group that supports older people and you're looking for some financial help, we'd be pleased to hear from you.

Please email secretary@purtonageconcern.com with details of your project.

Are You Over 65 and Living in Purton?

If you're aged 65 or over and have never heard from us before, please get in touch.

We want to make sure everyone who could benefit from our services knows what's available, including information about local Street Wardens and other community support. Contact Georgina on 07966 222967 or email secretary@purtonageconcern.com

Need a Lift?

If you're over 60 and need transport to the doctor's surgery, shops or other local destinations, our minibus may be able to help. To enquire about booking a seat, please contact Hazel on 01793 770862.

Wheelchairs and Mobility Aids

We have a small selection of wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and walking sticks available for loan. If you think we may be able to help, contact Peter on 01793 778119 or email secretary@purtonageconcern.com

Phoenix Transport

Please note that Phoenix Transport is no longer free for bus pass holders. For bookings, please call 01249 890794.

Keep in Touch

Don't forget to follow us on social media and join our mailing list to keep up to date with local events, activities and fundraising news. Simply email secretary@purtonageconcern.com and we'll add you to the list. As always, thank you for your continued support. Everything we do is only possible because of the generosity, encouragement and involvement of people in our community.

Peter Berry, Chairman, Purton & District Age Concern

Royal British Legion

Purton Branch Summer Lunch

Members and friends meet at The Sun in Lydiard Millicent on Friday 10th July, from 12.30pm for lunch at 1.00pm.

Almost all the places have been taken but if you haven't booked and would like to come do contact us, as we might be able to accommodate two or three more.

There will be a special welcome for several people who are joining us for the first time.

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

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Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Council News

Popular "Leave only Pawprints" competition returns for 2026

Wiltshire Council is inviting young residents to get creative once again as its popular "Leave only Pawprints" competition returns for 2026, encouraging responsible dog ownership and helping to keep the county's public spaces clean and welcoming for all.

Run by the council's Dog Warden team, the competition challenges children aged four to 14 to design eye-catching posters reminding dog owners to clean up after their pets. Winning designs will be displayed in parks, along footpaths and in open spaces across Wiltshire, spreading this important message in a fun and engaging way.

Last year's competition proved a great success, attracting more than 60 colourful entries from across the county. Winners George, Elise and Freya were recognised for their creative designs, which are currently displayed throughout Wiltshire. While these posters will remain in place, outdoor materials can fade over time. With the strong interest shown, this year's competition will help refresh the campaign and reinforce its message, giving children another opportunity to participate.

Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "We know that keeping our public spaces clean is something people care deeply about, and this competition provides a positive and engaging way to reinforce that message. By relaunching it this year,

we can build on that success, refresh the campaign materials as needed, and continue encouraging responsible dog ownership across our communities."

The competition is open to all children living in Wiltshire (excluding Swindon) and is divided into three age categories: 4-6, 7-10 and 11-14. Winners in each category will receive a £50 Amazon voucher, kindly donated by the council's Streetscene contractor, idverde.

Paul Ashman, Community Engagement Manager at idverde, added: "At idverde, we believe that small collective actions can lead to meaningful change. That's why we're committed to building strong relationships within local communities, so that everyone can feel proud of where they live. Clean, tidy spaces uplift us all, and creating these posters is a great way to inspire that shared sense of care and pride in our surroundings.

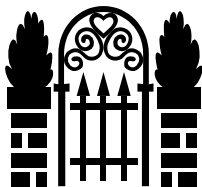
Entries can be submitted as drawings or paintings and should focus on encouraging responsible pet ownership and keeping Wiltshire's green spaces clean. Competition packs are available by emailing dogs@wiltshire.gov.uk via www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leave-only-pawprints-competition or can be collected from Wiltshire Council libraries.

The deadline for entries is 7 August 2026. Shortlisted designs will be selected by staff at Bath Cats & Dogs Home and showcased on Wiltshire Council's social media channels. The public will then be invited to vote for their favourites, with winners announced later in the summer.

12/26

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Purton Annual Flower, Arts, Crafts & Produce Show 2026

The annual show will take place on Saturday 15th August 2026 in Purton Village Hall at 2pm. Show schedules are now available from local shops and businesses, including One Stop and The Co-op. The schedules give full details of classes and how to enter.

As in previous years, we have organised two booking-in sessions:

- Wednesday 12th August 2-4pm at Pips
- Wednesday 12th August 7-9pm at 12 Church Path, Purton

All entry forms must be received by 9pm on Wednesday 12th August. However, children's entries will be accepted on the Show day until 10.00am. Entry forms will also be accepted by Pat Hughes in advance of the booking-in sessions at 3 Orchard Gardens, Purton, email - patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com / tel: 01793 772382

All exhibits must be brought to Purton Village Hall for staging between 9.00am and 11.00am on Show day, judging will start at 11.00am. Please note that due to limited display space, exhibitors may only submit one entry per class. Remember, you don't need to be an "expert" to enter!

The Show will start at 2.00pm, entrance by donation. Refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon and the announcement of prize winners will take place at around 4.00pm. All profits from the Show will be donated to The Royal British Legion.

We are pleased to be holding a free children's craft workshop in advance of The Show on Saturday 8th August from 2-4pm at The Silver Threads Hall. In conjunction with Pathway Church, we are looking forward to hosting a fun family event. Children will be making sock puppets, 6 years and under, and creating colour wheels, 7-11 years. All materials will be provided. We hope that children will be inspired to enter their puppets and colour wheels into The Annual Show.

If you are new to the area or haven't visited The Annual Show before, please come along to this community event. It brings people of all ages together whilst raising funds for a good cause.

For further information please contact Pat Hughes. Tel no: 01793 772382 or email patricia.j.hughes@btinternet.com

Pat Hughes, on behalf of the show committee

Christian Aid Week 2026



In the June copy of Purton magazine there was a whole page article about the activities in Purton during Christian Aid Week in May 2026. This article was not written by us in Purton...it was written by staff in Christian Aid's Press and Media Department. Nearly all of the various events were mentioned, including the wonderful plants that Mary Nettleton grew all Spring, to sell for three different charities during May. We are so grateful to Mary that she has supported Christian Aid Week so generously this year (again!).

One other event not mentioned was set up by the indomitable Sylvia, at her home on the High St, where she entertained all and sundry to Bargains and Refreshments. Needless to say she raised huge sums, as only she can! And again we are grateful to her for such amazing support.

Lastly we would like to give a special shout out to Howard who delivered Christian Aid envelopes to yet more volunteers throughout the village, to distribute to homes in their street. In this way he made sure that most streets were covered and the envelopes were later returned with further gifts for Christian Aid.

We haven't quite finished banking all the money but we shall make sure that the totals are written in the August Magazine. In the meantime please accept our grateful thanks for your generosity to Christian Aid this year, by supporting the team here in Purton. We aim, each year, to raise the equivalent of £1 for each Purton resident...let's hope we achieved that goal.

Thank you

Libbie, Mary and the Christian Aid Team.

One Stop doesn't stop fundraising!

The till point buckets have been emptied for the first time this year and the money has been given to something a bit different this time. £105.00 has been given to The Purton Cattery Rescue Fund. Emma and Scott who run the cattery, also rescue cats and kittens, who usually need neutering and very often need medical care before they can be re-homed. All of these cats are kept separate from boarding cats. They have a brilliant record for rescuing and re-homing many cats every year. While some cats come from The Cat

Protection League and The RSPCA, they independently do rescues themselves and unless there is definitely no hope, they nurse unwell cats to the point that they can be re-homed. With vet bills ever increasing, every donation will help these cats. We hope that our donation will help in some way to do exactly that.

Thank you to our customers for their contribution to our buckets. As usual we are very grateful for your continued support and custom.

*Pearl Lait on behalf of Zac (manager)
and all of your One Stop Team.*

Ten Years Ago...

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." In Purton Magazine for July 2016 these contrasts showed clearly.

Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday celebrations still figured largely, with more promised in the coming months. Trooping the Colour had been a highlight, yet I can remember being taken to that Queen's first, outside the scope of 10 Years Ago. The Rainbows marked the occasion by playing the wheels on the bus and eating marshmallows. Not to be outdone, the Brownies studied the history and purposes of jelly babies.

Further back, the Editor was reminiscing about the 2006 World Cup when "flags of St. George were furiously fluttering" around Purton. England didn't get very far (surprise!) and I doubt if there will be the same interest in 2026 with the matches being played in the middle of the night. At least in 2006 and in 2016 the Purton cricket team had won all their early games.

The really bright news came from the Subatomic Bradons who won a science competition with a project to plant solar panels on "large areas of unused land, such as the Sahara Desert", lighting up the world. They gave themselves until 2050 to complete it; hopefully Shell (the sponsors) are hard at work on it.

And the contrast – The Great War project reached the Battle of the Somme. It is too horrific to summarise the article here; you must find it on the website. And what have we learned since? It is never-ending or, to continue the Dickens quotation: "in short, the period was so far like the present period".



Twenty Years Ago...

20 years ago there were many flags of St George furiously fluttering from house and car windows as the England football team took part in the 2006 World Cup tournament in Germany. Maybe there will be many again this year with the World Cup being staged in Canada,

USA and Mexico. For those with short memories, Italy won the cup 20 years ago by beating France in the final and England lost to Portugal in the quarter finals. 10 years ago, different flags might be seen around the village – or at least passing through on car windows – as Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have also qualified alongside England for the 2016 Euro Football tournament in France.

In the magazine 20 years ago, Purton cricket club had reported a very successful start to the season with the 1st XI winning all their matches in May and sitting proudly at the top of the league. In 2016 the cricket team again won all their league matches in May and were only denied top spot by a mere 2 bonus points. That year's 1st XI captain, Aaron Lee, was also celebrated in the magazine 20 years ago for his swimming exploits. In addition to an impressive string of competition wins and new records as a Year 10 student at Bradon Forest school – all carefully listed in the magazine – he was, at the time, only the 15th swimmer in the whole country to achieve a National Qualifying time in the 100m backstroke in a Long Course Pool.

20 years ago the Purton Historical Society held their annual walk on a brilliant sunny afternoon and the report in the magazine carried a map showing the 6½ mile route. After inspecting the remains of the War Defence Ditch (aka the Tank Trap) at the cricket field, the route stretched to the Eastern edge of the Parish boundary alongside the river Ray before returning through Widham and Pavenhill.

Wednesday 24 May 2006 was a red letter day for Purton Evening WI because their skittles team “forged through the Wiltshire Federation semi-finals, beat Sutton Benger in the finals and became the victorious winners of the entire contest.” The team were presented with engraved whisky tumblers.

Celebrating local, regional and occasionally national sporting achievements is always good news for our community, and your magazine looks forward to reporting many more successes in the future.

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.

Girlguiding in Purton

Celebrating our volunteers

If you follow our social media, you may have seen a series of posts during Volunteers' Week in June celebrating some of the volunteers who make the magic of Girlguiding happen in Purton. We're very proud of our volunteers and are sharing here too in case you missed our celebrations.

Emma's guiding story began as a Purton Brownie. She became a Guide, then a Ranger and a young leader and qualified as an adult leader last year.

Currently a leader at a Nottingham Brownie unit whilst away at university, she returns to 1st Purton Brownies and to Purton Rangers when she can. We are very proud of Emma and what she has achieved. She is a fantastic role model for our young members.

Rachel fits a lot of her volunteering around business travel. She can do unit admin online for Purton Guides and Rangers from wherever she happens to be.

The Guides hold online meetings once or twice a term, ideally when they're doing a cooking activity as 27 Guides wouldn't fit in the meeting hall kitchen. Rachel joins these from her hotel room. Remote supervision of cooking with no mess for the leaders is a win for the leaders. We'll leave Guide parents to decide if it's a win for them!

As a Guide and Ranger leader, she promotes as many adventurous opportunities for this age range as she can, often joining in – why should the girls have all the fun? Thanks to Rachel and other local leaders, Purton Guides

and Rangers have been on camps, sleepovers, night hikes, international travel and watched England v Ireland in the Women's Six Nations Rugby. And all of that in the last 9 months alone!

Alice embodies flexible volunteering with Girlguiding!

She first volunteered with Purton Guides 8 years ago where she gained both her adult leader qualification and a residential qualification. She moved from Guides to Rainbows when the Rainbow unit needed an extra leader.

Family commitments meant stepping back from regular unit volunteering a couple of years later, but she was keen to remain part of Girlguiding.

District treasurer was the perfect flexible fit around family life and helping with ad hoc events too. She was part of the organising group for a district outdoor adventure day and regularly does the catering at Brownie sleepovers and holidays.

Hilary's not done having fun and adventures after 48 years as a leader the length and breadth of the country. She's always up for new experiences.

- A winter solstice sunrise hike to Stonehenge? She's in!
- An all-day live game of Monopoly around the streets of London? She's in!
- Abseiling down the side of an office block? She's in!

Wherever she's lived, Hilary's always found like-minded volunteers who also believe in taking on the challenge of new



experiences and giving those opportunities to young members too.

Jo (aka Dodo) clocked up 18 years as a leader in Norfolk with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides before moving to Wiltshire. When she moved, she hadn't planned on getting involved with Girlguiding here, but it's funny how things turned out! A chance conversation with a local leader through her work led to 18 years as a leader with 2nd Purton Brownies – so far!

Jo's prepared more craft activities than most people have had hot dinners and her beadie critters on sleepovers and Brownie holidays are legendary. If you know, you know! But she's so much more than just craft. She's deeply committed to giving girls the best experience possible and is always willing to help with events and support other leaders.

Ronnie likes to keep it in the family!

She's a second-generation Girlguiding leader who grew up in Gibraltar and began as a leader there herself. She's since been a Rainbow, Brownie and Guide leader in several places in the UK, and we were delighted when she became a leader with Purton Rainbows a couple of years ago. Keeping the family guiding tradition going, her daughter is a Purton Rainbow.

Ronnie's also international adviser for the county and is a great source of encouragement for our Guides and Rangers to get involved with international trips.



We also need to take a moment to send huge congratulations to Gill Woodward (aka Tawny Owl) on 40 years as a Purton Girlguiding leader. She was presented with her long service award from one of the Wiltshire North county commissioners recently. It was a surprise presentation in front of 2nd Purton Brownies who made some "interesting" guesses about how long Gill had been a leader!

Over the years hundreds of girls have benefitted from Gill's care and commitment to fun, adventure and personal growth.

Girlguiding in Purton is blessed to have Emma, Rachel, Alice, Hilary and Gill – and of course all our other volunteers too.

We could be celebrating you in Volunteers' Week 2027!

- Do you want to make a difference in your community?
- Are you keen to empower girls and young women to discover their potential?

- Would you like to build your own skills and experience?
- Are you looking for a flexible volunteering opportunity?
- Did you enjoy Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers as a young member yourself?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, then do get in touch. We're a friendly bunch and would welcome new volunteers.

Find information about volunteering or finding a space for new young members on the Girlguiding website: www.girlguiding.org.uk/

Jo Sully, district commissioner

Tel: 07913 725390 Email: jo.sully2@gmail.com

Follow us on social media: Facebook: [Girlguiding Purton District](#)

Instagram: [girlguidingpurton](#)

Purton WI

At our June meeting we were treated to an interesting, amusing and informative talk by Lyn Young who told us about her farming life at Pound Farm, Purton Stoke. From a young age Lyn was determined to marry a farmer even though she did not come from a farming background. 64 years ago this young girl from South Cerney met a young farmer called Tony from Purton at the Water Park. Next week she took her dog for a walk and he was there again hoping that she would appear. The rest is history and they married two years later and she started her new life as a farmer's wife. She learnt to drive a tractor, regularly ploughing fields and driving bales of hay through Purton. One year they decided to promote awareness of Breast Cancer and they wrapped their hay in PINK plastic.

