

August 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 Saturdays 10.00am-1.00pm)</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

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Micromys minutus see page 28.

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From the Editors

August 2026
Volume 48 No.8
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So dear reader, what has the first week under our new Prime Minister been like? At the time of writing, we only know that he likes his milk first with his tea and that he is “vehemently against single file queuing at the bar”. Some will find those details add perspective to our latest top politician’s character, yet he claims that this is “the most significant change moment in our politics for 40 years.” That said, others are still waiting to learn who will be entrusted with the position of Chancellor of the Exchequer to say nothing about any of the likely altered policies for the country we need to hear about.

The country is still waiting for the most significant change moment in 60 years as yet again, the England football team has failed to win the world cup football tournament. That said, they have at least beaten France 6 – 4 to win the bronze 3rd/4th match as the precursor to the final game. On page 43, we learn of the recent death of local footballer Allan Coole, who contributed so much to Purton football club over the years. He was very much a one club man compared with “players moving around like chess pieces” these days.

This month we are pleased to bring you

another new series. Domestic dogs and cats are the majority of animal types that seek the professional help of veterinary surgeries. Professional workers in the sector need to have an understanding of the needs and niceties of a whole variety of animals. One such veterinary nurse has been rehabilitating wildlife for many years, including volunteering for The Bat Conservation Trust as a trained bat carer. On page 32 you will find the first article in this new series entitled ‘From Cats to Bats.’

Elsewhere our ‘Souvenirs de France’ series reaches the fourth article which describes some fascinating details associated with a wedding in France. From finding locally sourced fragrant flowers to a pair of Percheron horses providing the carriage horsepower for pleasure rides around the local lanes, we learn about all the fun and frustrations of organising your own marriage on the other side of the channel.

Abundant holiday activity options are published at the tennis and cricket clubs (pages 46/47) and at the Moredon Sporting Hub (page 54) with Festival on the Farm details on page 42. Much for all to enjoy!

18

Species of bats reside in the UK as mentioned in our new series
- see page 32

<100

Children attend Friday evening sessions at Purton cricket ground -
see page 47

636

Was the winning answer to the buttons in the jar competition organised by Purton WI - see page 25

Purton Parish Council News



Purton Fest: Community

Thanks to everyone who attended and helped to make it such a great event. Thank you too to our brilliant community groups and sports clubs, who made their stalls so attractive and engaging.

We are also grateful to everyone who completed the online survey, which has shown us what worked this year and what needed improvement. It has also informed our planning for next year's event. The results of the survey are published on Facebook and www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk, so do have a look.

Grounds Team

Head Groundsman Luke has been working on his own for the last few weeks because Groundsman Dan has been recuperating at home following an injury. Luke has been helped out by volunteers (including councillors) and has done a great job of keeping on top of the mowing, watering and monitoring the play parks during the fearsomely hot weather.

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

Footpath Team

Our annual village walk will be on Sunday 6th September. It will be approximately 4 miles and there may be just a few stiles; the route has not been finalised yet. For more details look out for the posters that'll be put up beforehand. Meet in the layby by

the vet's to leave at 2 o'clock. Looking forward to having nice weather on the day and seeing you there.

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/2026/02524 – Braydon Manor Farm, Braydon. SN5 0AG. Retrospective Change of Use of Agricultural Yard Space to Commercial Dog kennels – Amended Plans
- PL/2026/03595 – Manor Farm, 10 Purton Stoke. SN5 4JG. Erection of a single-storey detached garden shed.



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12/26

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- PL/2026/03397 – 27 Mill View, SN5 4FN. Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation (involving internal alterations only)
- PL/2026/03856 – Sewage Treatment Works, Mopes Lane. SN5 4JA. Welfare Building.
- PL/2026/03969 – 6 College Road. SN5 4AR. Single storey extension to rear.

Determined Applications

- PL/2026/01525 – Petroil Ltd, The Coach House. Common Platt. Purton. SN5 5JZ. Permission in principle for residential development of a minimum of 4 dwellings (Use class 3)
- PL/2026/02844 – 18 Church Path, Purton. SN5 4DR. Rowan - Reduce by 25%; Hornbeam - Reduce height to align with top of pleach training; Silver Birch - Reduce size by 25%, Cherry Blossom – Removal
PL/2025/019645 – Restrop Farm, Restrop Rd, Purton. SN5 4LW Change of use of agricultural land to residential garden.
- PL/2026/00618 – Land adjacent, 49 The Hyde, Purton. SN5 4EA Variations of Conditions 2&3 on PL/2023/06960 - Erection of Single Dwelling Access & Parking Following Outline Permission.
- PL/2026/03063 – 7 Pavenhill, Purton. SN5 4BY. Loft conversion, to include hip-to-gable roof enlargement and rear and side dormer additions.
- PL/2026/02931 – Redwings, 24 Upper Pavenhill, Purton. SN5 4DQ. Replacement of existing canopy over front door and construction of a

new covered gateway and replacing window with large, glazed doors

Withdrawn Application for Noting

- PL/2025/05124 – 49 The Hyde, Purton. SN5 4EA. Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscape, layout and scale) following outline application PL/2022/03841

Parish Council Meetings 2026

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

- 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
- Follow us on Instagram - 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 770704 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



We would love you to join us at the next Purton village litterpick on Saturday 5th September - everyone is welcome and it just takes an hour of your time. All equipment is provided with free refreshments afterwards. Please meet outside Silver Threads Hall/ Pips at 10am.

Children must be accompanied and the event will only be cancelled if the weather is inclement. No need to confirm your attendance, just turn up. For further information, please email: purtonlitterpick@gmail.com

*Anne Maddison, Organiser,
Purton Litter Picking Group*

Purton Surgery Patient Group



Thank you to everyone who stopped by and chatted on our two community days in June. It was lovely to meet you all.

The Purton Community Day was a great success, and we were able to talk to so many people about the work of the PSPG, share some of the equipment that the group has bought for the surgery, and hand out information and gifts!

We also thank Sylvia and Colin

Freemantle for the use of their garden at Purton Open gardens. During the day we raised £185 for PSPG funds. Thanks to everyone who provided cakes and plants and to those who popped in and bought them.

Following these 'away' days we have received several expressions of interest in joining the PSPG committee and look forward to welcoming our new team members.

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 latest lucky winners are:

First prize of £100 to Marliyn Kilford (number 188)

Second prize of £15 to Mrs V Lawrence (number 57)

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.

Purton & District Age Concern

Purton and District AGE CONCERN

Coffee Morning – Saturday 4 July

Our annual Coffee Morning was another great success, with an excellent turnout and, thankfully, weather that did not fry anybody! In fact, it was pleasantly comfortable and made for a thoroughly enjoyable morning.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated cakes, plants, tombola prizes and raffle prizes. The homemade biscuits were delicious, the tea and coffee kept flowing, and there was a wonderful community atmosphere throughout.

Special thanks go to Dick and Jackie for once again allowing us to take over their garden—I hope it's recovered by now! We'd also like to thank our committee and all the friends and volunteers who helped set everything up and clear away afterwards. We couldn't do it without you.

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 5 August. 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

Steam Train Trip

We're pleased to be able to rearrange our Brecon Mountain Railway trip for 23 September, after the original outing had to be cancelled because of the hot weather.

The cost remains £32 per person for qualifying residents, including coach and train travel, or £34 per person for those living outside the village. Please bring a packed lunch, as seating in the café is limited.

The coach will leave at 10.00am and is expected to return between 6.00pm and 6.30pm.

To book your place, please contact Peter on 01793 778119. We expect this trip to be popular, so early booking is recommended as places are limited.

Could You Help Us?

Local volunteers and a small committee run Purton & District Age Concern entirely.

We are 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 are to continue and grow.

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

If you would like to find out more, we would 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

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For more information contact:
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E: looker.mia@gmail.com

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.

