

September 2026

Purton Magazine

£1

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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 Tony Brookes SN4 8LT

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

www.thesacredheartparish.co.uk

Priest: Revd Father Tel: 852366

Lucas Rodrigues

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

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

Priest: Tel: 01285 712586 St Mary's Church

Father Michael Robertson

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

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Purton Magazine

Purton Magazine committee:

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

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

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

Distribution & Delivery enquiries:

Sandra Horsnall Tel: 01793 770157
Email:

distribution@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:

The Secretary, 20 Hoggs Lane,
Purton SN5 4BU

Also online at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

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Front cover image: The BritPop Boys
entertain the crowds at this year's Festival
on the Farm. Credit: Jon Bastin @jjbimages
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From the Editors

September 2026
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September marks the start of autumn, whether your seasonal preferences are meteorological or astronomical, and, after such a warm and dry summer, many readers will no doubt be wondering what the new season will bring. Will we finally see the rain that farmers and gardeners alike are longing for? There seemed to be a few drops on the window pane as the finishing touches were being made to this issue, but after such a long absence, perhaps it was just wishful thinking?

The heat didn't slow things down at this year's Festival on the Farm, as our cover image shows. You can read the full details starting on page 40, and we can only assume that it was a good year for sales of Dora's Dairy ice cream!

September also marks the start of the new academic year. For those young people who have received those all-important exam results over the summer, it is a time of transition; perhaps to college or university, or perhaps taking their first steps into the world of work with a hard-won apprenticeship.

Our village offers so much for young people: Purton Tennis Club's junior tournament takes place on 5th

September, as detailed on page 32, and the Cricket Club's youth teams have both been on winning form over the summer, reported on page 30. Further afield, this year's Cirencester History Festival is offering a new work experience programme, perfect for someone with a passion for history. See page 54 for full details.

As with so much in community life, all this relies on volunteers being willing to step up and help out. On page 28, we read that there aren't enough spaces at Rainbows, and so helpers are being sought to establish a second group. As the slogan almost says, 'could it be you?'

Helping has always been at the heart of Purton, and on page 23 we read that 2026 is the fortieth anniversary of the Purton minibuses. Just think how many people have benefited in those 40 years!

If you're looking for somewhere to go on the minibus, the first meeting of the revived Silver Threads club is in September. The club was established in the 1950s, but activities were reduced following the pandemic. A new committee is looking to offer a monthly meeting for chat, tea & cake, and friendship, as explained on page 22, showing, once again, that Purton cares!

£32

Secures a remaining ticket for Age Concern's trip on the Brecon Mountain Railway
- see page 16

60

Wessex Male Choir members and recruiting more - see page 42

200

Club annual renewals are due in September to help Purton Surgery Patient Group fundraising
- see page 15

Purton Parish Council News



Dates for your Diary

- Christmas Lights Switch-on at the Village Centre: Saturday 28 November 2026
- Children's Easter Egg Hunt at the Village Centre: Saturday 27 March 2027
- Annual Parish Meeting and Awards Evening at Purton Village Hall: Monday 5 April 2027
- Purton Fest 2027 at the Village Centre: 12 June 2027

Rise Trust Youth

Our Youth Sessions will continue to operate from the Millennium Hall on Thursday nights from 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. 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 them, and they can be found on the Wiltshire Council portal, the link for which is 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:

Determined Applications

- PL/2025/02112 - Manor Hill Farm, Purton, SN5 4EG. Application to authorise the commercial use of the rest of the former agricultural site. Approve with conditions
- PL/2026/02308 - Elmslea House, Bentham Lane, Bentham, Purton, SN5 4HZ. Erection of new residential outbuilding. Approve with conditions.
- PL/2026/03397 - 27 Mill View, Purton, SN5 4FN. Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation (involving internal alterations only) Approve with conditions.

Full public Council meetings

All meetings take place at the Village Hall.

- Monday 14 September
- Monday 12 October
- Monday 9 November

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.

Keep up to date

Further Council details and community information are available as follows:

- Telephone – 01793 771066
- Email – Clerk@purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Follow us on Facebook – @purtonparishcouncil
- Follow us on Instagram - purtonparishcouncilofficial





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- To volunteer for Community Emergency Volunteers contact: emergency@kevinlaw.co.uk
- To access victim support if you have witnessed or been impacted by a crime call: 01225 256 925
- Your local MP, Dr Roz Savage MP: roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
- Your local Wiltshire Councillor is Cllr Jacqui Lay: Tel: 01793 770 704 Email: jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Report issues such as potholes, 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*

Wiltshire Council News

Digital phones switchover

The UK's traditional landline phone service is changing. By January 2027 phone calls will be made using a broadband connection instead of the old copper phone network. For most people the change will be straightforward. Your phone number will stay the same, and many existing handsets will continue to work. However, it is important to check whether anything else in your home or business relies on your landline.

Why this matters

Some everyday services use a landline connection to operate. These may

include:

- telecare and personal alarm systems
- door entry
- burglar alarms

If these devices are not compatible with a digital connection, they may stop working unless changes are made.

What you should do

Check your devices – make a list of anything that plugs into your phone line or depends on it.

Contact your provider – your phone or broadband provider can confirm what you need to do and what support is available.

Plan ahead – providers will contact customers before the change takes place, but early action can help avoid disruption

Support for vulnerable residents

If you or someone you care for relies on a landline for health, safety, or care reasons, extra help is available. Vulnerable residents are encouraged to contact their communications provider as soon as possible to discuss their needs and any additional support required.

Wiltshire Council will continue to share updates through community channels, events and local communications to help residents and businesses prepare. For more information speak to your communications provider or visit their website.

Become a Co-opted Independent Member of the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel

Applications are open for a co-opted independent member of the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel.

The Police and Crime Panel plays an important role in supporting and scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), the elected official responsible for setting local policing priorities and holding the Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police to account.

You do not need prior experience in policing or local government.

Visit: <https://jobs.wiltshire.gov.uk/>

Treasures from History – bringing Wiltshire's past to life

Treasures from History (formerly View the Treasures) from the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre encourages new and returning visitors to explore Wiltshire's archives in creative and meaningful ways, and you can get involved at home too.

To ensure that more people can enjoy Treasures from History, the recently released remote access booklet is now available to borrow from selected libraries. Packed with historic recipes and practical advice that brings the past to life.

As a direct result of the sessions, participants, and History Centre staff independently recreated various, traditional Wiltshire pursuits, including knitting, sewing, smocking, brewing beer and historic baking. Applying what they had learned in this hands-on way fostered curiosity, empathy, and a deeper understanding of everyday life, while also highlighting lesser-known collections

Interested in taking part? Borrow a copy of the Treasures from History booklet from one of the featured libraries mentioned in the link below, share your historic bakes on social media using @heritage_wshc. The next session is on 3rd October at 11 a.m.

<https://wshc.org.uk/bringing-wiltshires-past-to-life/>

Suitable site identified for a new Household Recycling Centre in North Wiltshire

Wiltshire Council has identified its suitable site to provide a new Household Recycling Centre (HRC) to serve residents in the north of the county.

In March this year, the council asked residents to suggest potential site locations in the Royal Wootton Bassett area, following feedback about the future closure of the Purton and Lower Compton Household Recycling Centres. This public engagement complemented work already carried out by Officers to identify suitable sites.

A total of 21 potential locations were assessed against a range of criteria including site size, road access, land ownership and availability, deliverability and overall suitability for development etc.

Following this assessment of all sites, the only suitable site that can be taken forward to the detailed feasibility stage is located immediately south of the existing salt dept on Marlborough Road, Royal Wootton Bassett.

This site is suitable for next stage assessment as it is in council ownership, is big enough to accommodate the new facility, has good access and is well located to serve residents in place of the Lower Compton and Purton HRCs.

Cllr Helen Belcher, Wiltshire Council's Cabinet Member for Assets, said, "While we have identified what seems to be a suitable location, there is still significant work to be carried out before we can confirm the site is suitable and submit a planning application.

"We will continue to work closely with Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council as we progress this important project.

"I would like to thank everyone who took the time to suggest potential sites. Our priority is to provide a modern, accessible recycling facility for local residents as quickly as possible and in the most cost effective way."