Dressing poultry was another skill she mastered along with wallpapering. Lyn loved the pigs but was scared of the big cows. Even so she helped with calving being present at many twin births and

marvelling at one triple birth. Lyn told us how the calves had to be tagged within 5 days and we were shown an ear tag which looked as if it would be painful to the little calves. Lyn explained how bovine testing worked, how every animal had to be registered and how the BSE and Foot & Mouth scares gave them many sleepless nights. Fortunately they have never had an animal who tested positive.

Lyn and Tony were blessed with two sons. In 1980 the eldest came to work on the farm and Lyn started to work for the Milk Marketing Board. Their son decided to bring sheep to the farm. With sheep comes lambing and although there was a roster Lyn somehow got all the night shifts. However she was rewarded by a trip to Bristol Hippodrome when lambing was over.

Her father-in-law lived with them and at the age of 80 he decided that he wanted a bicycle. When he got it he cycled every day very slowly around the village and then he decided he needed glasses to

keep the flies out of his eyes. Some of our members can remember seeing him out and about. At the age of 89 he died and his presence around the farm was deeply missed.

During the fight to get a fairer price for milk Lyn had her W.I. resolution accepted and, in 2005 the National Federation of Women's Institutes passed an historic resolution calling for a fairer price for milk supply. This led to a massive national campaign supporting UK dairy farmers. In 2007, for economic reasons, they gave up milking.

Lyn and Tony were invited to Parliament when the local MP was putting forward a motion regarding the late payment of subsidies to farmers which they

had experienced. The Youngs were mentioned in the Hansard Report.

In 2019 Lyn experienced a heart attack and Tony handed over the farming to their son so that he could look after her. They have spent their time having wonderful holidays, both in this country and abroad. She played darts and skittles locally. More recently Tony installed a camera in one of the bird boxes and they are now able to watch the blue tits and their babies.

Finally Lyn told us that she would not change anything and this Gloucestershire girl had enjoyed a full life in this beautiful part of the country with her wonderful Wiltshire farmer.

Deirdre White

Purton Museum News

At the end of the 19th century, it was a matter of pride if a village organisation could afford bespoke crockery. Many groups in Purton had branded crockery sets including The Workingmen's Institute & Coffee Tavern, the Purton Wesleyan Chapel and the Primitive Methodist Church, (Purton Methodist Church), who still use the cups, saucers and plates at various functions including, in the recent past, Lent Lunches. The Purton on a Plate exhibition showcases other examples of branded china including this beautiful plate depicting St Mary's Church.



The museum is open every Tuesday 3.00pm-5.30pm and the last Saturday of every month 10.00am-12.30pm until the end of October.

If you are unable to access the museum's stairs, please visit the library during its opening hours to view photographs of the exhibition on a screen.

Lucy Lewis

Purton Historical Society



The Romans in Purton project report has now been distributed to Historical Society members and to those who volunteered for the project. The report is available to download on the Purton Museum website in the Latest News section. It was written by the lead archaeologist, Andy Hood, and gives details of every pit dug, the items that were found, and specialist reports.

There is one thing I would love to find in the Pavenhill area, especially in the area opposite the Royal George. A report from about 100 years ago mentions finding fragments of a mosaic of glass, so if you are digging in your garden and find small square fragments of coloured glass please let me have a look.

For the rest of the summer, there will be a small exhibition about the Romans in Purton project in Purton Museum. There will also be some Roman items

from the museum that you will be able to inspect. This display will run alongside the main exhibition of the summer, Purton on a Plate, which highlights some of the food outlets and organisations that have fed Purtonians over the years, crockery used by village groups and Purton branded items made of china. Please remember the new museum opening hours; it is now open on the last Saturday of the month, 10.00am to 12.30pm and every Tuesday 3.00pm to 5.30pm until the end of October.

We are now taking a break for the summer and our next meeting will be The Fields of Purton Part 2, The Agricultural History of Purton from 1086 to 1744, on September 24th, at the Methodist Church.

Keith Allsop
allsopk83@hotmail.com

Church Floodlighting

July 11 St Mary's Church will be floodlit to mark what would have been the 90th birthday of my Mother, **Marian Cotton**.
Always in our thoughts: Love Steve and Cheryl



We at St Mary's Church are grateful to Purton Magazine for publicising the floodlighting bookings each month. Thank you for working collaboratively on this community opportunity with us.

St Mary's Church is an exceptionally beautiful building, both inside and out. It looks so magnificent when it is floodlit during the evenings. The lights go on for several hours for £20 per night. It is a lovely way to celebrate a special date, an anniversary, a memorial. If you would like to book for the church to be floodlit please do contact Libbie: 771018

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.



Christian Aid Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who helped provide the Christian Aid Breakfast on May bank holiday Monday - it was wonderful!

Roy & Marion Hobbs

The unfortunate incident of the dog and Purton Magazine volunteer

It has been reported that one of our volunteer distributors has recently been bitten on the leg by a subscriber's dog when delivering their magazine.

Please would all dog-owning subscribers take full responsibility for their animals when deliveries are due, as they should for Royal Mail, Damon the Evri Man etc and/or make alternative arrangements with their distributor for a safe alternative delivery location.

Thank you.

Summer's here at last!

Summer's here at last!
And with global warming it's hot enough
To split the pavements in Purton!
But be sure to keep your umbrella and wellies by the door
A lifeboat would have come in handy yesterday.
And just to really confuse you
It is also the football season.....
But only for three weeks.

JW

Purton Village Diary - July 2026

1	W	11.30am	Age Concern Chatter Club at the Red House
2	Th	10.30am	Tea & Tennis at Purton Tennis Club
4	Sa	10.00am	Purton Age Concern annual coffee morning at Dick and Jackie Scott's farm in Bentham
			2026 Tour de France Grand Depart from Barcelona
		2.00pm	Purton Rainbows meet at the Methodist Church, Play Close
5	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Church for All at St Mary's
6	M	7.00pm	RWB Gardening Club meet at the Memorial Hall for a talk on easy plants for difficult places with Ray Broughton
10	F	10.30am	Tea & Tennis at Purton Tennis Club
11	Sa	7.30pm	RWB Orchestra perform Midsummer Magic at RWB Academy
12	Su	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
			The Wimbledon tennis tournament comes to an end with the men's singles final
		7.00pm	Avebury Vocal Ensemble perform at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade
13	M	10.00am	Purton WI meet at Silver Threads Hall
		7.00pm	Full public Parish Council meeting at the village hall
15	W		St Swithun's Day
16	Th	10.30am	Tea & Tennis at Purton Tennis Club
19	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Church for All at St Mary's
20	M	2.00pm	St. Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at the Methodist Church. The speaker is Nicola Probert-Thompson from Dressability.
22	W		Windrush Day, honouring the contribution to the economy of migrants from the Caribbean after WWII. Named after HMT Empire Windush, the ship that carried the first families across the Atlantic to a new life in Britain.
23	Th		2026 Commonwealth Games begin in Glasgow
24	F	10.30am	Tea & Tennis at Purton Tennis Club
26	Su	10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
30	Th	10.30am	Tea & Tennis at Purton Tennis Club
31	F		Festival on the Farm starts at Purton House Farm

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
	3.00pm	to 5.30pm April to October, Purton Museum 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.
Th	1.30pm	to 2.30pm (during term time) Tai Chi at the Village Hall
	7.00pm	to 8.30pm Purton Youth Club for school years 7+ at The Millennium Hall
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 1.00pm Purton Library open
Su	10.30am	Pathway Church meet at Purton Silver Threads Hall

Every month

2nd Monday	Purton WI meet at 10am at the Silver Threads Hall
3rd Monday	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at 2.00pm at Purton Methodist Church
2nd & 4th Tuesday	10.00am Purton Probus meet at Hook Village Hall.
1st Wednesday	Purton Bowls Club coffee morning through the winter in the clubhouse; you don't have to be a member, so please feel free to pop along for a cuppa and slice of homemade cake.
3rd Wednesday	2-4pm Purton Charity Knitting group meet at Pips Community Cafe 10.30am-Noon Parkinson's UK Cricklade Cafe
3rd Thursday	Royal British Legion meet at the Red House
4th Thursday	(September to May) Purton Historical Society meet at 7.30pm at Purton Methodist Church.
4th Thursday	9.30am Village Walking Group - meet at the Red House car park. Contact George Kennedy kennedygeorge62@gmail.com

Continued overleaf...