Pheonix Transport

Please note that Pheonix 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

Purton Silver Threads

The Silver Threads Charity

Many people in the village, and surrounding area, now visit the Silver Threads Hall regularly to use our wonderful community cafe, Pips and attend group meetings and functions. The Hall has become a vibrant and well used facility, but many people will be unaware that the history of the Silver Threads goes back to the 1950s. The Parish Council bought the original recreation hall for use by villagers. Miss Elizabeth Ward formed the Silver Threads Club, meeting at The Working Men's Institute, to provide a social group for older people. This club thrived with a wide variety of activities, even their own choir. After fundraising, the original recreation hall was replaced in the 1980s, providing a venue for a lunch club which was run by volunteers and the WRVS. The Silver Threads social club held their meetings in the new hall too. Sadly, the Silver Threads Social Club was forced to close during the Covid 19 pandemic and, due to a few circumstances, has only continued to

meet twice a year with diminishing numbers.

The present Silver Threads Committee would very much like to revive the social club and invite people of "pensionable" age to join us for a three-month trial to see if a new club is viable.

The meeting dates will be Monday 28th September 2026, Monday 26th October 2026 and Monday 23rd November 2026, all from 2.30 - 4pm at The Silver Threads Hall. Attendees will be asked to pay £2 per meeting to help cover the cost of refreshments. We hope to provide the chance for people to socialise with tea and cake, occasional activities and plenty of friendly chat.

Transport can be arranged on the Age Concern minibus, subject to availability, booking in the usual way through Hazel on 01793 770862.

For further information please contact:

- Berta - 01793 772587
- Pat - 01793 772382
- Bernice - 01793 771210

Lunch Club

We have been providing a lunch club meal at Pips on a weekly basis for several years now but, at present, the team are all suffering various health problems.

Because of this we have reluctantly decided that, for the time being, we are only able to provide a meal once a

month, this will be on the first Thursday of each month. The next lunch club meal will be on Thursday August 6th please ring Edna to reserve a place as usual.

If there is anyone who feels able to step in and help with cooking please give me a call on 07455 046815 to have a chat.

Marie Dempsey

Purton Annual Flower, Arts, Crafts & Produce Show 2026

Save the date!

Saturday 15th August, 2pm at Purton Village Hall

A reminder that entry forms can be submitted at our two booking-in sessions: Wednesday 12th August 2-4pm at Pips and 7-9pm at 12 Church Path. Forms can also be accepted by Pat at 3 Orchard Gardens, Purton.

All the details of how to enter are in the Show schedules, available from The Co-op, One Stop and local businesses.

We are also hosting, in conjunction with Pathway Church, a free craft workshop for children on Saturday 8th August,

2-4pm at the Silver Threads Hall. We will be making sock puppets and colour wheels to enter into the Show. Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult.

Refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon of the Show and prize winners will be announced at around 4pm. Profits raised will be donated to The Royal British Legion.

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

Pat Hughes, on behalf of the show committee

Purton Open Gardens

Thank you to everyone who came along to support this year's Open Gardens event. It was wonderful to see so many visitors from Purton, Purton Stoke, our neighbouring towns and villages and even from as far away as Australia. We hope you all enjoyed the gardens, refreshments and the beautiful weather. The event was a great success, and that is entirely down to the generosity and enthusiasm of everyone involved. Thank you to all who opened their gardens, sold programmes, baked cakes, served refreshments and gave up their time to help with the success of this event.

Most importantly, we are delighted to announce that, thanks to your support, we raised £1,953 from programme

sales. This will be donated to our three chosen charities; Prospect Hospice, Jubilee Gardens Project and Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

In addition to this, a further £2,361.32 was raised through sales of refreshments and plants in individual gardens, and this will be donated to the chosen charities of those involved.

Both of these totals exceed the amounts raised in 2024 which is a great achievement and thank you once again for your support.

We hope you enjoyed visiting the gardens and we look forward to doing it all again in two years' time!

Diana, Bridget, Lynn, Liz, Gavin, Clare and Andy

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Village Centre Open Space - Play Close Open Space

Bowls Club Pavilion (October to March only)

To Book Please Contact:-

Telephone: 01793 771066

E-mail:

clerk@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website:

www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Purton Library - 1 High Street, Purton SN5 4AA

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

Opening times: Tuesdays 2-7pm, Fridays 2-4.30pm, Saturdays 10am-1pm

Contact: Jane Hunt, Library Service Volunteer Co-ordinator

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

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Wiltshire Council

Purton Library News

Children invited to join Summer Reading Challenge in Wiltshire libraries

Children across Wiltshire are being encouraged to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge, which launched in all libraries across the county on Saturday 4 July.

Last year, 6,342 children took part through Wiltshire libraries.

The free challenge, created by The Reading Agency and delivered through libraries across the UK, encourages children aged 4 to 11 to read six books over the summer holidays. Along the way they will collect rewards before receiving a certificate and medal for completing the challenge.

This year's theme, Read to the Beat, celebrates the connection between reading and music.

Children can choose the books they want to read, whether that's fiction, non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, picture books, eBooks or audiobooks. They can complete the challenge at their own pace throughout the summer.

Children can sign up at any Wiltshire library from Saturday 4 July and have until Saturday 5 September to read six books. Library membership is free, and children will receive a sticker booklet and joiner's bookmark when they register for the challenge.

Wiltshire libraries also offer Story Sharers for children under four and Story Adventurers for older children looking to set themselves a longer-term reading goal. www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

St Mary's Fellowship of Women

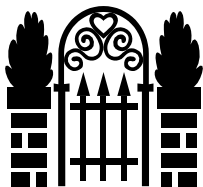
St Mary's Fellowship of Women spent a great afternoon on 15th June having a Vintage Tea Party. Everyone who owned a hat of some description made the effort to wear it while enjoying a selection of delicious food which was provided by the committee, music from the 40s, 50s and 60s was played throughout the meal. The tables were decorated with flowers and vintage china using teacups and saucers! No mugs! With teapots of tea! A great memory for our archive.



Susan Berry, Secretary

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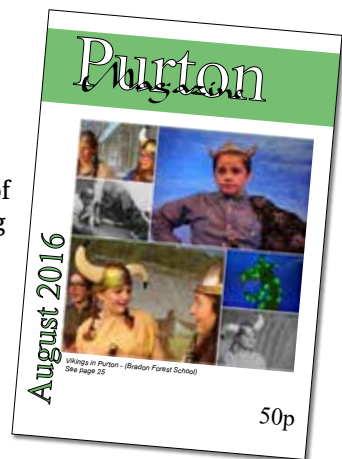
Ten Years Ago...

Judging by the Magazine, the summer of 2016 had plenty of rain. At least some things have improved in the succeeding ten years. One activity which was not affected was the Darts League, celebrating its seventieth anniversary. Is it the 80th this year?

Of course, being summer the village travelled far and wide. St. Mary's School probably went the furthest, to Bude. After high ropes and surfing, they completed an assault course "strategically". But no mention of Times Tables. Back home, the school had been learning the importance of perseverance. Next time they have this course, maybe they could let me know; I need it sometimes to write this column.

In the meantime, the Historical Society had been to Waddesdon Manor, Bradon Forest to Oxford, while our neighbours, the Wessex Male Choir, were singing at the top of a mountain in Austria. Future trips were planned to Bournemouth and Chelsea, not forgetting the Age Concern Mystery Tour.

But it was still raining. After 8 had had to cancel their mini-Olympics, much to the relief of the less sporty members, and instead enjoyed "a sedate form of bingo". All's well that ends well.



Twenty Years Ago...

In the August 2006 issue of Purton Magazine there was a very informative article about the then new community liaison committee that had been formed to discuss Hills' plans to develop part of the Parkgate Farm site for hazardous waste disposal.

Readers learnt that there was a critical need for hazardous waste disposal facilities in the UK with the number of permitted sites reducing from over 200 to less than 10 following changes in legislation. The Parkgate site's great advantage is being located on a deep deposit of highly impermeable Oxford clay some 100m deep.

That band of clay only occurs in isolated areas across England but makes for one of the best geological settings for all types of landfill

which only takes place in the top 10 metres. As each phase of the landfill is completed, a minimum of a one metre layer of engineered clay is used to cap the site to create a total seal. Top soils are then replaced on top and the site can be returned to agriculture.