The council will provide further updates as the project progresses and key milestones are reached. In the meantime further information is available at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/hrc-north-wilts

Wiltshire Local Plan consultation to launch in September

Residents, businesses and community groups will have the chance to help shape the future of Wiltshire when the first consultation on the new Wiltshire Local Plan launches in September.

The Local Plan will guide where homes, jobs and infrastructure are provided across the county in the years ahead. It will help ensure that future growth takes place in the right locations and is supported by

the services and facilities communities need. It will also focus on the supply of minerals and waste management facilities.

Current Government policy requires Wiltshire to plan for around 3,500 new homes each year, making it important that local people have their say on how the county develops.

Growth is something Wiltshire needs to plan for, and local feedback will help to ensure new development supports communities and brings the right benefits in the right places.

The first stage of public engagement, known as the scoping consultation, will run from 2nd to 30th September. A programme of engagement events will take place during the consultation, giving you the opportunity to find out more about the Local Plan and share your views:

- Chippenham Market – Friday 4th September, 8.30am to 4pm
- Salisbury Market – Tuesday 8th September, 8.30am to 3pm
- Royal Wootton Bassett Library – Wednesday 9th September, 1.30pm to 6.30pm.
- Devizes Market – Thursday 10th September, 9am to 3pm.
- The Shires, Trowbridge – Tuesday 15th September, 10am to 3pm.
- Public webinar – Thursday 17th September, 6pm to 7pm.
- Visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation

South Cotswolds Constituency News

September in Purton

September arrives having given way to one of the busiest summers I have spent in this part of the constituency. August brought my Summer Tour to Cricklade - just down the road from Purton - and I want to share some of what I found there.

The morning started at Cricklade Leisure Centre, where I met Jo Moran, Chair of Trustees, and Deepak Lal, who oversees the utility costs. What makes this leisure center distinctive is that it is community-owned, run by the Cricklade and District Community Association, not by a local authority or a private operator. In an era when leisure facilities across the country are closing or being handed back as councils tighten their belts, that model of community ownership is worth understanding and, where possible, supporting. The challenges they face; increased demand, maintenance, the





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pressure to keep prices accessible, are real, and I came away with a much clearer picture of what community-run infrastructure actually requires to survive.

From there I walked to North Meadow Nature Reserve on the edge of Cricklade - one of the finest unimproved flood meadows in England and home to the largest population of snake's-head fritillaries in the country. I met John Coole to discuss something that concerns me: The meadow's condition is deteriorating, and planning pressures from surrounding development are part of the reason why. North Meadow is a National Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and a genuinely irreplaceable piece of natural heritage.

The fritillaries that flower there each spring have been doing so for centuries. I raised the threats to the meadow's integrity with John and I will be taking those concerns directly to Natural England and the Environment Agency. This is exactly the kind of issue my work on the Environmental Audit Select Committee exists to address.

At the drop-in at the Cricklade Club I heard from a number of constituents. Being able to hear directly about issues constituents may be having is always the greatest pleasure of my job.

I also dropped into St Sampson's Church to meet Revd. Canon Debbie Dewes. We had a good conversation about what the church sees and hears from the community it serves, which is often a useful window into what is really going on in a place.

If you have a local concern to raise, please do come to one of my surgeries or get in touch. My caseworker team and I always do everything we can to help you with whatever issues you might be facing. Warm wishes



*Dr Rosalind Savage MBE MP
Member of Parliament for South Cotswolds
Email: roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
Postal Address: Dr Roz Savage MP,
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA*

Purton Surgery Patient Group



For the patients in Purton, Cricklade and surrounding communities

News about the Patient Group

We have been incredibly fortunate to welcome several new members to the PSPG Committee following our local advertisements and 'away days'. They will join the existing members to take the group forward in future months and we look forward to working alongside them and receiving new ideas! So welcome to Pat Hughes, Tracey Coombs and Susan Giles. I am sure many of you will already know one, if not several, of them already. They all live locally and have been patients of Purton and Green Gable Surgery for many years.

200 Club

It's that time of year when the annual renewal for the 200 Club comes around. The new year begins in September. If you already pay by Standing Order your renewal will automatically go through. Thank you! Please contact Mickie Hall (mickiehall2020@gmail.com) if you are unsure.

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 surplus goes toward buying equipment for the surgeries that the NHS does not supply. Please enquire at either surgery reception if you wish to join.

Our latest lucky winners, drawn by receptionist Suzanne are:

First prize of £100 to Katherine Gill (number 198)

Second prize of £15 to Clive Heard (number 39) 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!

Harvest Tombola

Sylvia Freemantle has once again kindly offered to support us in raising funds for items needed at the surgeries. We will be holding a Harvest Tombola on October 3rd to coincide with the Autumn 'flu vaccination clinic date. Details to follow but if you have any in date, sealed food items that you wish to donate for the event please drop these off at Sylvia's house (opposite Purton Surgery) or at either surgery receptions.

Easter Raffle

Thank you to all the surgery staff (especially Dee) for their magnificent efforts in raising £632 from the Easter Raffle – and to you for buying the tickets!

Autumn Information Evening

Our lovely Dr Wallis will be leading an evening on Wednesday 21st October at 7.30pm. Her topic is Women's Health. Tickets are free, but limited to 40. If you would like to join us these tickets will be available from the receptions from week

beginning Monday 28th September.
Please bring the ticket with you on the evening itself.

A quick reminder

Patients can view their blood test results on the NHS app. Appointments for blood tests and nurse appointments for

things such as injections, vaccinations, suture removal, etc can be booked up to six weeks in advance. Only GP appointments are available to book from Thursdays for the following week.

Thank you. As always, your support is much appreciated.

Purton & District Age Concern

Purton and District AGE CONCERN

Well, as the summer sunshine continues to challenge our gardens and we all try to keep cool, the Purton & District Age Concern committee has taken a little break during August. That doesn't mean, however, that we've been idle – we've been busy planning events for the rest of the year.

Chatter Club

Our Chatter Club continues throughout the summer, and our next session is on Wednesday 2nd September. This opportunity to get together with friends and neighbours is becoming increasingly popular, and it's wonderful 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 2.00pm at the Red House. Whether you'd enjoy a chat over a cup of tea, a game of pool, bowls, cards or simply a slice of cake, there's something for everyone. Best of all, it's completely free. If you'd like transport on the minibus, please book with Hazel on 01793 770862.

Steam Train Trip

There are still a few places available on our Brecon Mountain Railway trip. The trip has been rearranged for 23rd September.

The cost is £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. If you'd like to grab one of the few remaining places, please contact Peter on 01793 778119.

3Bs – Bingo, Bangers & Beans

Tickets are now on sale for our 3Bs evening on Friday 9th October. This is always very popular and tickets sell out fast. It's such a great evening, with lots of laughs, lovely food and cash prizes. Tickets are £15 per person including your bingo cards. Any raffle prizes would be gratefully received.

If you want to be in with a chance to win call Andrew on 01973 956095 to book your tickets.

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Charity Number 1202613

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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

**Love Reading
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Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Lottery

You may have seen from our social media pages or direct email that we have registered our charity with the Wiltshire Lottery.

How it works: Local good causes can sign up to be part of the Wiltshire Community Lottery which will give them an additional way to raise money through an online weekly draw.

You, our supporters, can buy up to 20 tickets each week, with prizes of up to £25,000. Each ticket costs just £1, and 50p from every ticket sold comes directly to Purton & District Age Concern, helping us continue supporting older residents in our community.

To buy tickets and nominate us as your good cause, please follow the link below. Participants can cancel the draw at any time; there is no long-term commitment on your behalf.

www.wiltshirecommunitylottery.co.uk/support/purton-and-district-age-concern

Who doesn't want the chance to win £25,000? Good Luck.

Could You Help Us?

We are still trying to grow our committee to continue supporting the older residents of Purton with the events and trips we organise.

We are proud of the activities, support, and friendship we provide for older people in our community, but we need more people to get involved.

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 help make a difference.

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

Need a Lift?

If you're over 60 and need transport to the doctors' 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.

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 Priority Services Register (PSR) is free to join if you're over 60 and can provide additional help if your electricity, gas or water supply is interrupted.

For example, you'll receive updates during power cuts and may be eligible for emergency support such as bottled water during longer outages. To register visit www.thepsr.co.uk or call 0800 294 3259. If you'd like help signing up, contact Emma Wheeler on 07496 809035.