Purton Village Diary - continued

2nd Saturday	9.30am Village Walking Group - meet at the Red House car park. Contact George Kennedy kennedygeorge62@gmail.com
Last Saturday	10.00am to 12.30pm Purton Museum open, free of charge (Apr-end of Oct)
3rd Sunday	2.30pm Bingo at Purton Bowls Club

The Purton Village Diary is 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

July Nature Correspondent

From Spring into Summer

It's been a wonderful spring with so many highlights, and I'm not quite ready for it to be over. The duke of burgundy butterfly has had an exceptional year, with an amazing count of 89 individuals. The county butterfly recorder has told me this is a record for Wiltshire. For a species that has struggled massively in recent decades, it is an encouraging sign and a reminder of how important small pockets of suitable habitat can be.

Another welcome return has been the grasshopper warbler. A small warbler that makes an extraordinary journey from West Africa, it has once again taken up residence in the nearby water meadow. Its insect-like call is the sound that many people hear before realising it is coming from a bird.

There has been more good news too. A pair of redstarts in Savernake have successfully raised at least four fledglings, confirming that they continue to return and breed in the forest which is incredible. They are clinging on in very small numbers.

With the much warmer evenings, I often head out for a walk an hour or so before dusk. Camera in hand and binoculars around my neck, I set off to see what the evening might reveal. This is often the best time to encounter hares. On some evenings, I have counted eight or more in a single field. They are gradually becoming accustomed to my presence and no longer race away the moment they spot me. Once they realise I pose no threat, they seem a little more tolerant,



allowing those fleeting glimpses into their lives.

Further along the footpath stands what I have come to call the “owl tree”, a magnificent ancient oak with a history all of its own. In previous years, a pair of tawny owls have used the tree and surrounding bushes to conceal their fledged young while they hunt. Last year’s cold, wet spring proved disastrous, but this year has been different.

As I approach the tree, a familiar high-pitched screech rings out through the evening air. Then another, and another. Hearing at least three young tawny owlets calling from the trees is a wonderful way to end an evening spent watching wildlife.

*Helen Llewelyn, Commissioned by
Tower and Town, Marlborough*

Tawny owlet, top left, and Adult Tawny owl (*strix aluco*)
Credit: Helen-Llewelyn.

Purton & District Probus Club



Amenity Trees: Benefits, Threats, species selection, and climate by John Parker

Our presenter, John Parker, works for the arboreal association, which is the leading professional body and registered charity for tree care specialists and arborists (tree surgeons) in the UK and Ireland.

Introductions

Arboreal culture is the science and practice of the cultivation, establishment and management of amenity trees. Amenity trees are trees planted or preserved for their aesthetic, cultural and environmental value rather than for timber or wood production. They are generally found in public spaces, parks

and residential areas. Their primary purpose is to enhance the quality of life for the public.

Benefits of trees

The speaker outlined a number of crucial benefits derived from trees.

- Shading function... they cool our environment. Animals benefit from this. You will note that livestock always head for shade.
- Trees have an important function with drainage. The tree canopy captures rainfall and slows down the passage to the ground which can be used to benefit the environment.
- Trees provide the opportunity to create sustainable 'soaks' that can be developed as sustainable drainage systems which is an eco-friendly excavation designed to safely manage and recycle surface water run-off (such as rainwater) by letting it naturally filter back into the ground. Unlike traditional drainage that pumps water directly into overwhelmed sewers, sustainable soaks replenish groundwater and help prevent localized flooding.
- House prices can be impacted by trees and increase the value of a property or detract from the value. Housing estates can have increased value if trees are strategically placed.
- A further economic argument for trees is the attraction factor. For example if a café has a tree located in front it attracts more customers because it creates a more attractive environment and provides shade for customers wishing to sit outside .
- Trees are good for larger wilder

wildlife and livestock who feed from trees.

- There is a claim that children in schools perform better if there are trees in the school. Forest schools are very popular in the modern era for this reason.
- Artistically trees are good for our mental health. The speaker recommends a walk in the woods to relieve stress.
- Trees are even beneficial when they die as these provide habitats for a whole range of wild life.
- London Planes is a term associated with London because the Plane trees in the capital city are renowned for absorbing pollution

Trees and the climate crisis

- Trees play an important function in dealing with the climate crisis. There is little doubt that by 2050 London will have an equivalent climate as that currently experienced in Barcelona. Strategic tree planting and protection can help reduce the impact.
- Certain species of tree such as the Willow play a crucial role in dealing with the impact of global warming. The Willow, for example, helps to reduce flooding crises that farmers have been aware of for generations.
- Unfortunately, many tree species are dying. The Arboreal Association is focussed on finding out why. Trees should be living for hundreds of years but they need air for their roots; so compacted soil caused, for example, by heat waves make trees suffocate. Farmers need to be persuaded to decompact the soil. Ploughing is an issue here relating to tree root protection as an area

of a circle three times that of the trunk of a tree needs to be free from ploughed land, roadways or any form of obstruction to avoid tree suffocation.

- A particular problem relating to the preservation of trees is drought. Trees die from a lack of water yet technically we are not allowed to water trees during droughts. Our speaker stressed the need to reconsider this issue via a legal governmental basis.
- The issue of 'Early Autumn' is a phenomenon brought on by drought. This is when trees start to go brown and shed leaves as early as August, which is far too soon. Trees can cope for one year but if this happens in consecutive years this becomes a serious problem. Water is not a finite resource and it is difficult to start watering mature trees.
- Tree diseases are a real problem. These are often imported. As the climate changes Britain becomes more susceptible to pathogens. An example is the Oak tree moths that are covered in toxic hairs, which are bad for both tree and human health. These moths should never have been allowed to arrive in the UK but they were brought in by contaminated trees from Italy. Unfortunately, this contamination will spread throughout the UK because there is no way to stop the spread. Ash Die Back is a fungus which may have crossed from Europe through the importation of wood. Ash Die Back kills off all the trees that don't have natural resistance. There is also a fungus that kills Plane trees but that may

not have occurred in the UK so far. Olive tree disease is a real problem as it can spread from one species to another. Olives and laurels are banned from gardens for that reason.

What to plant to ensure biodiversity

To ensure biodiversity, plant a diverse mix of native trees, nectar-rich perennials and wildflower patches that provide continuous food and shelter across all four seasons. Prioritize plant varieties with accessible, single flowers over heavy, sterile cultivars to give local insects, birds and small mammals the resources they need to thrive.

Bio security is very important and Plant Healthy is a government backed scheme to ensure that nurseries are following the correct procedures in the support of tree and plant health for the future generations. As our speaker said: 'the greater the canopy the greater the benefit for future life'.

What to plant?

Diversification is really important and this does not necessarily relate to native trees. For example, beech and birch trees are really struggling to survive and the horse chestnut may not survive beyond the next twenty years. The Tulip tree is definitely a tree for the future as is the Magnolia tree. The Cork Oak, which is from the Mediterranean, is really good for the environment. The advantage is that these tree species can be grown as street trees.

If you aren't sure how to attract wildlife to your garden, the best place to start is with plants. Whether you have room for raised beds or just a few pots, the right mix of flowers will help insects thrive, no matter the size of your space.

The best plants for pollinators are those native to the UK, as our insects have evolved alongside them for millennia. Also consider the time of year your plants will flower. Try to include a mix that, together, will provide sustenance throughout the year.

However, trees take time to grow and become established and action is needed now.

Since attending this talk I personally have been looking at trees with a much greater interest and concern for the environment.