Elsewhere in the magazine 20 years ago there was an article from Ps and Qs about renewable energy. It helpfully listed a wide range of alternative energy systems available to home owners. It concluded with the comment that with prices dropping over recent years back then, it had become a more feasible option than previously. Now, 20 years later, it would be interesting to read an update on 2026 renewable energy options and costs.

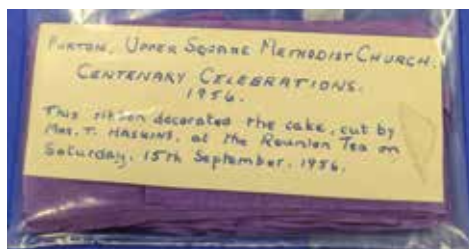
Purton Historical Society



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. There will be a walk around some of the features discussed in the talk on Saturday 26th September at 2pm (more details next month).

Keith Allsop
allsopk83@hotmail.com

Purton Museum News



The Purton Upper Square Methodist Church celebrated its centenary from September 8th -16th 1956. A cake, cut by Mrs T Haskins during the Reunion Tea at The Red House on Saturday 15th, was adorned with this purple ribbon and served on bespoke napkins.

Other events to celebrate the occasion included a pageant by the Sunday School, 100 Years of Religious Song and a Service of Commemoration and Dedication conducted by Circuit Members.

The exhibition Purton on a Plate can be viewed every Tuesday 3.00pm-5.30pm and the last Saturday of every month 10.00am-12.30pm until the end of October. The exhibition 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.

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

Girlguiding in Purton

Brownie holiday

Residential events are fantastic opportunities for girls to gain confidence, build friendships and try new experiences. 22 girls from 1st and 2nd Purton Brownies did all of that and more at a recent holiday. Here are accounts from two of the Brownies.

The Awesome Brownies Holiday - Girlguiding fun

Friday 26th - Sunday 28th June 2026, by Grace Furze

Brownies had a blast at the Brownie holiday at The East Tytherton Guiding Centre in Wiltshire. It was a hot weekend at the end of the heatwave, and some of us had never been away from home on our own for that long before, so we were very brave!

It was Moana-themed, and everyone watched Moana on a screen with a projector so they could see the movie. Then, they had a delightful hot choc and an ice pop.

We had many other activities to keep us occupied, including making bracelets, making light-up bottles and making Hawaiian leis.

At the end of the holiday we were all given 2 special Brownie badges, one that says "Aloha Hawaiian challenge" and the other saying "I have been on a Brownie HOLIDAY".

We came home feeling tired but happy with our creations. Thank you to all the leaders and parent volunteers for making this happen. We wouldn't have had fun without you.

My first Brownie holiday, by Harriet Camp

My first Brownie holiday was great because I got to paint shells and stick sea animals to bottles and I wanted to say a big thank you to the leaders because they cooked us food and I really appreciate what they did for us.

Both Brownie units (Monday and



Tuesday) will have a few spaces from September. A perfect time to start and settle in ahead of the next Brownie residential event – a sleepover at the end of November.

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 Women's Institute



Purton Women's Institute took a tour of Lydiard House on Wednesday 1st July.

We heard all about the families that lived in the house over the years. Many of the viscounts lead quite unconventional lives, using assumed names and had several mistresses with secret families hidden in other parts of the country. One viscount ran away with his own half-sister and fathered several children. There was even a murderer amongst them who was spared from execution after a large sum of money was paid to King Charles for a pardon.

During WW2 the house was offered to the military for the housing of troops but it was so badly damaged that it was immediately given back to the family. However a camp was set up on the grounds.

We were told how the house came to be owned by the Swindon Council and about the extensive repairs that were needed to restore it back to its present glory. Much of the plaster work on the ceilings was carried out by Italian specialists who left many messages on the walls of the attic.

Our tour guide made the visit so interesting with her ability to tell a good story.

After a very informative tour of the house we enjoyed a scrumptious tea with lashings of cream, jam and scones.

At Purton Fest the WI ran a 'How Many Buttons in the Jar?' competition in aid of Prospect Hospice.

The actual number in the jar was 636. Winner was Kerry Johnston who guessed 634 and won herself £20. £105 was raised and donated to Prospect Hospice.

Deirdre White

Our speaker in July was John Holland, a Purton resident, who spoke about how our unused/unwanted sewing machines could be very useful to the women of Ghana.

Our speaker explained how he had been to an area in Ghana to help with the installation of water tanks and other building projects. He found out a lot about the needs of the residents.

John met a translator called Abigail who later contacted him about her need for a sewing machine. Abigail wished to make clothes and to go on a three year course to learn the techniques used in the Fashion Industry. This young woman's paid job did not provide enough money to pay for this course so John paid for her to go on this course and obtained a sewing machine for her.

Our speaker realised that if more Ghanian women had sewing machines that they too could learn how to use Ghana's very colourful fabrics to make clothes for sale and for the needs of their family.

John told the members and visitors how he organised sewing machines being sent to Ghana through a Ghanian man he spoke to who would transport unwanted hand or electric sewing machine to Ghana alongside the items he sent to that country.

The last time John went to Ghana he organised the transportation of 12 sewing machines and their distribution to where they were needed. He is still asking for unwanted sewing machine via Social Media. John Holland is an inspiring, proactive and generous man.

Jane Smith

Hundreds turn out as Lydiard Millicent holds first-ever Village Fete

It was bunting, bucket-and-spade weather, and a very starstruck queue of toddlers on Saturday as Lydiard Millicent held its first-ever Village Fete on the field next to the Parish Hall — and by all accounts, the little village didn't do things by halves.

Running from 1pm to 6pm and put together by the Parish Hall Trustees, the fete packed an entire summer's worth of entertainment into one afternoon. Scarrott's Fun Fair rides spun away in the sunshine, a pizza van and Mr Whippy van did brisk trade, and All Saints Church ran a tombola and a "human fruit machine" that had children in stitches. There was face painting, a nostalgic 1940's memorabilia display, bracelet making and tattoos, and a full run of stalls from local crafters and the WI. The Sun Inn kept the licensed bar flowing, while inside the hall it was homemade cakes and a cuppa for those after something quieter. Purton Scouts had children busy making toggles and keyrings, and Lydiard Pre School's "Guess the Teddy's Name" competition had a queue that barely let up all afternoon. Wiltshire Police and Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue rolled up with vehicles for youngsters to clamber over and Prospect Hospice also had a stand on the day.

The entertainment tent, meanwhile, hardly had a quiet moment. The Sun Bird Tai Chi Group opened things up, before the undisputed star of the afternoon arrived — Bluey, mobbed for photos by a small army of delighted fans. A fancy dress competition for

under-5s and 6-10s followed, before the CJ School of Dance and the White Horse Rock n Roll Jive Group took their turns entertaining the crowd.

"It really shows what a strong community spirit this village has"

But beyond the rides and the raffle tickets, what struck most people was simply how many turned out, and how many different parts of village life were represented in one field — young families alongside residents who've been here decades, the church, the school, the scouts, local traders and a small army of volunteers, all pulling in the same direction for an afternoon. It's exactly the kind of day that makes the case for village life better than any speech could: a reminder of what a strong community spirit actually looks like when everyone shows up for one another.

Lisa, a local resident who came along with her family, said: "It was so lovely to see the whole green full of people again. My kids have been talking about meeting Bluey all week — it's exactly the kind of afternoon that makes you glad to live here."

Sherilyn and Mary, organisers from the Parish Hall Trustees, added: "We couldn't have asked for a better turnout. Seeing the whole community come together like this, after so much planning, made every bit of it worthwhile — and it means so much for the future of the hall. It really shows what a strong community spirit this village has."

The Parish Hall Trustees have thanked everyone who volunteered, ran a stall, or came along on the day, and confirmed that funds raised will go straight back into the village hall. A special thank you also goes to everyone who turned out to make the afternoon such a success.

The Trustees also took the opportunity to remind residents that both the Parish Hall and the adjoining field are available to hire, with the field bookable from April to October. Full details can be found at lydiardmillicentparishhall.org.uk, and residents are encouraged to follow the Parish Hall's Facebook page for updates on future events.