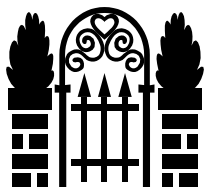
Tai Chi at the Village Hall

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

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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.

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.

Pheonix Transport

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

Are You Over 65 & 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

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.

Wheelchairs & 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

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 kindness of people in our community. Whether you attend our events, volunteer your time, buy a raffle ticket or simply spread the word about what we do, you are helping us support older residents in Purton. Thank you.

Peter Berry
Chairman, Purton & District Age Concern

Swindon Dial a Ride transport

Do you have mobility difficulties which mean that you can't use mainstream public transport?

Link6 Royal Wootton Bassett (07879 394666) and Swindon Dial A Ride (01793 621123) operate volunteer car schemes that cover Purton and Lydiard.

Swindon Dial A Ride also offers a door-

to-door wheelchair accessible service (01793 616050), www.dialarideswindon.org.uk

These services can be used for a variety of journeys – for shopping, meeting friends, visiting, appointments such as hospital, doctor, dentist, optician, etc.

Purton Silver Threads social club

The Silver Threads Committee would like to invite people of “pensionable” age to join them for a three-month trial to see if a new social 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

Ten Years Ago...

Ten years ago, Purton was recovering from the Olympics. At the time of writing, we are not just recovering from the World Cup but enjoying the continuing fallout. Not to be outdone, five members of Bradon Forest were representing England in the Dance World Cup, winning gold and silver medals.

This column frequently refers to Neighbourhood Plans and their siblings. In 2016 the Parish Council decided



to cease co-operation with other local communities in the 2013 Plan and become independent. If Wiltshire Council would graciously give permission, then the Parish Council and a Steering Group could produce a Draft Neighbourhood Plan which could then be approved by... (you get the idea). It wasn't clear why the Plan was needed.

2016 marked the 30th anniversary of Purton Minibuses (they were already on their 6th). So 2026 is the 40th anniversary. There are probably not many of the original passengers still using them, but their children are still flocking to them. And have some of the original drivers become passengers? Although this column is concerned with the passing of a mere ten years, it is heartening to see village traditions being passed down.

You may be intrigued by the photo on the cover of a young girl enwrapped in bright woollen garments in summer. However, it was taken in South Africa to show a variety of the work of Knit-a-Square, created here in Purton for charity.

And what about the photo of the Evening WI, dancing round the maypole indoors. Didn't they want to be seen?

Twenty Years Ago...

Judging by some of the articles in Purton Magazine 20 years ago, there had been quite a lot of local rain – something we could do with in 2026. That said, managing and succeeding in the face of severe difficulties is a sure sign of a great community spirit.

And so it was for the Children in Need Musicfest 2006. The planning had started six months previously with bands being booked, sound systems sorted and security settled – even an entertainment licence was obtained through a new system at the licensing authority which seemed to have been something of a mystery to everyone involved at the time.

So, the stage was literally being set. Marquees were constructed, cabling was carefully covered, bunting was hung and gazebos were all erected. With the field looking just about perfect and the bands more than happy with their sound checks, Master of Ceremonies, Tony Richardson, slipped home to change and prepare. Within perhaps less than half an hour, the whole set up had been completely trashed by a huge storm which had blown some marquees over and the rain had shorted all the electrics. The full account in the

September 2006 magazine makes for grim reading – except for the fact that everyone quickly pulled together in this emergency (as seems to be the norm in Purton) and a great time was eventually had by all in the Village Hall.

Elsewhere in the magazine 20 years ago, we read that the Cricklade branch of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust had, at last, finished work on the aqueduct. Removing the scaffolding from the road side of the wall didn't present a problem but the recent torrential rain had swollen the river substantially. However, it seems that the tallest member of the team donned some waders and entered the river to dismantle the heavy scaffold poles and walkway planks - proving that, contrary to a few local opinions, tall men do have their uses from time to time.

Wiltshire Ride & Stride 2026

This is an annual national sponsored event, organised locally by County Historic Churches Trusts. Wiltshire Ride & Stride (or its predecessor the Great Cycle Ride) has been going since 1984 and has raised over £1.7 million for the county's churches. 50% of the money raised goes to the participant's chosen church and the other half to the County Historic Churches Trust.

It takes place on the second Saturday in September between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.

The next annual Ride & Stride will take place on Saturday 12th September 2026.

Participants may be cyclists, walkers,

horse-riders or drivers of mobility scooters. They can be of any age, but under-13s must be accompanied by an adult.

All denominations are welcome.

Visit as many churches as you like, planning your own route.

Seek sponsorship from friends, relations and colleagues, so much per church visited or a lump sum.

Please contact Jane Smith (01793 772422) for a sponsor form and other details or access these from www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk

Jane Smith

Purton Methodist Church

We are holding a concert hosted by Fiona Fleet and friends on Saturday 26th September at 7.30pm. Music will be varied with soloists and groups. Tickets are £5 each, with refreshments provided.

Proceeds are for Belarus Orphanages, which is one of the charities that we support. Tickets available from Sylvia 770686 and Jenny 770339. The minibus is also available, please book with Hazel on 770862.

We're already busy organising our Christmas Carol Concert with the fabulous Chedworth Silver Band. We'll share more information in the next issue of the magazine.

Sylvia Freemantle

Christian Aid Week in Purton 2026



After a couple of months without any mention of Christian Aid in the magazine, now seems the time to bring you all up to date with Purton's Christian Aid Week back in May.

First of all, we, the Christian Aid team here in Purton, can only say THANK YOU, once again, for the wonderful support you offer.

What we achieve – and by 'we' I mean everyone in Purton – is quite staggering and Christian Aid nationally continues to be amazed by Purton's fundraising achievements. They actually phoned us to share how grateful they are to our village.

This year we have raised over £8,500 with all the usual events including breakfasts, plant sales, Church Services,

concerts and even the horrendous Quiz which people seem to love to hate!

Giving through the Christian Aid envelopes was extremely generous as well... So thank you to you all.

Of course our fundraising work is never done, and there is now an on-going appeal to help the 680,000 people affected by the earthquake in Venezuela. A jigsaw sale on October 31st will raise money for that specific cause.

Thank you again, to everyone in the village who helped to make Christian Aid Week such a success.

We are so grateful.

Libbie, Mary, Howard and the team

Profferings

- Free to a good home, lovely characterful upright piano, in good working order but needs tuning. Collection only. Contact Lynn 07749834387
- 3 pairs of deep red, lined, brocade curtains with pencil pleat headings, each curtain measuring approx. 88" drop x 84" width. All have areas of sun-bleaching, mostly on the edges so could be altered to fit smaller windows. Please leave your details on 07904 168089.

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.



Pips Donation

Your magazine committee is delighted to announce that a very generous donation has recently been received from the annual share out of surpluses from Pips, our community café. We understand that every Pips volunteer is able to allocate their share to a variety of local organisations and as the not-for-profit organisation that runs Purton Magazine, we are really rather proud to have attracted so many shares from Pips volunteers. We very much appreciate the donation and will continue to do our best for the benefit of our community through the pages of Purton Magazine each month.

Purton Magazine Committee



Pavenhill Weeding

Many thanks to whomever have been involved because clearing the weeds in front of the Pavenhill shops has made a huge difference. Thank you.

A nearby resident



Golden Wedding Celebration

A big thank you to all our family and friends who celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with us. Also to all who wished us well on Facebook.