*Report by John Slaght
Probus Committee Secretary*

This is just an example of the fascinating and informative talks and discussions that occur at Purton Probus. This is also an opportunity to meet new friends and to socialise over coffee and snacks. If you're interested in joining Purton Probus, we meet at Hook Village Hall every other Tuesday morning at 10.30am on the second and fourth week of each month. New members are always welcome. Come along one Tuesday morning at about 10.00am and find out what it's all about.



at St Mary's CE Primary School & Nursery, Purton

We offer nurturing nursery provision, with the added benefit of a school setting, and places available as your child grows.

There are no hidden costs and families can use their funded 30 hours between 8.50am and 2.50pm, with extended care available up to 6pm.

To arrange a visit or ask any questions, contact Sammy or Helen on 01793 770239 or email: admin@st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk
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Souvenirs de France: memories of life in rural Normandy

Having previously lived in Purton, Kate and Roger lived in various places in Britain including Yorkshire, before moving to France in 2006. After living in France for nearly 20 years they decided to return to Britain for their retirement and recently moved back to Purton feeling a strong connection and sense of place. They lived in the Loire valley and later in Normandy, experiencing French village life with some fascinating cultural differences, some expected (like baffling road signs) and others quite surprising (such as poor quality garlic). In this series of articles, Roger talks of their story and discusses these differences and tells above all about the warm welcome they received as outsiders. This is the third article in the series.

We moved into our old farmhouse in St Léger sur Sarthe (Orne) in Summer 2007 and tried to grasp the enormity of the renovation project ahead, as well as having just taken on a new Springer Spaniel puppy. The heating needed upgrading, the crummy bathroom completely refurbishing, an attached cow shed needed converting: the list went on.

A major issue was the minute kitchen with no oven, and a worktop with a black and white speckle pattern that made it impossible to spot the ubiquitous mouse droppings. Bizarrely, when we viewed the house, the large dining room contained a massive dining table with 12 chairs but as was often the case in French houses, the kitchen was small, inadequate and tucked out of sight. So it was obvious that the dining room should become the kitchen.

But the immediate concern was to plug the holes: there were openings with no window at both ends of the ground floor with the wind whistling through, and no internal doors, and a gaping hole where the hideous funky modern fireplace had been (I mentioned this last time).

After a winter spent living with 1 metre of the only functioning radiator and trying to keep our puppy warm, the windows were fixed and an English stonemason came to install a traditional stone fireplace. We had tried to buy a reclaimed fireplace but they were prohibitably expensive. The English guy insisted on importing Bath stone from England, despite us offering to take him to a local quarry to buy the stone.

A few occasions we had English artisans do work, typically as they had been recommended. English trades people in France are a mix of the good, the bad and the ugly, some working officially and paying

tax, others working under the radar for cash only. One English builder altered a barn door but one side wasn't straight, and he proved to be light-fingered. We had a positive experience with a very skilled English joiner who refurbished our kitchen; his French was non-existent so we had to go with him to the sawmill to buy the timber, but he did a superb job, making custom units in his workshop and then fitting them on site. However, he was only interested in crafting wood and had zero commercial awareness, and his invoice was for a derisory sum so we added on a figure to make a total that we felt was reasonable.

French builders and artisans often seemed eccentric to us but always did a top-quality job. Our general builder was an old-school Normandy craftsman with a long white beard and great traditional skills. For instance he did the internal plastering using lime render, manually shaping the plasterwork around the window frames, plug sockets and so on. He laid our tomette (terracotta tile) floor with the tiles soaked before being laid as they absorb water and would otherwise dehydrate the mortar and not remain in place. We had bought tiles

reclaimed from a nineteenth century barn floor at a farm in the Loire valley, one or two tiles with animal paw prints created when they were drying. Some neighbours offered to collect them in their trailer, towed by a pretty large car which we thought would be fine. We stacked several hundred tiles into the trailer and set off for home but the car was struggling with the weight,

and things got hairy on the motorway when going uphill as we were moving far more slowly than the other traffic. We were obviously overloaded but thankfully it was a Sunday so there were no police to bother us. We made it home but not an experience to repeat.

Another character was our plumber who always did a great job, but had two eccentricities. Firstly, he never gave out his mobile number so the only way to contact him was to phone his landline at 1:05 pm; this was the time he was at home for the standard 2-hour lunch break in rural France (definitely not in the cities), and it gave him time to have his lunch undisturbed. The second oddity was that he rarely sent the bill for his work: we had an invoice for one or two larger jobs, but we never paid for the small to medium jobs, even for emergencies.

Suddenly the timescales got a bit more pressing when we set the date for our wedding as we didn't want to welcome guests to a building site; so, some things did get completed. Next time: a wedding in a French village.



Calling all singers!

Here is an invitation to save the day in your diary, Saturday October 10th, to come and share a wonderful singing experience with us in St Mary's Church Purton, in cool October!

We have been given an amazing opportunity to sing the main chorus parts of Handel's Messiah during the day, with a small public workshop concert at the end. All the essential details are on the poster including a QR code for booking a place.

What we are asking of you, at this stage, is to share the invitation with all your singing friends, choir members and others who might like to come and join in the day.

Vocal scores can be provided as will be lunch and refreshments and we are sure it will be a very exciting day. So please save the date, pass on the information to all you know who may be interested; and get set for a fantastic experience, under the baton of Bo Zohm from Faith Alive.

Thank you, Libbie

Purton House Organics & Farm Shop news

Lowering Food Miles

Pips Community Cafe took this photo of Roger, our friendly delivery man, bringing eggs for their delicious home made bakes. We also drop off occasional veg boxes donated by our regular customers when they go on holiday.

It's not only our staff with the good looks! We've improved the Farm Shop with some new patio doors and a fabulous new chiller - it really shows off our home grown and organic fruit and veg as well as keeping it fresh and full of flavour

This month we're highlighting the issue of food miles and showcasing the wealth of local produce available to us in this area. Here are just a few of the amazing local producers that supply the Farm Shop.

Home grown Veggies

After the early heatwave in May, the weather turned into a downpour in early June which was great for our crops in the fields. By the



time of this article, we should be starting to harvest heritage tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, cabbages, kales, sweetcorn, onions, spinach, chards, beetroot, lettuces, broad beans, runner beans and more. All grown right here in Purton in our beautiful rich, organic soil.

You can see the farm team in action in regular reels posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages: www.facebook.com/PurtonHouseOrganics www.instagram.com/purton_house_organics/

Local Wild Game

In time for summer BBQs, check out these delicious burgers prepared in our on-site butchery by local wild game suppliers, Takston. Courtney and his team use their considerable skills to humanely dispatch venison on the farm, keeping the ecosystem in balance and providing highly nutritional meat with zero food miles.

Local Ice Cream

Also in time for summer, we have plenty of local, home made ice cream. You can't get lower food miles than ice cream from our next door neighbours, Dora's Dairy! And we also stock Cornish ice cream from Robyn's Farmhouse not too far away in Launceston. Both farms produce their delicious ice creams on site with milk from their grass fed, small suckler herds creating a delicious, healthy treat.

Homemade bakes

What better way to enjoy the sunshine than to sit in a peaceful location with a cup of tea or coffee and a sumptuous home made cake! Katherine of Delicious Delights bakes her millionaire shortbreads, chocolate brownies and flapjacks for us in her farmhouse kitchen just up the road. And we also stock Pippins doughnuts on Fridays and Saturdays which are made in Swindon from local flour.

Purton Open Gardens

Don't forget we're on the trail for this fantastic village event. We'll be showcasing our wildflowers and will have some plants on sale for your own gardens. Purton has some very talented gardeners and we're grateful to the hard working organisers for bringing



them all together for a weekend of horticultural interest (and cake!)

Recipe - Thai Green Curry

Sometimes it's difficult to decide what's for dinner tonight! That's where Charlize, one of our weekend staff, came up trumps last week and suggested a curry. For a bit of a shortcut, a ready made curry paste sometimes comes in handy! Serve with rice, naan breads or home made flat breads which are also very easy to make:

Ingredients for Flat Breads:

Plain flour - 1tbsp per flatbread

Salt to taste

Water

Butter for frying

Put flour and salt in a bowl, add water and combine until a dough is formed, kneading gently in the bowl. Chill for about an hour before rolling.