Upcoming Events at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall

- Saturday 26th September - Bingo Night - Back by popular demand! Doors open 6.30pm, eyes Down 7pm. Cash Prizes: 1 Line, 2 Lines, Full House. Bring your own alcohol. Cost £10 per person (inc nibbles & book of 6 games)
Email lmph1965@gmail.com to reserve your place and receive payment details.
- Gin Tasting Evening – Date to be set. As with our wine tasting evenings, we will be joined by Magnum Wines. Check back next month or on the Parish Hall website/social media for details.
- Christmas Event – Saturday 5th December. Mince Pies – Teas & Coffees 11am-1pm
- Christmas Tree Lighting & Carol

Singing 4.30pm Inside & out. We will be joined by Purton Village Voices. Hot food van, mulled wine & warm mince pies. Bring your own alcohol. More details to follow.

Regular Events

- Cake Break – Every Monday (apart from 1st Monday monthly) 2-4pm. Come & enjoy a pot of tea or coffee & delicious home made cakes & scones. All welcome, just turn up! Self funded by donations on the day. August dates 10th 17th, 24th (note not on 31st - Bank Holiday)
- Macmillan Cake Break – Monday 21st September. All our takings for that week go to Macmillan Cancer Support. As usual there will be a raffle.
- Book Club - At Cake Break, 2nd Monday monthly. 2-3pm followed by tea & cakes. New members are always welcome. To find out more, contact Phil Green on 07867 900278 or pag25green@hotmail.co.uk
- Soleluna Pizza - Tuesdays 4.30pm – 8pm in the hall car park. Pre-orders accepted www.pizzasoleluna.com
- Light Lunch - 1st Wednesday of each month. 12-2pm. This event is now taking a break. See future magazines for further updates.

To keep up to date with all our community events, please refer to our website: lydiardmillicentparishhall.org.uk 'Community Events', and our Facebook page

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.



Telephone Upgrade

After changing from BT to EE and half the village not being able to get me on my landline, I have now changed to Sky and my home telephone number is available again - 771890

I apologise to anyone who hasn't been able to contact me on this for some time.

Lindsey Hall

The Harvest Mouse

This month our front cover features the Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus*), a tiny mammal found across central and southern UK. The harvest mouse really is tiny - an adult can weigh as little as a 2p piece! It prefers habitats with long grass, but you are most likely to spot its round, woven-grass nests.

It grows to 5-7cm in length with a tail of 6cm and weighs just 4-6g. Its average lifespan is 18 months.

The tiny harvest mouse lives in long tussocky grassland, reedbeds, hedgerows, farmland and around woodland edges. It is mainly vegetarian, eating seeds and fruits, but will also eat invertebrates. Harvest mice build a spherical nest of tightly woven grass, high-up in the tall grasses, in which the female will give birth to around six young.

The harvest mouse has pale, ginger or yellow fur, and a white belly. Its tail is almost hairless and nearly as long as its body.

The harvest mouse is the only British mammal to have a prehensile tail: it can use it like a fifth limb, holding on to grass stems with it.

Source: Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust



Wiltshire Council News

Wiltshire schools recognised as Biodiversity Champions

Schools from across Wiltshire have been recognised for their commitment to nature recovery and environmental improvement through the Wiltshire Biodiversity Champions initiative.

The initiative forms part of Wiltshire Council's ongoing work to support biodiversity and enhance wildlife habitats across the county. As part of the programme, schools were supported by the council and its streetscene contractor, idverde, to assess habitats, plants and wildlife on their sites, identify opportunities for improvement and develop practical plans to create more wildlife-friendly spaces for both nature and learning.

Throughout the programme, each school took part in a wide range of projects designed to support local wildlife and encourage environmental stewardship among pupils.

Projects ranged from litter picking, as part of the Great British Spring Clean, to creating habitats for pollinators, birds and hedgehogs, carrying out wildlife surveys, planting wildflowers and developing outdoor learning spaces.

On Wednesday 8 July, some of the participating schools were recognised as Wiltshire Biodiversity Champions and received certificates and biodiversity resources, including wildflower seed mixes, bird boxes, bat boxes, bee boxes, butterfly houses, bug hotels and hedgehog houses, to help continue their biodiversity journeys.

The wooden biodiversity resources were handcrafted by members of Salisbury Men's Shed, a community group that brings people together to share skills, enjoy social connections and work on practical projects that benefit the local community. Their contribution has helped provide schools with high-quality habitats for local wildlife while supporting a valuable community initiative.

Cllr Martin Smith, Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene, said: "The Wiltshire Biodiversity Champions initiative is a fantastic example of how young people can make a real contribution to nature recovery in Wiltshire.

"Pupils have not only learned about local wildlife and habitats but have also taken practical action to improve biodiversity in their school grounds and communities.

"From creating habitats for hedgehogs, birds and pollinators to planting wildflowers and developing outdoor learning spaces, these projects will leave lasting benefits for wildlife while helping young people build a greater understanding of the environment around them.

The Wiltshire Biodiversity Champions initiative supports the council's wider commitment to nature recovery and aims to inspire more schools and communities to take action for wildlife across the county.

Purton Village Diary - August 2026

1	Sa		The National Eisteddfod until 8th August. Celebrating its 850th anniversary this year.
		2.00pm	White Lodge Dog Show
2	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
			Final day of Festival on the Farm at Purton House Farm
4	Tu	10.00am	Tennis summer camp for children at Purton Tennis Club
5	W	10.00am	Tennis summer camp for children at Purton Tennis Club
		11.30am	Age Concern Chatter Club at the Red House
6	Th	12 noon	Lunch Club for pensioners at Silver Threads Hall
7	F	10.00am	Tennis summer camp for children at Purton Tennis Club
8	Sa	2.00pm	<i>until 4.00pm</i> Free craft workshop for children at Silver Threads Hall
		3.00pm	Purton Kingsdown FC kick off the new season at The Red House against Fairford Town Reserves
9	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
10	M	10.00am	Purton WI meet at the Silver Threads Hall
12	W	2.00pm	<i>until 4.00pm</i> annual show booking in session at Pips
		7.00pm	<i>until 9.00pm</i> annual show booking in session at 12 Church Path
13	Th	10.30am	Tea & Tennis at Purton Tennis Club
15	Sa	2.00pm	Purton annual flower, arts, crafts and produce show at the Village Hall
16	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
21	F	10.30am	Tea & Tennis at Purton Tennis Club
23	Su	10.30am	Communion by Extension at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
26	W		Age Concern annual outing to Weston super Mare
27	Th	10.30am	Tea & Tennis at Purton Tennis Club
29	Sa		International Bat Night - celebrate bats and learn how they live. It is also a chance to go out and look for bats in their natural habitat.
30	Su	10.30am	Informal communion at St Mary's Church - joint service with All Saints, Lydiard Millicent
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
31	M		Summer bank holiday

Every week

M	6.30pm	<i>to 7.30pm</i> Purton Village Voices choir practice at Purton Methodist Church (term time)
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	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
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

From Cats to Bats

Registered Vet Nurses most often are asked to help with domestic dogs and cats but can transfer their skills to help British Wildlife. A local registered vet nurse rehabilitates and cares for bats as a volunteer role with The Bat Conservation Trust. We are delighted to launch a new series in Purton Magazine with stories by 'the bat nurse' - from cats to bats.

Bats are often misrepresented as scary bloodsucking mammals that spread diseases. In reality, they very rarely spread diseases and only a few species feed on blood, while most eat fruit or insects. Bats provide essential ecosystem services such as seed dispersal, pollination and helping to maintain the balance of insect populations. The UK is home to 18 species of bats, which sadly face increasing threats from habitat loss, climate change and human disturbance.

I am a Registered Veterinary Nurse and have been rehabilitating wildlife for 14 years. Before my nursing career I worked at a local wildlife rescue centre. After qualifying I decided to get in contact with The Bat Conservation Trust to ask if they needed any volunteer bat carers. These species need specialised care and dedicated time given to them and I wanted to help.

I joined the Bat Conservation Trust in 2024 as a trained bat carer. A lot of my time was rehabilitating bats with the aim to release them back into the wild. This is a voluntary role where I receive calls from members of the public 365 days a year, 24/7. I will advise members of the public if they have found a bat



A local Serotine bat receiving treatment

and will assess the bat and provide first aid treatment.