Clive & Liz Rushen

Purton Women's Institute

The Galapagos Islands

For our August meeting we were treated to a talk by Mickie Hall on her October 2025 visit to the Galapagos Islands. She flew into Quito, which is at an altitude of nearly 3,000 metres. so breathing can be a little difficult. Whilst she was there she learnt how chocolate was made and took a trip into the mountains to see where

it grows. With Ecuador being located on the equator, there are more or less equal hours of day and night, and you can stand astride both the northern and southern hemispheres. The churches in Quito are very ornate and have magnificent church organs. After a one and a half hour flight from Quito, our speaker landed in Baltra, Galapagos

airport, and started her quest to find the 15 different species that live on the islands. The islands are around 3 to 10 million years old, and the soil and rock formations are different on each island. Charles Darwin landed on the island in 1835 and his studies there led to his theory of the 'origin of the species'. There is a centre on Santa Cruz which carries out research and cares for giant tortoises, many of whom are 100 years old. They also have a tortoise breeding program. The islands' population of around 30,000 live mainly on Santa Cruz and tourism is one of their main income sources. Mickie's boat had 75 passengers and traveled from island to island to see the wildlife. Each trip in the Zodiac was accompanied by a wildlife guide, who gave them many interesting

facts about each island. The sea around the island is very clear, and she was able to see star fish through the glass bottomed boat. Unfortunately, she did not see all the island species, but she has taken many wonderful photographs of the wildlife which she showed to us. The wildlife including nesting birds are quite happy to pose and are not at all worried by seeing people walk by. On Floreana, there is a post box for visitors to put in post cards. Fellow travellers look through the cards, and if there is one there for your country they take it and post it. Mickie was happy to answer all our questions. The last question was, "would you go back?", and "yes" was the answer. Happy travels everyone.

Linda Arnold, Purton WI Treasurer

Church Floodlighting

August 7th

St Mary's church was floodlit to celebrate the 50th Wedding Anniversary of **Liz and Clive Rushen**.



September 20th

St Mary's Church will light up to celebrate Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary to us! Married on Sept 20 1986 at 3pm at St Mary's Church, Purton by the late Canon Roy Blake. Followed by a Reception at Purton Village Hall. Catering by the late Barbara Mills and team. A very hot day! but a good time was had by all. **Sharon (nee Bentley) and Nigel Sheridan**

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

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

Girlguiding in Purton

Uniform redesign - easy on the pocket

Did you see media coverage over the summer about Girlguiding's uniform redesign? It might be a while before you see the new uniforms out and about as it's going to be a gradual transition. Many pre-loved items of the existing uniform will continue to be circulated for more love. Sustainability is important!

Although uniforms have changed over the years, the core values and aims of Girlguiding remain as relevant to the girls and young women of today as they were in days gone by. If you or a member of your family used to be a member, these themes will no doubt be familiar:

Teamwork, leadership skills and confidence building

Life skills including first aid, safety of all kinds, managing money

Adventure including residential opportunities, sports, travel

Community action supporting local, national or international projects

Fun and friendship, mixing with a new circle of peers

One of our other key benefits is that as a volunteer-led organisation we are CHEAP, certainly compared to many other children's activities:

- Swimming lessons – around £15 per hour
- Gymnastics – around £11 per hour
- Soft play – around £8 per session
- Girlguiding – around £3 per hour

As the cost of living keeps rising, we are very aware of the need to stay as

affordable as possible. Cost should never be a barrier to a girl joining us.

For information about volunteering or finding a space for new young members, head to the Girlguiding website: www.girlguiding.org.uk/

Would you like to make a difference in your community?

- Want to help girls know they can do anything?
- Want to build your own skills and experience?
- Looking for a flexible volunteering opportunity?

If you answered 'yes' to any of those questions, then Purton Rainbows (girls aged 4-7) have some exciting opportunities for you.

Opportunity 1 – Monthly

1st Purton Rainbows meet monthly on a Saturday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and they would love another adult to join their existing regular leadership team.

Opportunity 2 – Weekly or Fortnightly

Sadly, we're having to turn some Rainbow enquiries away because we don't have space, nor do other local groups.

So, we'd love to open a second Rainbow group in Purton: a weekly or fortnightly group to complement our existing monthly group. Weekly or fortnightly meetings would be for a shorter time



than our monthly meetings.

To open a new group, we'll need adult volunteers, at least two, ideally three, who would work as a team to run activities.

We already have existing volunteers lined up to help a new group and new leaders find their feet!

Skills and qualities you'll need

There are no specific skills required – we welcome volunteers from all backgrounds and experiences. What's key is enthusiasm!

If either of these opportunities appeals to you, or to someone you know, please get in touch. Detailed information about volunteering is 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](https://www.instagram.com/girlguidingpurton)

Stars!

We know it's only September, but we are writing to you now to give you time to prepare for our 'STAR' Festival in St Mary's Church, ready for Christmas.

Do you remember a couple of years ago, we asked everyone to decorate a 'Christmas Tree' for the church... to decorate it in a way that showed who had given the tree. We had some wonderful trees... from over 30 different organisations, clubs, groups in Purton.

Then a couple of years before that, we asked for Nativity scenes; some that were lent to us came from all over the world and there was even a Lego one! Before that, another year, we had 'Angels'!

This year the theme is STARS and we would love you all to consider how you could contribute Stars to St Mary's to decorate the building during Advent (December), ready for Christmas.

Please can you have a think about it. We would probably want to accept the stars around the weekend of 5th and 6th December and they would stay in



Church until the end of the month.

Stars can be made of any materials that are safe... please don't spend too much money! It's your creative imagination we are wanting!

Maybe paintings, a drawing, a poem, a prayer; sewing patchwork, crochet... We already have a few knitted stars on their way! Perhaps a banner or a wall hanging; maybe consider Neville Maskelyne, the Astronomer Royal, who is buried at St Mary's: maybe think about the shape of the constellations. Maybe a story about a star; remember it was the Star that led the people to Bethlehem. It was the sign that they followed.

We would love the schools, the youth groups, the care homes and all the other village organisations to get involved. More information will be available in the October and November magazine but please start thinking about it now.

Contact Jane 772422 or Libbie 771018 if you need more information at this stage

Purton Kingsdown Football Club



With the World Cup finishing just a few weeks ago, it's all go again for the 2026/2027 season to kick off – it seems football has never stopped this year!

By the time July came to an end, the first team had already played four friendlies and a Faringdon Cup game, and actually won them all! Unfortunately however, that run ended when our season started on August 8th with a 2-2 draw with Trowbridge Town at the Red House. Followed by a disappointing 2-0 loss at Pewsey the following Tuesday.

While our Swindon and District sides and the Ladies do not start their seasons until September, our Reserves played their first game at Kintbury and unfortunately fared no better than the Firsts going down 4-2, but with a home fixture coming up on August 12th, let us hope they get the three points to kick start their season.

The club itself is building a strong support base with advertising and sponsorship and has a social media company spreading the word about PKFC on various platforms, including X and Facebook.

We now have Chris Thomas on board, and he will be doing a match report and photos of all first team home games for those platforms, as well as sending the information to Heather for our matchday programmes.

Should anyone reading this article not be able to attend matchdays for the first team at the Red House, I would willing drop a programme off to you personally, or post one to you, so please don't hesitate to contact me on by 'phone on 07855 406662 or by email: terry.crumbie@gmail.com

Terry Crumbie, President and Treasurer of Purton Kingsdown FC

Purton Cricket Club



As summers go, we couldn't have asked for any better weather, with the non-stop sunshine paving the way for an unbroken period of cricket across the whole club.

Our three adult sides continue to play every week, and the 1st and 2nd XI both picked up wins in their most recent matches (8th August). The 1st XI defeated Cheltenham by five wickets to keep alive their hopes of

staying in their West of England Premier League group.

Meanwhile, the 2nd XI, who play in Division Three of the Wiltshire County Cricket League, tasted victory for the fifth time in 2026 with a dramatic one-run win over Swindon 3rd XI. With 6 needed off the last ball, Swindon could only manage a boundary.

Our 3rd XI continues to offer opportunities to players across the whole club, giving youngsters their first taste of adult cricket. The team picked up their third win of the season on 1st August against Royal Wootton Bassett 4th XI by 16 runs.

Matches continue to be played across our youth section, with our under-15 and under-17 sides winning games recently, as well as having several players represent Wiltshire across the age groups, including hosting Wiltshire under-14s on three occasions this summer.

If anyone is interested in joining the club, please head to our Play Cricket website to find out more information.

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 Tennis Club



Pickleball has come to Purton!

We are pleased to say that we now have pickleball at PTC and it is proving very popular and great fun. Recently we had Phil & Nicky Spice, national medallists, giving us some tips and coaching, and we now have 'Pickleballers' playing regularly on our courts near the cemetery. If you are interested in trying pickleball, we have equipment you can hire for a taster session.

We have enjoyed a wonderful summer of tennis, and this will continue well into the autumn.