Roll out to desired thickness and cut into pieces - a round cut into 4 makes nice segment shapes

Add a knob of butter to a frying pan. Heat until butter is hot but be careful not to let it burn and go brown. Then add your flatbread and fry on both sides. Quick and delicious!

Ingredients for curry:

Cooking oil - any will do; we use olive oil

1 Onion, sliced

Chopped vegetables, e.g. carrot, mushrooms, courgette, sweetcorn, peppers, beans

Chicken pieces (optional)

1 jar of curry paste

Fry the onions on medium heat for about 5 minutes until translucent

Add the other vegetables and stir fry for 5 minutes

If using meat, transfer vegetables to a dish, add a little more oil to the pan and fry meat pieces on each side to seal in the flavour. Put the vegetables back into the pan and add the curry paste - one jar serves 4 - 6 people. Stir on a medium heat for 1-2 minutes then lower heat to simmering

Simmer until the meat is cooked through and the vegetables tender - you may need to add a bit of water.

Experiment - all sorts of vegetables will go well in this curry!





Festival on the Farm 2026 31 July - 2nd August

We don't only do local food but local talent too! Our Festival features many of the local bands in our area. It's all being set up by an amazing team of volunteers who have been working hard all year! We have T shirts on sale in the Farm Shop and you can get your tickets at: www.festivalonthefarm.co.uk/tickets

Thanks for all your support and custom and we look forward to seeing you again soon

Kate and Team, Purton Farm Shop

Email: purtonfarmshop@gmail.com Mob 07703 696229



UK Health Security Agency

Tick Awareness

Be tick aware

1

Use an insect repellent that prevents ticks

2

Wear long sleeves and long trousers to prevent direct skin exposure

3

Keep to clearly defined paths and avoid brushing against vegetation

6

If you find a tick, remove it as soon as possible with a removal device

5

When you're back indoors, check for any ticks on you, your children and pets

4

Check for ticks on young children, around their heads and necks



Purton Tennis Club



We have launched a new and exciting programme of tennis at Purton this summer.

Cardio; Coach & Match Play; Tea & Tennis and Tennis4Tots have all been well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by those attending.

Tennis4Tots is an introduction to the game for the under 7s. Pedro, our new, young coach is very encouraging with the little ones and makes the sessions on Sunday mornings lots of fun. For the over 7s, Nicola leads our Junior Club on Saturday mornings - with the help of Teresa and our D of E volunteer, Tilia. Learning to play a sport at a young age helps with mobility, confidence and instils a sense of fair play as well as the love of the game.

Sid, our senior coach, will be leading the Tennis Coaching at St Mary's School in July, and following that, Sid will be holding Summer Camps at the Tennis Club; provisional dates are Monday 4th, Tuesday 5th and Friday 7th August. Running from 10am-3pm for a cost of £30 per day or £75 for all 3 days. Details will be on our website soon, so watch this space!

Cardio and Coach & Match Play are on Sunday mornings and open to adults and anyone over 14 years. Cardio is free for everyone to attend, which is fantastic! Why not give it a go - Just

turn up at 9.30 am, no previous tennis experience is necessary.

Our popular Tea & Tennis sessions continue throughout the month on alternative Thursday & Fridays starting at 10.30am. Friendly faces, refreshments and moderate exercise, in lovely surroundings, what is not to like? The July dates are as follows:

Thursday: 2nd, 16th & 30th July, Friday: 10th & 24th.

The Tennis Club has also organised friendly matches against Purton Stoke and Down Ampney on Friday evenings. These are just for fun and no doubt will finish with a trip to the pub! The more serious matches are played in the Swindon & District League, where every point counts and we are pleased to say that some of our top juniors including Ruby and Juliana are becoming regular members of the team.

For all the up-to-date news, please follow us on Facebook. Click the QR code for links to our website



*Janet Saunders (secretary), On behalf
of the Committee at Purton Tennis Club
Email: janetcsaunders@gmail.com*

We welcome submissions for publication in the August edition of *Purton Magazine* from the local community and from readers further afield.
Copy deadline is the 10th July. Please email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Purton Bowls Club



The season is going really well at Purton Bowls Club. Apart from some unseasonably cold weather during May we have played the majority of our games and find ourselves in early June performing really well in all leagues.

The Ladies Afternoon Team are 6th at the time of writing but having played two games less than all the teams above them are well placed to take top place with two wins. Meanwhile the Ladies Evening Team are second just 2 points below the early leaders Shrivenham.

In the Swindon & District Mixed Rinks League our team are top and looking well placed for promotion back to Division 1.

In the Afternoon League the B team are 3rd in Division 1 whilst the A team are matching this in Division 3.

In the County Competitions our Ladies Four of Alison Fail, Chris Mitchell, Julie Jones and Deanne Davis made the Semi-Final just missing out on the County Final, whilst our Triple of Charlie

Godwin, Bev Williamson and Ginny Nash went out at the Quarter Finals. More News next month as the other competitions progress.

The Bowls Club were delighted to take part in the highly successful Purton Fest Event on Saturday 13th June. It was great to take part with so many other Purton groups profiling what's great about the village.

Many people took the chance to give bowls a go, we were delighted with how many people seemed to enjoy the target events on the green and who began to understand the complexities of and many benefits associated with playing bowls.

We hope many will come back on a Friday evenings during the summer from 6pm to have another go and maybe think about joining.

*Alison Fail (Secretary) 01793 770015 or
07746 038957*

Purton & District Darts League



As the curtain falls on another successful and enjoyable darts season, we have witnessed some exciting darts matches, numerous 180s, great competitions and friendly competitiveness to win the league.

Overall winners of the winter league 2024-2025 were Purton Club C, captained by Keith Newman. This was a very fitting tribute to their former captain, Simon Osborne, who sadly passed away last September. Runners up were Purton Club B, captained by Mark Cutter. The singles were also won by Purton C with The Woodlands

Edge, captained by Josh Price, runners up. The Captains Cup was won by Ian Greenaway of The Tawny Owl with Adam Woolford of Purton Club D and Keith Newman of Purton Club C joint runners up. Well done to all our worthy winners. Trophies and prize monies were awarded at our Finals Night held on the 30th April. We raised £121 on the night from our raffle, and this sum has been donated to Purton Age Concern Minibus Fund, to help with the running costs of their minibus.

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 13th August 2025 at 8pm at Purton Club. Everyone is welcome to attend, so if you fancy playing darts on a Thursday evening, please come along and sign on to a team. We are a friendly bunch and don't take things too seriously. All our players have differing abilities, so whether you are a budding Luke Littler or a novice, you will be welcomed.

Also if you are a landlord and would like to sign a team up to represent your pub or club, please come along to the AGM or send a representative to register your team. Alternatively, if you would like to enter a team into our league, but have nowhere to play, we have a couple of local venues who would welcome you to play for them. The more the merrier! If you would like to enter a team into our 2026-2027 season and are unable to attend the AGM, please email me sue.giles@hotmail.co.uk or call/message me on 07912975337 for more details.

The winter league 2026-2027 will begin in September and carry on through until around the end of April, when we look forward to lots more exciting darts.

Sue Giles, Secretary

Purton Cricket Club

The season is starting to gather momentum with all of the teams in the swing of their campaigns, and the action is set to heat up as the summer progresses.

The spring improvements to the pavilion have gone down very well, with weekly barbecues held on Friday evenings, while our All Stars, Boys Dynamos, Girls Dynamos and under-11 sessions take place, totalling close to 100 children on the ground on a weekly basis.

Meanwhile, our under-13 and under-15 sessions take place in a quieter environment on Monday evenings, and if you are interested in getting involved with the club, please email youthcricket.purtoncc@gmail.com.