If a bat is unable to be released back into the wild, it will be euthanised. It is illegal to keep a wild bat as a pet in the UK. All 18 native bat species are highly protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations.

Local Serotine Bat

Although the UK is home to 18 species of bats, the most common bat I get brought in is a common pipistrelle. These bats weigh around 5 grams (no more than a pound coin!) with a wingspan of around 20cm.

The other common species of bat I receive are the Brown Long-eared – known for its distinctively massive ears; the Daubentons – known as the ‘water bat’ as they skim low over lakes and rivers to catch insects with its large feet and tail, and the Whiskered bats – a vocal shaggy-furred bat that frequently roosts in old houses and barns.

In May I got a phone call from work to say a bat was brought in by a member of the public after being found unresponsive in their garden. The bat was checked over by one of the vets, and after finding no obvious injuries, it came to me for rehydration and further care.

On arrival, I had a peek inside the carrier and noticed this bat was four times the size of a Pipistrelle. The best way to identify a bat species is to weigh it, measure its forearm length, and look at other features such as ear shape and face shape. Serotines have dark brown fur and a dark brown or black face, wings and ears. The fur is a paler yellow-brown on the underside and the ears

are large and pointed. Adults typically weigh between 15-25 grams; this Serotine was underweight weighing 14g.

Latex gloves are worn to examine bats, although I do wear slightly thicker ones for the larger bats due to the size of their teeth! On examination the bat was skinny and dehydrated, I warmed her up before offering a small amount of water through a pipette. Over the next few days, she was handfed mealworms every night. Bats aren’t used to eating mealworms in the wild, so it can take a few days for them to get used to the different food, but when they do they love them. Bats will eat approximately 5000 insects per night in the wild.

Smaller bats hunt midges, mosquitoes and mayflies, whereas Serotines hunt larger insects such as moths, flies and dung beetles.

Each day Ms Serotine was gaining weight and began chomping through her

dinner every night. She was weighed daily to ensure she was getting enough food to put on weight. I keep the bats in mesh pet carriers or see-through plastic storage containers with air holes drilled in the top. I use a milk lid for their water dish and a hamster food bowl for the mealworms. A tea towel is draped inside the box for the bat to cling onto and a heat pad if needed.



Bat rescue care kit

After 12 days in my care, she was active, eating and weighed over 20 grams; she was ready for release. These bats live in open woodland, hedgerows, parkland and can also be found around towns and villages. This bat was found near the Pear Tree which is ideal territory for them.

Bats have specific roosts. Different species prefer unique types of roosts, and individual bats return to the same specific locations—such as

exact trees, caves, or roof spaces—year after year. Bats must be released back in the area they were found; I released her near The Redhouse club.

All bats have to meet the release checklist before attempting to release: it must be at dusk or dark, the weather should be mild with no wind or rain and the bat must be flying strongly.



Serotine bat released back into the wild

Serotine bats tend to emerge earlier in the evening than most of our other bat species. Because they hunt larger insects like cockchafers, dung beetles, and large moths, they time their departure to catch these crepuscular insects early at dusk.

I arrived at her release site at 22:00pm. Bats struggle to take flight from the ground, so letting them drop from an elevated position into flight is crucial.

I held her up on her cloth and waited for

her to fly off. She waited a few seconds looking around and acknowledging where she was before taking off.

This is always my favourite part of rehabilitation. It is still unknown to why she was found grounded, it could have been lack of food, or she could be one of last year's pups struggling to hunt. I am hoping she is now off capturing beetles and back with her bat family.

Emma White

Phew what a scorcher!

It's hot enough to fry an egg on the pavement in Purton -
Should you wish to do so.

The seasons are confused... Football and Tennis at the same time?

And no "Rain stopped play" this year!

Even the library clock is suffering from heat stroke
(chiming at 26 minutes past the hour!)

Don't know where the umbrella is!

JW

Crafts from the past

Join Wessex Archaeology at Lower Moor Farm, Somerford Keynes Road, Oaksey SN16 9TW

Celebrate the Festival of Archaeology with Wessex Archaeology and the Trust with a day exploring heritage crafts, surrounded by nature!

Date: Friday 31 July 2026

Session 1: 10am - 12:30pm

Session 2: 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Free of charge, no booking required, just turn up!

Join Wessex Archaeology and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to celebrate the Festival of Archaeology with a day of fun exploring heritage crafts using natural materials, surrounded by the wonderful wildlife at Lower Farm Nature Reserve.

There will be a variety of activities available to try out, from prehistoric pot making to creating hapa zomes, using the ancient art of flower bashing. Local artist Jo Beale will be with us helping you to create a mini nature journal then take it on a sensory walk throughout the reserve.

We will be joined by environmental archaeologists from Wessex Archaeology for object handling sessions and the opportunity to chat to the experts.

The same activities will run across 2 sessions. Join us for one session or make a day of it and join us for both, with lunch at the Dragonfly Cafe or a picnic in-between!

RNLI urges families to share lifesaving water safety advice during the summer

With recent red and amber weather warnings in place for extreme heat across much of the UK, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) is urging people heading to the coast to remember and share essential water safety advice, which could save lives.

Choose a lifeguarded beach

With the current heatwave, more young people are likely to be heading to water to cool off—and this brings a sharp increase in risk of drowning incidents. While the air temperature is very warm, water temperatures are still cold, so cold

water shock remains a very real risk.

As air temperatures exceed 30C, the RNLI is sharing lifesaving advice, including what to do if you find yourself in danger in the water; what to do if you see someone else is struggling; awareness of key risks like cold water shock, and the best ways to stay safe – such as by choosing a lifeguarded beach.

The lifesaving charity is appealing to people to share its safety advice with family and friends, particularly young people and teens, who accounted for



the majority of the drowning fatalities during the last heatwave.

Ross Macleod, RNLI Water Safety Manager, said: 'As the exceedingly hot weather continues, we are urging families to talk about the dangers of swimming and jumping into open water – this could be a conversation that saves lives.

'Cold water shock is a real danger, which we particularly want people to be aware of. The sea or open water may look inviting during hot weather, but it remains cold enough year-round to trigger cold water shock, which can cause uncontrollable gasping, increased heart rate, and can lead to panic and drowning very quickly. It's best to enter the water slowly to acclimatise gradually.

'Anyone who finds themselves in danger in the water should fight the panic instinct and Float to Live – try to relax and float on their back, with head tilted back, gently moving their hands and legs to help them stay afloat. This buys

valuable time to get your breathing back under control, before then calling for help or swimming to safety.

'If you see someone else in danger – do not enter the water yourself as you could also end up in serious difficulty. Instead, remember phone, float, throw – phone 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard; tell the struggling person to float; throw them something buoyant, like a life ring.

'If you are visiting the coast this weekend, the safest option is a lifeguarded beach, where you should swim between the red and yellow flags. If you can't choose a lifeguarded beach, find out about your chosen beach before you visit – check weather and tide times and read local safety signage.

'By remembering this advice and sharing it widely, we can all play a role in helping to save more lives from drowning.'

If you find yourself in trouble in the water, the RNLI's safety advice is Float to Live:

- Tilt your head back with your ears submerged
- Relax and try to breathe normally
- Move your hands and legs to help you stay afloat
- It's OK if your legs sink, we all float differently
- Once your breathing is under control, call for help or swim to safety.

If you see someone else in trouble at the coast, remember Phone, Float Throw:

- Phone 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard to get help.
- Tell the struggling person to Float to Live.
- Throw them something that floats, such as a life ring.

The RNLI recommends checking online

at www.rnli.org/find-my-nearest/lifeguarded-beaches

This year, the RNLI's lifeguard service is celebrating 25 years of keeping beaches safer.

To stay safe during this spell of hot weather, the RNLI is encouraging people to:

- Check the weather and tide times before setting off for the coast.
- Choose a lifeguarded beach where possible.
- Swim between the red and yellow flags.
- If you get into trouble in the water, Float to Live.
- If you see someone else in trouble in the water, remember Phone, Float, Throw.

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.