Juniors

The junior tournament will take place on 5th September and will showcase the improvements that our junior members have made over the summer. We wish them luck and hope they enjoy playing competitively on the day. As always thanks to Nic, Teresa & Tilia (D of E volunteer) for assisting.

Tennis4Tots, led by Pedro, has been hugely successful. The little ones have great fun, playing all sorts of tennis-based games. Please see our media pages for confirmation of the next session.

Tea & Tennis

Likewise, Tea & Tennis has also been a huge success and we'd like to thank everyone who has supported these sessions, and again, Jo, Ange, Nic & others who have given up their time to assist. T & T will continue throughout September on alternative Thursday & Friday mornings. (4th 10th 18th & 24th) starting at 10.30 a.m. Again, please

see our Facebook page for any change to these dates and times. Everyone is welcome, free for members and £5 for visitors – and of course this includes tea & biscuits!

Seniors

Sid, our senior coach, organised a fantastic summer camp during the holidays. All the days were well attended and there are some great pictures on our Instagram & Facebook pages.

Sid also runs Cardio on Sunday mornings, which is an energetic but fun start to the day. All welcome, just turn up at 9.30 a.m.

League tennis has now finished, and the Mixed B team will be promoted into Division 2. Well done to them and to everyone who played in the teams this year, it has been a little hot at times, but as always very enjoyable and challenging at the same time.

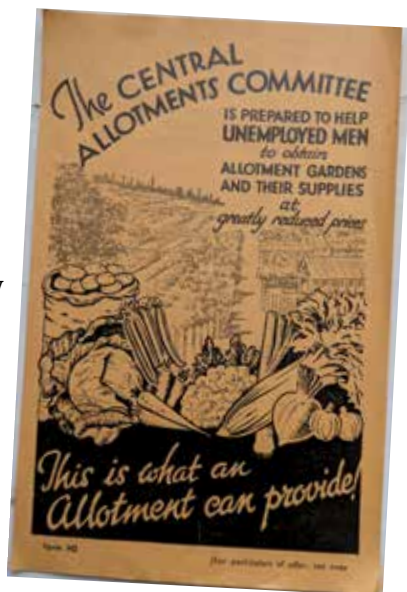
If you are interested in playing Tennis or Pickleball, we have something for all ages and abilities at Purton. Please scan the QR code for links to our website or contact us by email or via our Facebook page.

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



Purton Museum News

The General Allotments Committee of The Society of Friends ran the 'Allotments for the Unemployed' scheme. It helped unemployed men obtain allotment gardens and supplies at greatly reduced prices, and, at the outbreak of the Second World War, there were approximately 740,000 allotment plots in England and Wales. In 1939 spades and digging forks were priced at 3s. each, fertiliser in 1 cwt bags 1s., and seed potatoes 6d. per stone. Philip New collected payments for the Purton branch of the scheme at The Greyhound.

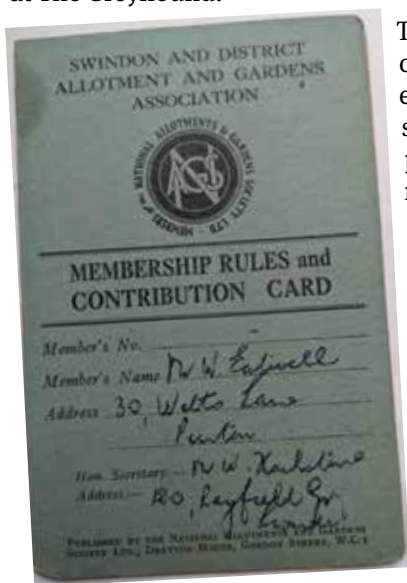


The committee's established structure provided a framework for supporting new 'Dig for Victory' plot holders.

The museum is open every Tuesday 3.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. and the last Saturday of every month 10.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. until the end of October.

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

Lucy Lewis



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Purton Village Diary - September 2026

2	W	11.30am	Age Concern Chatter Club at the Red House
4	F	10.30am	Friends of Lydiard Park walk from the Coach House tea rooms
		10.30am	Tea & Tennis at Purton Tennis Club
5	Sa	10.00am	Purton Litterpick, meet at Silver Threads Hall
		11.00am	Purton Tennis Club junior tournament
6	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Church for All at St Mary's
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
10	Th	10.30am	Tea & Tennis at Purton Tennis Club
12	Sa	10.00am	Purton Rainbows visit to the Steam Museum
		10.00am	Wiltshire Ride & Stride
			Last Night of the Proms broadcast live from the Royal Albert Hall
		2.30pm	Craft stall and de-stash at Silver Threads Hall
13	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
14	M	10.00am	Purton WI meet at Silver Threads Hall
		7.00pm	Full public Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
18	F	10.30am	Tea & Tennis at Purton Tennis Club
20	Su	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Church for All at St Mary's
		10.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving Service at Purton Methodist Church
21	M	2.00pm	St Mary's Fellowship of Women meet at Purton Methodist Church
22	Tu	7.30pm	Wessex Male Choir recruitment evening at The Deanery School, Wichelstowe
23	W	10.00am	Age Concern trip to the Brecon Mountain Railway
		11.00am	Heritage Apple Days (until 27th) at Lydiard Park
			Autumn Equinox
24	Th	10.30am	Tea & Tennis at Purton Tennis Club
		7.00pm	Purton Historical Society meet at Purton Methodist Church
26	Sa	2.00pm	Purton Historical Society village walk from the Village Hall, looking at Purton's farming past
		6.30pm	Bingo night at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall
		7.30pm	Music Concert at Purton Methodist Church
27	Su	10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
28	M	2.30pm	Silver Threads Social group

Every week

M	6.30pm	to 7.30pm Purton Village Voices choir practice at Purton Methodist Church (term time)
	6.00pm	to 7.30pm 2nd Purton Brownies meet at the Millennium Hall (term time)
Tu	9.00am	to 11am Purton Toddler Group at the Village Hall (term time)
	2.00pm	to 7.00pm Purton Library open
	3.00pm	to 5.30pm April to October, Purton Museum open
	6.00pm	to 7.30pm 1st Purton Brownies meet at the Millennium Hall (term time)
	7.30pm	to 9.00pm 1st Purton Guides meet at the Millennium Hall (term time)
	7.30pm	to 9.00pm Purton Rangers meet at the Millennium Hall (fortnightly, term time)
W	10.00am	to 12 noon Coffee and Chat at Pips Community Cafe.
Th	1.30pm	to 2.30pm (during term time) Tai Chi at the Village Hall
	7.00pm	to 8.30pm Purton Youth Club for school years 7+ at The Millennium Hall
F	2.00pm	to 4.30pm Purton Library open
	3.30pm	to 5.00pm Weekly group for Ukrainian families and their hosts at Royal Wootton Bassett Library
Sa	10.00am	to 1.00pm Purton Library open
Su	10.30am	Pathway Church meet at Purton Silver Threads Hall

Every month

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

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

Purton Historical Society



Our next meeting will be 'The Fields of Purton Part Two - The Agricultural History of Purton from 1086 to 1744', on Thursday September 24th, at the Methodist Church. Doors open at 19.00 and the talk starts at 19.30. The first 10 minutes will be a recap of last year's talk, (from the Ice Age to 1086), so if you missed that don't worry as it will all make sense (I hope). The talk will cover the growth of population up to 1300, the impact of the black death and what information we can glean from the 1744 map of Purton.

Tour of the Fields of Purton

There will be a walk around some of the features discussed in the talk on Saturday 26th September. The walk starts outside the Village Hall at 2 p.m. and we will visit the original open fields of Purton, examine the ridge and furrow (the humps and bumps, which are part of a 1000-year old farming system, walk over to the common and look at how different fields would have been used for different purposes.

The program of talks for the rest of the year is on the Purton Museum website in the Purton Historical Society section.

Keith Allsop
allsopk83@hotmail.com

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in: *Jubilee Estate, Vasterne Close, Hoggs Lane, Vasterne Hill, (and from Moulden View) Caspian Close and Pinto Close, Cotswolds Rise Care Home, Ridgeway Farm.*

Purton & District Probus Club



Shakespeare's Stage

by Dr Chris Scott

Our speaker, Chris Scott taught drama and theatre for 40 years, and he has experience directing Shakespearean plays.