The adult section has continued to field three sides every Saturday, despite regular struggles with availability. The 1st XI are continuing to compete at their highest ever level in the West of





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

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

For the latest information visit:
facebook.com/pipscommunitycafe/

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homemade cakes, hot and cold seasonal
dishes, barista-style coffee and a range of hot
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email: marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk

Tel Mary: 01793 772298,

Duty team: 07990 340422

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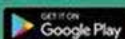
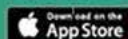
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T-SHIRTS & MUGS COMING SOON!

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Wiltshire Council

England Premier League Premier Two Gloucestershire/Wiltshire division, while the 2nd and 3rd XI have three wins between them in the Wiltshire County Cricket League.

During the May half-term, we held our first week of Cricket Camps, with great numbers across all three days in fantastic weather conditions – if not a little hot. We still have three weeks to come during the summer holidays, and the camps are led by the 1st XI overseas player Yassar Cook. The weeks are as follows: 28th-30th July, 11th-13th August and 25-27th August (9am-3pm each day). You can secure your place for £35 a day or £90 a day by emailing cricketcamps.purtoncc@gmail.com.

Off the field, there is a fantastic range of sponsorship opportunities to join forces with the club at a very exciting time, with three adult teams, the 1st XI competing at the highest level it has ever been, a burgeoning youth section and pavilion redevelopment work.

Our cheapest opportunities start with

the player sponsors at £50. You or your company will feature alongside your chosen player on our social media, whether that be team sheets, player of the week or other milestone posts.

Additionally, you can have your company displayed around the perimeter of our ground with one of our sponsor boards. This is a great way of getting visibility for your business with the countless individuals who run or walk around our ground daily, let alone on matchdays.

To find out more about this exciting opportunity or about other sponsorship opportunities, email vicechair.purtoncc@gmail.com.

If any of these are of interest, then please do get in touch with the club via the means available on the Play Cricket website or social media channels.

X (formerly Twitter) - [@purtoncc](https://twitter.com/purtoncc)
Facebook – Purton Cricket Club
Instagram - [@purtoncricketclub](https://www.instagram.com/purtoncricketclub)

Harrison Burrridge

Purton CC Home fixtures in July

4th July	2nd XI v Chippenham 3rd XI @ 1pm
5th July	U11 v Swindon @ 10am
	U13 v Royal Wootton Bassett @ 1pm
11th July	1st XI v Corsham @ 12pm
	3rd XI v Swindon Thalaivas @ 1pm
12th July	U11 v Avebury @ 10am
	U15 v Royal Wootton Bassett @ 1pm
18th July	2nd XI v Swindon Super Strikers @ 1pm
19th July	U11 v Royal Wootton Bassett @ 10am
25th July	1st XI v Royal Wootton Bassett @ 12pm
	3rd XI v Goatacre 4th XI @ 1pm
26th July	Wiltshire U14 v Devon @ 11am
28th July	U17 T20 v Malmesbury @ 6pm

Swindon Croquet Club

Swindon started their season in the South West Croquet Federation league, with a comfortable 13 - 3 home win over rivals Cheltenham Croquet Club at Moredon Sporting hub. The match, consisting of 20 games, never looked in doubt as the home team raced to an 8 - 2 lead in the early rounds of doubles and singles. The remaining 6 singles games saw Swindon cruise to a further 5 - 1 victory. Captain Clive Smith praised the whole team's efforts as every player contributed to this convincing first win. The team travel to near neighbours Kington Langley for their next game on the 3rd June.



Potential players are always welcome at the Moredon ground. Discover why croquet is a growing sport, enjoyed worldwide and how it can bring fun, fitness and friendship into your life. Swindon Croquet Club are based within Moredon Sporting Hub, Cheney Manor, Swindon, SN2 2QJ

If you would like to try croquet contact Wendy White on 07733271607 or email croquetswindon@gmail.com to find out more.

Pictured above: The winning team v Cheltenham

Pictured left: Colin Brain v Cheltenham

Avebury Vocal Ensemble

Sea Sunday is on 12th July this year and the Avebury Vocal Ensemble (AVE) is performing a concert on that day in St. Sampson's Church in Cricklade at 7.00pm.

Sea Sunday is an annual global event dedicated to celebrating, supporting and praying for the 1.9 million seafarers and fisherfolk who sustain the global economy. AVE's programme includes Stanford's ever-popular Songs of the Sea, two 20th century settings of the ancient Ave Maris Stella, two folk songs by Vaughan Williams and

three contrasting settings of the 16th century poem Never weather beaten sail. We will also celebrate musical anniversaries of Benjamin Britten, Pablo Casals and Samuel Sebastian Wesley.

Tickets are £12 and can be purchased on the door.

Cricklade Camera Club

Are you interested in photography, or do you just want to take better photographs?

If so, why not come along to Cricklade Camera Club. Visitors and new members will receive a warm welcome - you don't even need a camera. Check out the website at <https://crickladecameraclub.org/program/>

Over the summer there will be a series of outings, feel free to come along. We

usually meet at Cricklade Town Hall and share lifts. Keep an eye on the website for details.

Why not take part in the Cricklade Photo Competition? It's open to everyone. There are three categories: 10 and under, under 16, and adults. You don't need any special equipment or knowledge, just have a go.

*Phil Winfield, Programme Secretary,
Cricklade Camera Club*

Midsummer Magic with the Royal Wootton Bassett Orchestra

Join Royal Wootton Bassett Orchestra on July 11, 7.30pm in RWB Academy, SN4 7HG for a magical evening of music. The orchestra will showcase music with a sprinkling of magic from well-known classics, film, musicals and pop. Wine and chilled soft drinks will be served in the interval. Tickets are £10 for adults, 18s and under free, and are available from our website rwbo.org.uk/concert-diary/

Incredibly talented members of the orchestra will feature as soloists. Megan Bailey will perform The Dew Fairy from Hansel & Gretel by Humperdinck and Jason Hoult will play the horn solo in Romance for Horn and Orchestra by Saint-Saens.

Continuing the magical theme the

orchestra will play: Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Greensleeves, Tchaikovsky: Sleeping Beauty Waltz, Schwartz: Suite from Wicked, Shore: Lord of the Rings Suite, Mancini, Procol Harum, Beatles and many more. We do hope you will join us.

RWBO is a well-established local orchestra who, under the guidance of Musical Director, Nicola Ashton, performs at least three concerts a year. Our last concert, London Calling, held in April in Malmesbury Abbey, and featuring Dominic Irving performing Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No1, was a sell-out success. We do hope you will join us for our Summer Concert. To find out more about the orchestra please visit our website or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

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Find our collection boxes at:

- Co-op
- Silver Threads Hall (by community fridge)

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Purton Women's Institute

Meet on Monday 13th July at
10am in the Silver Threads
Hall. The speaker will be John
Holland who will talk about
how our unused Sewing
Machines are so important to
the women in Ghana. Non-
members welcome £5



Royal Wootton Bassett Choral Society

SUMMER CONCERT

**Saturday 4th July 2026
at 7.30 pm**

St Bartholomew's Church
Royal Wootton Bassett
"Come Ye Sons of Art"
by Henry Purcell and
famous opera choruses

Free Admission
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Royal Wootton Bassett Gardening Club

Meetings are held at The Memorial Hall, Station Road, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8EN. Doors open 7pm, meetings start at 7.30pm. Visitor fee £3 per meeting, annual membership £17

For more information email pat.perryman1@gmail.com

Check us out on www.facebook.com/WoottonBassettGardeningClub

6th July - Easy plants for difficult places with Ray Broughton



Purton Annual Show and Pathway Church

Children's Free Craft Workshop
Saturday 8th August, 2-4 pm
at the Silver Threads Hall

Come along and make Sock Puppets
(6 years and under)



Create Colour Wheels
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on Saturday 15th August

Please note children must be
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*If you would like your event
featured in the Placard,
please send details by 10th of
the preceding month to:
mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk*