All the details are on the website <https://crickladecameraclub.org>

*Phil Winfield, Programme Secretary,
Cricklade Camera Club*

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Witts Lane, Jewels Ash, Waite Meads Close, Pear Tree Close (and from Moulden View) Mustang Way, Caring Hands (Wiltshire) Care Home at Battle Lake Farm.*

Souvenirs de France: memories of life in rural Normandy

After growing up in Purton, Kate met Roger at university, and they have recently moved back to the village after living in France for 20 years. They lived in the Loire valley and later in Normandy, and in this series of articles they tell us about their story, the cultural differences, and the warm welcome they received as outsiders. This is the fourth article in the series.

The French have a saying, “mariage pluvieux, mariage heureux” - “rainy wedding, happy marriage”. As our wedding day approached in June 2009 we were glued to the weather forecast which didn’t look good, but when people told us this was a good omen we weren’t convinced.

We wanted a rustic, simple event and organised everything ourselves. We knew of a lovely chic patisserie in Alençon and asked them if they could do some of the catering for the lunch which they were very happy to do. Then we asked if they could make it vegetarian and expected some reluctance but none came, so we pushed our luck and said that well, some of our guests are Indian and vegan, could they also cope with that, no problem they said, much to our relief. Rural France isn’t known for its vegetarian cuisine, so we were very surprised.

Kate baked the three-tier cake then searched for an English cake icer as this is not something the French do. We were a bit worried about the fruit cake element as English friends insisted that the French don’t like it: indeed, French supermarkets sell le cake which is mass-produced dry fruit cake wrapped in plastic, sometimes with an English image or two. As such, fruit cake has a bad reputation but our home-made one was well-received, although we did find a half-eaten slice hidden behind a plant pot the day after the event.

For the flowers, we wanted locally-sourced, scented flowers but the local florist could only offer imported flowers with zero scent. So we scoured the area and found growers who arrived the day before in cars and vans laden with buckets and buckets of cottage garden flowers in pinks and blues: roses, catmint, aquiligea, sweet peas, phlox all arranged in an array of pots and vases that provided a superb display.

The day before was a hive of activity in the house and garden. Friends and family from England helped with preparations such as sewing strings of bunting flags or making food. It was a blazingly hot day but

so lovely to have everyone pulling together to make it a success. We finished the day by taking over the local creperie where Kate's aunt who had never been abroad before insisted on having egg and chips which, much to their very great credit, the restaurant did their best to accommodate.



Finally on the day of our wedding there was drizzle rather than rain, and we made our way to the mairie (town hall) in an open carriage pulled by two Percheron horses, a solid local breed originally used as war horses but now a draft horse of a similar size to cart horses. We met our mix of English and French guests at the mairie and the village mayor in his tricolour sash conducted the ceremony on behalf of the French republic. The mayor read out some standard wording, and then made his own typically long speech with plenty of warm words, and a comment that there had never been this many English people living in the village since the Hundred Years' War ended in the fifteenth century. There were nine English people in the village including us and we weren't too sure how to interpret this remark, but anyway the paperwork swiftly followed with us and our witnesses signing endless pages of official documents. In France, the official part of all marriages is done at the town hall on behalf of the secular state; if you wish, afterwards you can have a religious event but without any paperwork.

The reception was held in the garden. Starting with champagne bought from a work colleague whose family were a small producer, followed by a meal under a marquee in the garden, organised at the last minute due to panic at the weather forecast, though the sun actually came out in the afternoon.

This was followed later with afternoon tea when many more of our neighbours were invited. Home-made scones were accompanied by

strawberry jam made by my sister who had arrived with large cartons of real clotted cream which was a real hit with our French guests. Followed by an array of homemade cakes, partly to show that not all cuisine anglaise is inedible. A popular local band Vent D'Ouest played music and the coachman with his carriage and Percherons provided pleasure rides around the lanes to our guests.

The day drew to a close with our bemused dogs hovering up leftovers and us wandering around stunned in amazement that after all the preparations, everything had worked so well and everyone had such a memorable day.

Next time, Autumn brings the local hunters with guns, horns, hi-vis jackets and all that goes with this major part of French country life.

Purton House Organics & Farm Shop news

If you've been in the Farm Shop lately you'll have seen our fabulous new chiller that really shows off our organic fruit and veg. Much of it is now being harvested from our own fields across the road!

On the Farm

The harvest is keeping the farm team busy and the boxes for our delivery rounds are full to overflowing. The packing team particularly enjoys this time of year when the fresh salads, herbs, onions and beetroot make the shed smell wonderful! And the fresh produce is of course also available in the Farm Shop and



adds colour and freshness to our shelves and chillers. You can't beat home grown veg for taste and our rich organic soil ensures that it contains all the nutrition you need.

Sometimes the summer glut can be hard to manage but we have plenty of outlets, supplying some of the Oxford colleges and other local shops and wholesalers.

Anything past its best goes to the chickens so nothing goes to waste.

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

Purton Jam

Kate from The Purton Jam Company has also been busy making fresh supplies for us in the Farm Shop and we're just about managing to keep up with demand. The hot weather must be hard going with all those bubbling cauldrons on the stove! Much of the fruit she uses is locally foraged and the results are delicious and very reasonably priced. facebook.com/p/The-Purton-Jam-Company

Pure Olive Oil and Olives

With scandals of 'fake food' going on all the time, it's great to be working with suppliers we can trust. Healthy Oils deal directly with growers in the Mediterranean and have strict standards in choosing produce. All their olive oils are pure extra virgin with no blending or additives.

They also stock whole and pitted olives and again have high standards to ensure quality. Olives can't be eaten straight from the tree as they are bitter so they are fermented in brine. This can take months and some producers use heat to speed up the process but this reduces the nutritional value. Healthy Oils only stock cold fermented, unpasteurised olives and, like us, they want their healthy produce to be affordable so you won't get better prices!

Walled Garden Flowers

Some of you will remember Rob who helped Rowie with veg growing several years ago. He and his wife, Wendy left for a while and then returned to Purton to work on the walled garden at Purton House. They have transformed the beds and are growing a wide range of fruit and vegetables, some of which supplements the farm produce in our Farm Shop. They are also growing beautiful cut flowers which we are now selling as well. Forget supermarket flowers - go local!



Recipe

A quick and delicious recipe from Kate, a fellow veg farmer, to make use of that glut of courgettes!

Serves 4

- 800g courgettes, sliced into discs
- 2 tbsp pure virgin olive oil
- few sprigs of thyme
- few basil leaves
- 100 ml Creme fraiche
- 50ml milk
- 1 tsp plain flour
- 75g grated Emmental cheese or Gallipot Eyes from Brinkworth Dairy
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

Put the courgettes and herbs in a large pan and season with salt and pepper. Cover and cook over a low heat for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally until the courgettes are soft but still hold their shape. Meanwhile whisk the milk, flour and creme fraiche together with a pinch of salt. Scoop the courgettes into an overproof dish and pour the creamy mix over them. Sprinkle the cheese on top and add a grate more black pepper.

Bake in the oven at 200C, Gas mark 6 for about 20-30 minutes until golden brown on top.

Festival on the Farm 2026 - Friday 31st July to Sunday 2nd August



By the time this magazine hits your doormat we'll be in the final days before our Festival kicks off! There's a great line up, as always, with a mix of national and local bands. I'm particularly looking forward to Abba Revival on the Friday night, with 'Too Much Too Young' headlining

Saturday and the 'Brit Pop Boys' (Oasis MTV unplugged) on Sunday. There'll also be plenty of local food, stalls and activities throughout the weekend and there should still be a few weekend or day tickets left! Book on line 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*

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Purton Bowls Club



On a recent blisteringly hot Wednesday morning five club members attended St Mary's School to introduce children from Years 4, 5 and 6 to the game of Lawn Bowls.

This was part of the Schools Sports week in which the children got to experience sports they may otherwise not come into contact with.

Chris, Deanne, Lynn, Christine and Steve took the children through several skills related activities, although the surface (school playing field) was not quite what we are used to.

The children were delightful, very well behaved and really enthusiastic. Many had a natural talent for the game and quickly understood about the bias and loved having their bowls 'chalked' when they achieved one of the tasks.