As explained by Chris, four men dominated during the period of Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre as actors, playwrights and/or managers. They were William Shakespeare, Richard Burbage, James Burbage, and Phillip Henslow. Essentially they were all astute businessmen, heavily involved in making money.

There is no clear idea of what Shakespeare looked like, as the official picture is most probably inaccurate. However, apparently he was the biggest commercial playwright of his period. Richard Burbage was Shakespeare's principal actor and manager. Burbage was also Shakespeare's great friend. It was a risky business, and both Shakespeare and Burbage were briefly imprisoned because some of their work offended members of the royal household. James Burbage was Richard's father, and another very astute businessman. Henslowe was an actor, and a great rival of the Burbage family, who also made a great deal of money. During the period, any theatre was a commercial concern. If it didn't make money it failed. Good actors performing popular plays were essential to attract large audiences, being successful and making a significant profit. The average play would be staged for no more than three days, the longest was 'The Game of

Chess' which continued for nine days.

Theatres were riotous places. They were packed full of noisy crowds who would throw nuts at the actors; heckling was sport. Actors would be hired for parties by the aristocracy. Many theatregoers would bring dogs with them as protection against pickpockets. Renowned pickpockets might be tied to the stage so visitors would recognise them in the future. The acting was rumbustious in order to keep the audience amused. The style, known as "Commedia dell'arte", came from Italy. Characters such as Piero, Columbine and Harlequin were part of this style and were the forerunners of many pantomime characters of more recent times such as Punch and Judy. The actors would perform anywhere for money. There would always be a very 'busty' woman who, in fact, would be a boy made up to represent a woman, as female actors were not permitted at this stage of history. A lot of sexual innuendo was common. Visual comedy was popular because it didn't require any language as it was all mime.

Market places and Inn yards were used for performances so that people had to pay to get in – a way of ensuring payment. The stages were very basic, often consisting of planks placed on beer barrels and a simple curtain. Members of the audience might hire benches to sit on, although many of the audience would stand throughout the performance – they were known as 'groundlings'. Meanwhile, the inn

keeper made money from the sale of alcohol and this, of course, contributed to the chaotic audience 'participation'.

Burbage's big idea was to have a permanent place which would make very significant profits. He wanted to take the whole concept of the theatre to London which, with a population of a quarter of a million, was the obvious place to make the greatest profit. Burbage consequently secured a site in Shoreditch which, being outside the city walls, avoided the tax imposed on establishments within the walls. His son Cuthbert acquired the money to build it, and it was based on the design similar to those of bear pits and inn yards. Once the Shoreditch construction was complete, Burbage called it simply 'The Theatre', as it was the only one that existed at that time. When The Theatre was opened to the public, the younger Burbage, Richard, took all the lead roles, and it was a huge financial success.

However, this success was relatively short-lived, as the population began flocking to a range of activities in Shoreditch. People started going to Shoreditch to visit the brothels (known as 'stews'), and the increasingly popular blood sports held in bear pits and bull rings. This all impacted on the profits made in The Theatre and led to the decision to move to Southwark and to build permanent establishments. The first of these were The Rose and The Swan theatres, that were co-owned by the Burbages, Shakespeare, and three others who all became shareholders. The Burbages, however, maintained by far the biggest share hold.

The next significant move was the building of The Globe. The original

Shoreditch establishment was dismantled at night; the numbered parts were loaded onto a fleet of barges that proceeded up the Thames to Southwark, and a modified version called the Globe was established. The first performance, Julius Caesar, written by Shakespeare, was given on the 21st of September 1599. Actors wore their costumes over their own clothes. Many further theatres were built, and all were making money during the period 1576 – 1617. Their success was akin to that of the modern musical and all outside the City of London's taxes!

The construction of the Globe had an influence on how the play was performed and is referred to now as 'milk bottle' acting, which involves acting forward, down, up and to the sides. The Globe could house a large audience. Certain traditions were established such as entering stage left, if a villain, or right if a heroic figure. This is still the case in the modern pantomime. The three rules of the theatre, according to our speaker, were all 'to be heard'. The actors had to communicate with the audience. They also had to know how to fence as this was common at the time. Fencing is still taught in drama schools in modern times as well as the ability to sing, dance, play a musical instrument, and ride a horse.

Richard Burbage got vast amounts of money for 'guest' appearances; up to £10 per session. Edward Alleyn was one of the great rival actors to the Burbage family. He once went on stage in a costume worth at the time £60, which is equivalent to £30,000 today. Will Kent was a famous comedian. He cracked jokes and carried a toy dog. Shakespeare had rows with Kent because he would

add his own jokes and lines. He was eventually sacked and is said to have 'danced all the way home.'

A check list of 'known actors' included Burbage, Alleyn, Will Kempe, Henry Condell, William Rowley, Robert Armin, Christopher Beeston, Joseph Taylor, and William Sly, who collected Shakespeare's plays and had them published. Robert Green (parodied in the TV comedy *Upstart Crow*) was a writer of 'educated' plays. There were commercial writers including Kit Marlowe and Thomas Kyd and Thomas Dekker who all wrote different genres; namely comedy, tragedy and horror.

*Report by John Slaght
Probus Committee Secretary*

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

Cricklade Camera Club

New Season

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. Everyone is welcome. Come and try us out, your first evening is FREE. To help you improve your photography, you will have the option to work with a mentor on a one-to-one basis. To see all our activities take a look at the programme page of our website <https://crickladecameraclub.org/program/>

On Tuesday 1st September at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annexe, we will have the chance to see all the images that were entered into the Annual Competition in June, plus members images from the summer project, their interpretation of the title "Hidden Stories"

On Tuesday 15th September at 7:30 p.m. there will be a Zoom meeting, when Andy Phillips will give a talk "The Inner Landscape" - his take on the genre of still life using manipulated natural light.

*Phil Winfield, Programme Secretary,
Cricklade Camera Club*

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

Purton House Organics & Farm Shop news

Early in August we had our best Festival on the Farm yet – so much so, I decided it deserved a whole article to itself! As many Purtonians know, this has become an annual event and we are now into our 10th year. As with many small farms nowadays, diversification is key to survival and this event is what allows us to continue producing and distributing healthy, home grown food. We are truly grateful to the people of Purton for not only putting up with us, but for actively supporting us with all your kind comments and encouragement. We hope the event didn't affect our neighbours too much and we were glad to see many of them join us for a dance on the field!

Local Talent

We are proud to be able to show-case the many talented musicians and singers local to Purton, Swindon and surrounding towns and villages. I know from personal experience (hubbie and kids!) how much time and effort goes into learning an instrument and training a voice. On top of that, forming a group



and keeping it together requires commitment and perseverance to create a sound that people will actually enjoy! Pictured is Chris Plaister, a very talented bass player and a key figure in bringing the Festival to its current level of success.

Local Creativity

It's not just the musicians that make up the Festival – there's a lot more! The thing that struck me this year was the wealth of passion and creativity that go into making it such a unique event. Everywhere on the Field were small works of art, from carved wooden signage by Alex (a Purton lad who used to work on the farm, now father of four!), to hanging decorations in trees and around gazebos, a funky scarecrow and this cute pink pig made out of part of an old silo feeder.

As well as music and arts, the Festival wouldn't be what it is without the talents of local caterers to keep everyone fueled up for the dance floor. As fellow small businesses, we know they have put their heart and soul and a whole lot of hard work into developing



their trades. Over the years they have become good friends with us, and with each other, and we all look forward to meeting up over the weekend. They're

The festival site from the air.
Credit: Andy Crook

all based nearby, with ice cream from Dora's Dairy just next door!

The creativity doesn't stop with the traders and organisers – many of the Festival goers come attired in imaginative costumes and we even had a fancy dress competition, which the children joined in too!

One of the best things about the event is the safe space that allows children to roam relatively freely – something previous generations took for granted but is rare to achieve nowadays. Our fantastic security team, made up of hired professionals and in-house committee members, keeps everyone safe and parents look out for each



other's kids on the campsite and in the Festival.

The camping field is a whole different world and becomes like a village where families and friends meet for the weekend to relax and catch up. There's a real spirit of community and friendship and every year they leave our fields clean and tidy.

I've mentioned before the large team of volunteers who make it all possible. The costs of putting on a Festival are huge, especially the insurance! So the volunteers, including most of the organising committee, are absolutely crucial to its viability and we are so grateful for their commitment and hard work. A final mention goes to all our local sponsors – again small businesses that want to support such a magnificent event – and not a global corporate in sight!