Royal Wootton Bassett Orchestra

Musical Director: Nicola Ashtori Leader: Joanne Barrett

MIDSUMMER MAGIC

Music for a summer's evening - with a sprinkling of magic

Humperdink: The Dew Fairy - Hansel & Gretel
Soloist: Megan Bailey

Saint-Saëns: Romance for Horn and Orchestra
Soloist: Jason Hoult

Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Greensleeves

Tchaikovsky: Sleeping Beauty Waltz

Schwartz: Suite from Wicked

Shore: Lord of the Rings Suite

Mancini, Procul Harum, Beatles and more

Saturday
11th July 2026
7:30 pm

RWB Academy

TICKETS

£10 (18 and under free)
www.rwbo.org.uk



Avebury Vocal ENSEMBLE

Conductor: Peter Tims
Organist: Simon Dinsdale

Summer at Sea

Stanford Songs of the Sea

plus

music celebrating the sea
and anniversaries of

Wesley & Britten

Sunday
12th July 2026
7.00 pm

St. Sampson's Church
Cricklade
SN6 6AT



Tickets £12
on the door
& online
under 18s free

www.aveburyvocal.org

Image: Nathan Dumlao (Unsplash)

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12/26



Breeze through summer

Our last Sunday Breeze Ride 7th June was a very pleasant sunny cycle from Moredon Sporting Hub through the centre of Swindon - including the Fleming Way bus terminus to Coate Water. This ride had to be abandoned last autumn due to torrential rain so we were determined to reach our destination in fine weather! It was another capacity ride with yet more newcomers joining our merry band of riders. We chatted, drank coffee and enjoyed seeing Swindon from a different perspective - mostly without traffic.

On 19 June we are continuing the Friday night Fish and Chip rides. This month we're visiting The Bell at Purton Stoke and hope it's as enjoyable as our last Friday night ride to The Sun at Lydiard Millicent. Other than a delayed start due to a puncture, the ride continued without incident and we all enjoyed a social evening with great food and company.

Our next Sunday morning Breeze ride isn't fixed yet as we have a few holidays and other commitments to work around, but we discussed a ride further afield with the assistance of Tracy and her van to transport bikes.

Women of all abilities are welcome, bring your own or borrow a bike and helmet from the Hub and join us for a free social ride discovering Swindon's cycle path network. We're a friendly bunch and there's no pressure to go faster than you're comfortable with (and no shame in getting off to push if you need to!) Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/BreezeSwindon/ or visit <https://letsride.co.uk/breeze>

*Heather Ponting-Bather,
Breeze Ride Leader*



11/26

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Want to Sing? Try Big Sing Thing!

Whether you've sung in a choir for years or only ever sung in the shower, you'll be warmly welcomed at Big Sing Thing (BST).

We are a friendly community choir that brings people together through the joy of singing. Our members come from all walks of life, with a wide range of musical experience and abilities. Men and women, young and old – everyone is welcome.

There are no auditions and no requirement to read music. You just need to enjoy singing. We perform a wide variety of songs including pop, rock, country, musical favourites, and classic songs, ensuring there's something for all our members and our audiences to enjoy.

Our Music Director, Val Weston, has a lifetime of experience in teaching music

and leading choirs. She knows how to get the best out of a choir while ensuring rehearsals are relaxed, enjoyable, and full of fun.

Singing has many proven benefits for both physical and mental wellbeing. Just as importantly, being part of a choir creates lasting friendships and a real sense of community.

We also support local charities through regular cake and book sales, with all proceeds going to good causes.

We meet every Monday evening from 7:30pm to 9:00pm at the Bible Society, Westlea, Swindon. Free parking is available in the large on-site car park.

Why not come along and try a free session? Simply turn up on a Monday evening, or visit our website at www.bigsingthing.org.uk for more information. We'd love to meet you!

Learn, Laugh, Live with Swindon U3A

Swindon u3a Open Day 2026

Date: 29th August Time: 10am – 1.00pm

Place: Deanery School, Peglars Way, Swindon SN1 7DA

Swindon u3a are once again inviting you to our annual Open Day. If you are retired, semi-retired or planning your retirement you will find a wealth of interesting activities, learning opportunities and social interaction available, in and around the Swindon area, to enjoy with like-minded people. We offer about 120 interest groups covering a variety of topics and activities: Arts and Crafts, Literature, Poetry and Theatre, Games and Quizzes,

Foreign Languages, History and Current Affairs, Music, Physical Activities, Trips and Travel, Science and Current Affairs, and even a Group entitled 'Life, the Universe and Everything'!

Our Open Day on 29th August at Deanery School is not just about recruiting new members – it is our annual celebration of the wonderful work that our charity does – our fantastic array of groups, our friendships formed, our continued learning and development as older (slightly!) people. Do come along for a chat with current members and to find out more about us. And visit our website at www.swindonu3a.org.uk

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Village Choir celebrating 30 years!

One cold winter's night in February 1996, two men: Graham Loveday and Peter Hallam sat in the pub and hatched a plan to start a village choir. The rest, as they say, is history.

The first meeting was in the School Hall and 12 people turned up. Within a few weeks, 53 people had joined. Within a year, the choir was off to perform in our twinning town, Grandchamp des Fontaines, in France.

Over the years we've had a wide variety of talented Musical Directors and delivered some amazing performances. These have included a complete Phantom of the Opera, extracts from Gilbert & Sullivan operettas and a Last night of the Proms.

In the latter years, performing in the village hall, church, school and even under Ellisons' canopy during Covid,

the Village Choir has raised money for lots of causes. These include our local hospice, the school's new atrium, the church, the village hall's solar panels, Parkinsons UK, a children's cancer charity in Swindon and the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Today we are 45-strong, still with a smattering of original members, and going from strength to strength under the leadership of Nicky Akeroyd.

On Saturday October 17th we're celebrating 30 years of singing with a glamorous gala night showcasing the very best of our repertoire.

Please come along and join us at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Tickets £10.00. Bar and Raffle.

*Georgie Paris, Chair, Ashton Keynes
Village Choir*

Mini crossword

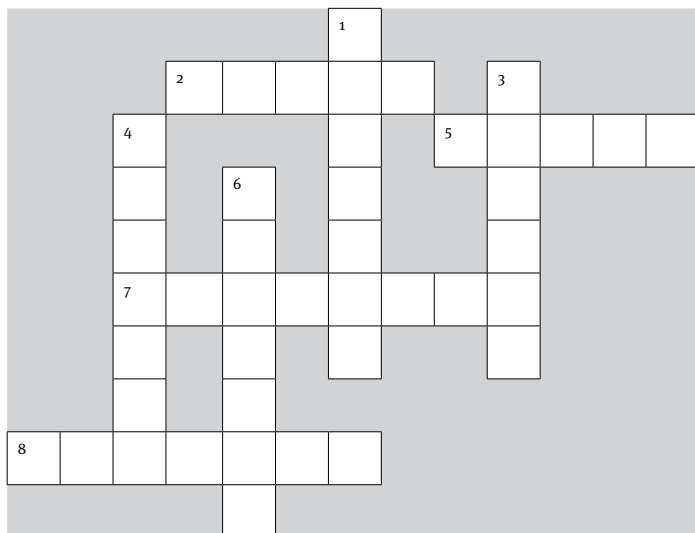
This is the next in our series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun and without prizes. The answers to June's puzzle are

1D) Music 2A) Clubs 2D) Community 3A) Food 4D) Drinks 5D) Groups 6A) Entertainment 7A) Purton 8A) Fest

This month there are eight clues.

- 2 across Bucolic (5)
- 5 across Feathered friends (4)
- 7 across Forest (8)
- 8 across Bugs (7)
- 1 down Beasts (7)
- 3 down Pastures (6)
- 4 down Blooms (7)
- 5 down Keep safe (7)

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



Do you have friends or family who lived in the village but have moved away?

Purton Magazine is available online!

Each issue is uploaded at the end of each month, and previous editions of the magazine are available. So wherever you are in the world, keep up to date with all the village news!

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Come and Sing - excerpts of Handel's Messiah

Saturday 10th October 2026



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