We hope to see some of them again at our Friday night sessions along with their parents and hope that we can do similar events in the future to spread the game of Bowls to a wider audience.

Many thanks St Mary's for the invitation

and for making us feel so welcome.

Meanwhile on the competition front there has been considerable success for the ladies with the Pairs of Deanne and Lynn and Alison and Christine qualifying as Wiltshire representatives for the National Finals at Leamington in August.

In the League the club lie top in Division 2 of the Swindon & District league, looking well placed for promotion back to the 1st Division.

Both Ladies teams are in strong positions in the Afternoon Triples and Evening Rinks League lying in 4th and 2nd places.

The club have been delighted to welcome several new faces to our roll-up and play events on Friday evenings. Play/coaching starts at 6.30pm. All you need is flat soled shoes and we'll supply the rest. Why not come along whatever age and give it a go. We'd love to see you.

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

Purton Kingsdown Football Club



First and foremost I have to start my column off by announcing the sad news that my close friend and Purton Football Club legend Allan Coole has passed away.

I do not use the term loosely to describe Allan as along with others he was pivotal in much of the success of Purton FC with a total of 250 + goals and pretty much a one club man with a goals total unlikely to be surpassed in today's local football by any club with players moving



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

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

For the latest information visit:
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email: marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk

Tel Mary: 01793 772298,

Duty team: 07990 340422

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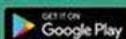
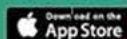
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around like chess pieces most of the time.

The current football club of PKFC, of whom Allan still supported right to the end, all send their condolences to his wife Kay and children Danielle and Johnny.

For those who wish to pay their respects to Allan, his funeral is at the Kingsdown Crematorium on August 7th at 1:30pm.

Our 2026/2027 season starts on August 8th at the Red House versus Fairford Town Reserves with a 3pm kick off with many new faces joining the club and under the new manager Glen Horsell who was previously at Shrivenham Town.

The season will also see our Reserve side playing at the Red House each home game and due to the surplus of players requiring to join the club we have entered a 4th team in the Swindon & District league under the management of Jamie Hyde which brings us up to 9 teams assuming we do run a Veterans side which to date is undecided as the their season does not start until late September with all games midweek and pitch availability also a problem.

In the September issue I will give an update on scores etc. for the first team and reserves with the S and D sides not starting their season until September.

*Terry Crumbie, President and Treasurer
of Purton Kingsdown FC*



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
wilts.sch.uk www.st-marys-purton.wilts.sch.uk

Purton Tennis Club



We'd like to thank everyone who attended our Open Evening, especially The Chair & Vice Chair of the Council and the Chair & Vice Chair of the Trust. Sid our coach organised a variety of fun games, whilst Simon was head chef on the barbeque. We also had some delicious cakes and a fantastic raffle which raised money for our club. It was a great evening with a wonderful atmosphere and people chatted long after the sun had set.

It is the height of the Tennis Season, and our courts have never been busier. Our club players are playing matches on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday evenings. These are competitive games against other clubs in the area, but always enjoyable.

Cardio continues to run and continues to grow. This is at 9.30 on Sunday mornings and is for adults & older children. No previous tennis experience is necessary, but it is lively, fun and a perfect way to start the day! Why not give it a go? It is FREE for everyone! (and we have spare racquets if needed).

For the little ones, Tennis4Tots is proving extremely popular. It is wonderful seeing the children having fun on the courts, making new friends and playing all sorts of different games that Pedro and his team have organised. Tennis4Tots is on Sunday mornings and is free for U7s to attend – and we have plenty of spare racquets if needed.

The Junior Club, run by Nic, Teresa & Tilia continues for our younger members until September. These sessions are always well attended and the progress the youngsters make throughout the summer is very encouraging.

Sid, our senior coach, together with Pedro visited St Mary's School, Purton and ran an introduction to tennis session, which the pupils really enjoyed. Thanks to Sammy from St Mary's for inviting us along! Sid will now be holding Summer Camps at the Tennis Club; on 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. Click on the QR code and search the membership page of our website to sign up your children.

Our Tea & Tennis mornings have been so successful that we are continuing them throughout the summer. Friendships have been formed whilst having a cuppa following a morning of practice with Jo, Nic & Ange. The August dates are: Thursday 13th & 27th, and Friday 7th & 21st all starting at 10.30am – please see our Facebook page for any changes to the dates.

Our friendly Matches against Purton Stoke & Down Ampney followed by a BBQ have also been great fun, with lots of friendly banter in the lovely surroundings of The Red House. Why not join us one evening or book a court via our website if you just fancy having a knock around with friends. Tennis is a sociable outdoor sport that can be



enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities and disabilities. Everyone is welcome at Purton Tennis Club. Please follow us on Facebook or 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

Purton Cricket Club



Is anyone else too hot? While our grounds team may be wishing for rain, all of the club's sides have been basking in the constant sunshine, enjoying an uninterrupted period of training and matches.

The spring improvements to the pavilion continue to go down really 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. The 1st XI picked up their first win of the season in dramatic fashion against Goatacre. With their hosts needing two to win with one wicket left, captain Tom Bowler took the final wicket to spark jubilant scenes. Meanwhile, at the time of writing, the 2nd XI have moved onto four wins for the season, while the 3rd XI have matched last season's wins total inside 8 games.

We are running three weeks of summer camps during the holidays, and the camps are led by the 1st XI overseas 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

Facebook – Purton Cricket Club

Instagram - @purtoncricketclub

Harrison Burridge

Purton CC Home fixtures in August

1st August	2nd XI v Corsham 3rd XI @ 1pm
2nd August	U13 v Avebury @ 1pm
4th August	U17 T20 v Avebury @ 6pm
8th August	1st XI v Cheltenham @ 12pm
	3rd XI v Melksham 2nd XI @ 1pm
9th August	U15 v Malmesbury @ 1pm
11th August	U17 T20 v Chippenham @ 6pm
15th August	2nd XI v Hinton Charterhouse 2nd XI @ 1pm
18th August	Wiltshire U14 v MCC South West @ 11am
22nd August	2nd XI v Combe Down @ 1pm
23rd August	U11 v Swindon @ 10am
26th August	U15 T20 v Sherston Magna @ 6pm
29th August	1st XI v Goatacre @ 12pm
	3rd XI v Allington @ 1pm

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

Purton Placard



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
(7 to 11 year olds)

Fun for all the family
Materials provided or bring your own
You can enter your creation
into the Purton Annual Show
on Saturday 15th August



Please note children must be
accompanied by an adult







We're collecting stamps for the Bone Cancer Research Trust stamp appeal




Find our collection boxes at:

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

Or give your stamps to any member of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers

Purton Women's Institute

Meet on Monday 10th August
at 10am in the Silver Threads
Hall. The speaker will be
Mickie Hall who will tell us
about The Galápagos Islands.
Non-members welcome £5 to
include tea/coffee.

Purton and District
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**FIRST WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH
11.30AM - 2.00PM**



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A date for your diaries - Calling all Crafters

We will be holding a charity craft stall/de-stash afternoon on Saturday 12th September at Purton Silver Threads Hall. We are looking for stall holders who want to get rid of their stock/craft items. There will be refreshments, a raffle and a charity stall

N.B. This is not a general table top sale

To book a stall – please call Sally on 07726 167619. Further details nearer the date

Lindsey, Sue & Sally

Silver Threads Socials

Come and join us for a friendly afternoon with tea and cake and plenty of chat

Monday 28th September 2:30 to 4 pm
Monday 26th October 2:30 to 4 pm
Monday 23rd November 2:30 to 4 pm

In the Silver Threads Hall Purton
Local residents of pensionable age are welcome

£2 per session

To book the Age Concern Mini Bus for transport
Please ring Hazel, 01793 770862

For further information contact

Berta, 01793 772587

Pat 01793 772382

Bernice 01793 771210



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www.purtonbowlsclub.co.uk

You're invited to the White Lodge Dog Show - all dogs welcome

Join us at White Lodge Care Home on Saturday 1st August from 2pm for the dog show in aid of Pets as Therapy. Enter your dog - £1 per class!