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



Wessex Male Choir

If you love to sing – we want you!

Do you sing along to songs in the car?
Maybe when you are in the shower?
Perhaps with your mates at the pub?
How about taking it to the next level?

Join the Wessex!

We are a Male Voice Choir, based in Swindon, and have been in existence for 25 years. We currently have around 60 members, but are always looking for anyone who would like to join us. We rehearse once per week (on a Tuesday evening) and have several concerts throughout the year. We are a registered

charity and regularly raise funds for good causes.

No previous singing experience needed.

You don't need to be able to read music.

If you can hold a tune and follow instructions – we'll teach you the rest!

Take the next step – come to our next recruitment evening and see what you think.

The Deanery School, Wichelstowe,
Tuesday September 22nd at 7.30 p.m.

It could be you on stage at one of our concerts very soon!



Let your little star

shine brightly



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

UK Health Security Agency

Tick Awareness



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 fifth article in the series.

Are you as squeamish as me? If so, be aware that this article is about blood and guts.

When out walking in Purton we don't worry about being shot. But picture the scene in the French countryside: a loud gunshot cracks out quite close by in the cold Winter air, quickly followed by two more. We're out walking our dog during the hunting season, wearing fluorescent gilets in order to be visible, and staying alert when we see hunters or their roaming dogs. Every hunting season in France a few people are shot, mostly other hunters but not all, so it's good to be careful.

La chasse (hunting) is a major part of life in rural France, taking place across the country from October to March. The main form in Normandy is hunting on foot for deer or wild boar; hunters in lines wearing orange hi-vis move through fields or woodland, shouting, banging and sounding horns, and drive their quarry towards another line of hunters who wait with rifles at the ready. During the Autumn/Winter season, you will frequently see this scene as you

travel around rural areas, sometimes encountering several hunts in one day. The state has many regulations around hunting, including which animals and birds can be shot, the dates and in what quantity. The rule about alcohol is vague and it's only illegal to show 'behaviour that indicates that a person has consumed excessive alcohol' i.e. staggering around with a loaded rifle. But we were never sure who was enforcing these regulations, if anybody.

There are gentler forms of hunting too: gathering mushrooms is popular and plenty of people have the knowledge and confidence to do this. Pharmacists are trained on mushrooms and provide a free identification service in rural areas but this is becoming less prevalent nowadays. Like game hunting, mushrooming is regulated by the state, and our local mairie (town hall) had detailed notices giving the dates for mushrooming and limiting the volume to a single basket per person per outing. Again it seemed pretty unlikely that these regulations were enforced.

The hunters in our local area would line up and shoot, often within sight of our house. But the most gruesome part of this ritual was the butchering that they did in front of a barn about 25 metres from our door. After the day's hunting they would arrive in pickups loaded with deer and boar. The animals' guts were emptied into drums, the heads and hooves removed, and the meaty parts then divided up amongst the group of hunters so that they all got a share, including those who had not actually



shot anything. All this continued into the dark of the Winter evening and we closed our shutters to avoid the sight. We later made the gruesome discovery of the heads and legs dumped in nearby woods.

Numbers of wild boar have increased in recent years. One factor is storms which can leave forested areas covered in fallen trees, inaccessible to people but an ideal habitat for boar who thrive undisturbed. Boar, in particular, damage crops, and we saw fields of maize, wheat or vegetables partially trampled and eaten by herds of boar. This can happen quickly, so during a single night considerable damage can be done which means a loss of income for the farmer. Some farmers put electric fences around fields to prevent the boar entering, another cost incurred. Thus the hunters argue that the numbers need to be controlled and they need to consistently act. Our question would be: if people really need to control nature, is there a more humane way of doing that?

Hunting on foot is a simple, affordable and centuries-old way of hunting such that anybody can join in. As a result, hunting in France has none of the upper-class associations that it has in Britain where it mainly involves horses and hounds with grand and exclusive traditions. French hunters are ordinary local people, mainly middle-aged or

older men, deeply rooted in the local area and generally known for their conservative views. They constitute a powerful lobby at local level but also influence national politics.

For example, there have been calls for a regular hunt-free day such as Sunday every week when hunting would not be allowed; this would allow walkers and cyclists to enjoy the countryside without fear of being shot. However, the hunting lobby heavily influenced President Macron and managed to stop this and other planned regulations. Indeed, politicians like to demonstrate support for the hunters as it lends them authenticity and shows they are in touch with the age-old, mythical country roots of the French, somehow closer to the soul of the nation than the cities.

My work colleagues living in the Paris area always told me that their real home was Burgundy, the Jura or Savoie: authentic country areas. In Britain, the great majority of the population moved to the cities several generations ago so we have lost this connection to the country. As such the rural lobby in Britain is far weaker than the urban one, hence the ban on fox hunting for instance.

Next time we visit the British in France for a cup of tea and a look at some of their eccentricities.

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. This is the second in our series of stories from 'the bat nurse'.

Summer is an exceptionally busy time for bat carers, because it is the maternity and rearing season, when baby bats are born, clumsy juveniles start flying, and extreme weather or building works cause vulnerable bats to become grounded or separated from their roosts.

Mating usually happens in late summer or autumn before hibernation, though females store the sperm through winter until spring fertilisation. Gestation will be about six to nine weeks after the spring fertilisation phase.

Bat babies (pups) are typically born during the summer months of late May, June, and July with the majority arriving in June. Mothers almost always give birth to just a single pup each year, though rare twins can occur.

A newborn bat pup can weigh up to one third of its mother's body weight at birth and they are completely dependent on their mother's milk for the first three to four weeks. By six weeks old, they are catching insects and foraging on their own.

Pups ride along with their mothers while

they hunt or forage for food. During flight, bat babies hold on with their sharp claws, and even their teeth.

Pup casualties

So far this summer, I have had over 10 bat pups in my care. Sadly, some haven't made it which is always heartbreaking. I currently have seven; this is the



busiest I have been with babies, and this is mostly due to the hot weather. Hot summer weather causes dehydration and starvation in both young and adult bats, leaving them weak and grounded during the day. Bats also cluster tightly in maternity colonies inside warm attics, trees, or small bat boxes that amplify outdoor heat. If roost sites become too hot, bats can regulate

their temperature by moving away from other bats or moving around within the roost. Sometimes they will move roosts to another site which is cooler, taking their babies with them.

Mum and pup

My first pup casualty was a mum and pup. I had a call from some lovely members of the public regarding a number of bats found in their workplace. Sadly, some maintenance work had been carried out the previous week and it seems a maternity roost was disrupted. When I arrived, one adult bat had already passed, along with two pups located in different areas who had also passed/were passing. One adult bat was

clinging onto the wall and as I rescued it, I found a pup clinging onto its mum, luckily alive. Both bats in my care were very hungry and dehydrated and after some warmth and hydration, they both perked up. If bats are discovered or disturbed during building works, you must stop work immediately in the affected area. All bats and their roosts are strictly protected by law, and it is an offence to disturb them without proper authorisation. Having bats in a building does not mean your project has to be permanently cancelled. Professional ecologists will help you design a mitigation plan. This usually involves timing the works to avoid sensitive seasons (like the summer maternity season or winter hibernation).

Orphan pups

I have a group of five pipistrelle bats, who were admitted individually at different sizes and ages. Sadly, it is not known where the roosts are, so I am unable to try to reunite them back with their mums. Bats are very sociable animals and love being in groups, and as soon as I put them together, they were inseparable.

The pups varied in size and weighed between 1.5g and 3g. Some were only a few days old, while others were a couple of weeks. They all initially lived together in my incubator, which stays around

25-35 degrees to keep them toasty. The young pups needed to be fed every two to three hours (including through the night!) and were fed on puppy milk. It is important to keep them clean at this age, during feeding, I use damp cotton buds to keep their face free from any milk.

They are now self-feeding and living in an aviary currently indoors, but I'm hoping to move them outdoors soon. I recently went out and bought some wooden hamster toys for them to climb

on and build their muscles. They are learning to fly, echolocate and so are nearly ready to release.

The other two pups I have are serotine pups. Both pups were both found in a church grounded, and, sadly, the many attempts to reunite them with their mum were unsuccessful.