There will be rosettes and prizes for the following classes: Prettiest Bitch, Most handsome dog, Best Puppy (under 12 months), Best Adult (Over 1, under 9 years), Waggiest Tail, Best Veteran (Over 9 Years), Best Overall (Audience Poll). For more information call 01666 860381 or email whitelodge@barchester.com

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10/26



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12/26



Breeze through summer

On Friday 19th June we had the second of our Friday night Fish and Chip rides, this time to The Bell at Purton Stoke. It was a lovely sunny evening and five local ladies joined the ride from Moredon Sporting Hub. Trying to avoid the main Cricklade road, we followed the cycle path from The Tawny Owl, through Mouldon Hill park and Berryman's Lane to The Pry, then turned off to Benthams. We took Cow Street/ Pond Lane into Purton Stoke, which was quiet, flat, rural and enjoyed by all. After excellent fish and chips and plenty of chatter and laughs, we returned via Newth's Lane and Hayes Knoll and followed the cycle paths through Oakhurst back towards Moredon.

Our next ride is a summer cycle adventure! On 19th July we pack our bikes into Breezer Tracy's van, and car

share to Bath where we are going to follow the Two Tunnels cycle trail.

There will be a stop for coffee and cake, and lunch at the end and we'll share our experience in the September issue.

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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What's on at Moredon Sporting Hub this Summer

There are lots of exciting opportunities for everyone to get cycling this summer at Moredon Sporting Hub, with sessions for all ages and abilities.

If you have any questions, contact Community Developer Becky Cox at cycling@centralswindonnorth-pc.gov.uk.

FREE Big Bike Revival Events

Thanks to grant funding from Cycling UK we are running FREE events this summer aimed at helping adults get back in the saddle.



Here's what we have planned:

Learn to Cycle

Tuesdays, 12:00–1:00pm (from 14th July) Perfect for beginners or anyone looking to refresh their cycling skills in a relaxed, supportive environment.

Cycling Confidence Sessions

Thursdays, 6:30–8:00pm (from 16th July) Build the skills and confidence needed to make everyday journeys by bike.

Dr Bike 'Fix It' Sessions

Wednesdays, 10:00am–1:00pm (from 22nd July) Bring your bike along for a free safety check and minor repairs by our experienced mechanics. They'll also let you know if any further work is needed.

Limited spaces are available and booking is essential (use the QR code above). Whilst sessions are primarily

aimed at adults, young people can accompany adults to most events.

Ditch the Stabilisers- Kid's Learn to Cycle Sessions

Our popular 'Ditch the Stabilisers' group learn to cycle sessions are now taking place on selected Saturdays as well as during the summer holidays! We welcome young people from aged 4 to 16 years old, and we have a SEN specific session too. It's just £5.00 per child, with bikes and helmets available to borrow (included in the ticket price). These sessions are run by experienced cycling coach, Becky Cox, and supported by our lovely volunteers. If you know a child who would like some support getting cycling, then book them onto a session using the QR code.

Bikeability Level 2 & 3 Training

Our friends at Life Cycle are running some more FREE Level 2 & 3 Bikeability training this summer holidays at Moredon Sporting Hub. LifeCycle are the Bikeability provider for cycle training in Swindon schools (formerly known as Bikeability), a free, government-funded programme. Level 1 and 2 Bikeability training takes place in Primary Schools Years 4-6. Level 3 Bikeability is advanced training for children aged 11+ and takes place in more complex traffic environments. The instructors will support children to build the skills to make safe journeys by bike. Limited spaces are available.

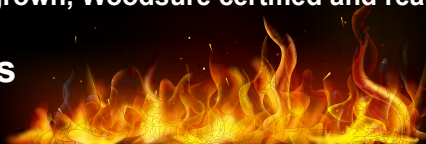
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04/27



MOREDON
SPORTING HUB



SUMMER HOLIDAY CYCLING TIMETABLE

	27th Jul - 1st Aug	3rd - 8th Aug	10th - 15th Aug	17th - 22nd Aug	24th - 29th Aug
Mon	2-4pm Rock up & Ride	2-4pm Rock up & Ride	2-4pm Rock up & Ride	2-4pm Rock up & Ride	2-4pm Rock up & Ride
Tue	2-4pm Rock up & Ride	10am-12 Rock up & Ride	10-11.30am Family Cycling 10.30-11.30am Ditch the Stabilisers 12-1pm Big Bike Revival Lunchtime learn to cycle (teens & adults)	10-11.30am Family Cycling 10.30-11.30am Ditch the Stabilisers 12-1pm Big Bike Revival Lunchtime learn to cycle (teens & adults)	10-11.30am Family Cycling 10.30-11.30am Ditch the Stabilisers 12-1pm Big Bike Revival Lunchtime learn to cycle (teens & adults)
Wed	10am-12 Rock up & Ride 10-1pm Big Bike Revival FREE bike repairs	10am-12 Rock up & Ride 10-1pm Big Bike Revival FREE bike repairs	10-1pm Big Bike Revival FREE bike repairs	10-1pm Big Bike Revival FREE bike repairs	10-1pm Big Bike Revival FREE bike repairs 2-4pm Rock up & Ride
Thu		2-4pm Rock up & Ride	6.30-8pm Big Bike Revival Ride with Confidence (teens & adults)	6.30-8pm Big Bike Revival Ride with Confidence (teens & adults)	6.30-8pm Big Bike Revival Ride with Confidence (teens & adults)
Fri	10am-12 & 2-4pm Rock up & Ride	11.30-1.30pm Limitless Family 12.30-1.15pm SEN Ditch the Stabilisers 2-4pm Rock up & Ride	11.30-1.30pm Limitless Family 12.30-1.15pm SEN Ditch the Stabilisers	9-11am Rock up & Ride 11.30-1.30pm Limitless Family 12.30-1.15pm SEN Ditch the Stabilisers	9-11am Rock up & Ride 11.30-1.30pm Limitless Family 12.30-1.15pm SEN Ditch the Stabilisers
Sat	2-4pm Rock up & Ride	12-2pm Family cycling 2-3.30pm Limitless Family 12.30-3.30pm Ditch the Stabilisers	12-2pm Family cycling 2-3.30pm Limitless Family 12.30-3.30pm Ditch the Stabilisers	12-2pm Family cycling 2-3.30pm Limitless Family 12.30-3.30pm Ditch the Stabilisers	

Mini crossword

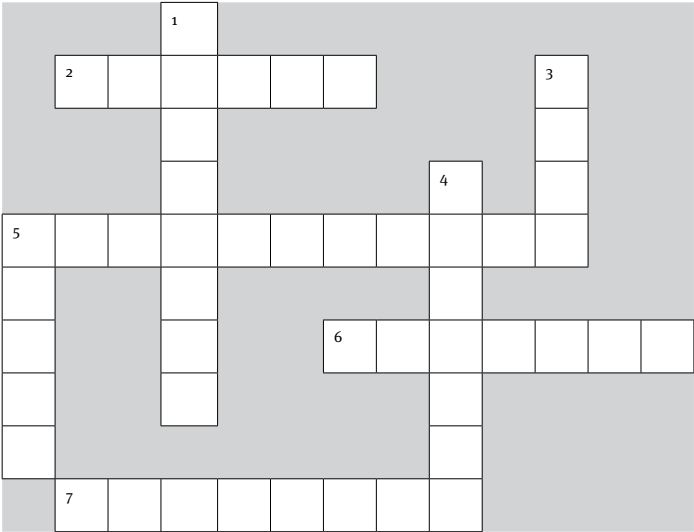
This is the next in our series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun and without prizes. The answers to July’s puzzle are

- 1D) Mammals 2A) Rural 3D) Fields 4D) Flowers 5A) Birds 6D) Protect 7A) Woodland 8A) Insects

This month there are eight clues.

- 2 across Our village (6)
- 5 across Rural open spaces (11)
- 6 across Strolling or hiking (7)
- 7 across Undomesticated creatures (8)
- 1 down Amicable (8)
- 3 down Where the heart is (4)
- 4 down Small settlement (7)
- 5 down Groups with a shared interest (5)

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

We Record...

Baptism at St Mary's Church

5 July 2026 Codi Jay Lewis



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