These pups are at least four times the size of the pipistrelles, and also younger! These species are building-oriented; they will choose roof spaces, gables, and cavity walls of older buildings (especially those dating from around 1900) for summer maternity colonies. They are born as a single offspring in early July and weigh a fraction

of their mother's body weight at birth, and grow rapidly! They are still on milk feeds, but are now eating mealworms for themselves.



Pipistrelle pups



Serotine pup enjoying a milk feed

Emma White

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue



Help prevent wildfires in Wiltshire

With warm, dry and breezy conditions increasing the risk of wildfires, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging us all to leave barbecues at home and enjoy a picnic instead when visiting the countryside, parks and open spaces.

You can help keep Wiltshire safe by avoiding open fires and barbecues, disposing of cigarettes responsibly, taking litter home and reporting any signs of fire immediately by calling 999. Every small action can help protect our communities, wildlife and countryside this summer.

Wildfires can ravage the local wildlife, destroying in a matter of hours ecosystems that have taken years to build up. If a wildfire encroaches upon farmland, then crops and farm buildings can be consumed, and homes that border heathland can also be at risk.

At their worst, wildfires can cause death or injury to people. A developed wildfire creates its own wind, which drives it at speeds faster than people can get out of its way.

Seemingly extinguished bonfires and BBQs often pose a continued risk of causing wildfires. Residual

heat and embers can cause hidden smouldering fires underground, sometimes for a number of days, before spreading to surface vegetation. These unseen fires can be particularly challenging for firefighters to detect and can easily spread unnoticed. It's another reason that we ask people to #BringAPicnicNotABBQ.

Steps you can take to avoid starting a wildfire:

- Avoid having open fires or using barbecues in the countryside.
- Barbecues and campfires are banned in many country parks, campsites and open spaces. Make sure you check what is and isn't allowed where you are, and follow the rules.
- Extinguish smoking materials properly, and don't throw cigarette ends on the ground or out of car windows – take your litter home.
- If you see a fire in the countryside, report it immediately to the Fire & Rescue Service. Early detection can prevent it from developing into a large wildfire incident.

When calling the Fire & Rescue Service:

- Get to a safe place
- Note the fire location (What3Words can help if you're not sure)
- Call 999
- Meet the Fire & Rescue Service at the entrance.
- Don't attempt to tackle fires that can't be put out with a bucket of water – leave the area as quickly as possible.

Harmonix

Someone recently told me that there are more choirs in Swindon than chip shops! I don't know if that's true, but I do know that there isn't a friendlier or more welcoming choir anywhere than Harmonix.

Harmonix is a community choir – which means you don't have to have an audition to join. There are about 55 of us, men and women, and we're almost all retired. We like to think of ourselves as a fine vintage wine – mature and well balanced with sparkling top notes and rich undertones! We love singing and have worked hard to become a choir we're all proud to be part of.

Essential to this is our outstanding music director, Val Weston, who has spent her lifetime teaching music and conducting choirs. Val makes sure that we're singing all the right notes in all the right places – but she also makes every session full of fun and laughter. She's aided by our experienced and talented pianist who keeps us all on track.

We sing a wide range of music in harmony. Songs from the shows, pop songs, classics, folksongs, even a bit

of rock. Sheet music is provided and there are also practice tracks to help you learn at home. But you don't need to read music as we go through everything in the sessions. For those who enjoy performing, we have a number of engagements throughout the year entertaining audiences while raising money for our chosen charity, the Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance.

We meet on Tuesday afternoons at the Des Moffatt Western Community Centre, Somerset Road, Swindon, SN2 1NF. The centre has an adjoining car park. Doors open at 12.45 p.m. for the 1.15 – 2.45 p.m. singing session. Afterwards there's time to chat over tea and biscuits.

There's nothing like the magic of music to bring people together and joining a choir is known to boost wellbeing, build confidence and create lasting friendships.

We welcome you to join us and enjoy the friendship, fellowship and fun created by singing together.

*To find out more please e-mail
suemazz1@gmail.com*

Learn, Laugh, Live with Swindon U3A

No longer working full-time? Then the u3a could be for you. If you want to meet new people and pursue new interests you could do no better than join our friendly vibrant community. Together, we enjoy over 130 activity and interest groups spanning a wide variety of subjects: the arts, sciences,

crafts, sports, music, history, literature, games, quizzes, languages, technology and more. We also hold talks and events where everyone can come together, share ideas, and enjoy a chat over a cup of tea.

Groups usually meet in local community centres or sometimes in members'

homes. The size of each group depends on the activity and the space required.

Swindon u3a is part of a nationwide movement, independent of political or religious ties. It is run by members, for members, and funded through subscriptions. Membership costs just £10 a year, plus a small fee for each group you join, mainly to cover venue hire.

Every group is led by a volunteer, and we're always open to new ideas for activities. Gill runs a bridge group, a poetry group, and a reading group. She says, "Joining a u3a group can be life-changing – some of the things it can offer are obvious while others are unexpected. For instance, if you were to join my Poetry or Bridge Groups, you are obviously going to learn more about reading and understanding poetry or

how to play bridge. But there's much more than that: You also make friends, have fun, exchange information and ideas and have something to look forward to and plan for. What's more, It's a great feeling to be learning something and really enjoying it. In Poetry we read a wide variety of poems, talk about them, relate them to our own lives, and learn a bit about each other too. And many of our bridge group had never played bridge before but soon mastered the basics, made friends by helping each other, and look forward to playing together each week. Oh, and there's usually tea and biscuits during the session! Really, being in a u3a group is like having another branch of your family." To learn more about the u3a and all the activities it offers visit www.swindonu3a.org.uk

Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall – Forthcoming Events

Saturday 26th September - Bingo Night - Back by popular demand!

Door 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). Please refer to our website lydiardmillicentparishhall.org to reserve your place and pay online.

Wine Tasting Evening – Date TBC

As with previous 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.

September dates: 14th 21st 28th
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 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 - These lunches have been taking a break during the summer months and will not resume as a monthly event. They will be replaced by Seasonal Lunches and these will be advertised in good time with details of how to reserve a place.

Watch this space!

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

Friends of Lydiard Park

From the Archives and within the State Rooms at Lydiard House

Lydiard's curious painted window survives from the older manor house that stood here before 1740. Created in 1630 for Sir John St.John by Huguenot master glass painter Abraham van Linge, it contains over 100 diamond-shaped 'quarries', exquisitely painted with mermaids, centaurs, hunting scenes, flowers, fruit and animals.

Many were copied from 16th- and 17th-century prints and painted on both sides for a three-dimensional effect. Van Linge even added flies to deceive the viewer. Retained when Lydiard was remodelled in the 1740s, its flowers and fruits include English iris, snake's head fritillary, olive and pomegranate.

Sir John also commissioned Van Linge to create the painted glass for the East windows in St. Mary's Lydiard Tregoze and St. Mary's Church Battersea.

The painted window can be seen in the Dressing Room at Lydiard House.

Good Gentlewoman – Anne Furnese

John St.John, 2nd Viscount St.John had his own Grand Designs for Lydiard House. But it was only when his wealthy wife Anne Furnese came into her inheritance that he was able to call in the builders.

Behind the elegant remodelling of Lydiard House in the 1740s lay his wife's fortune. The daughter and co-heiress of wealthy merchant and politician Sir Robert Furnese of Waldershare, Kent, Anne married John St.John in 1729. When John gained control of Lydiard Park in 1738, it was largely Anne's inheritance that funded the transformation of the old manor house into the fashionable Palladian mansion we recognise today.

Read more at www.friendsoflydiardpark.org.uk/news/blog-post/anne-furnese/

Friends Friday Walk and Talk

The Lydiard Friends Coffee Group took their latest gathering outdoors, with



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

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

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

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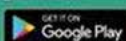
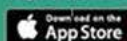
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Wiltshire Council

a stroll around St. Mary's churchyard to discover some of the fascinating apotropaic, or protective, marks hidden in and around the church.

Once you know what to look for, these intriguing traces of past beliefs are surprisingly easy to spot!

It was a lovely way to combine good company, local history and a little mystery.

Who knows where our next Coffee Group walk will lead us? We heard it's a tour of St. Mary's graveyard...

Join us on the first Friday of the month, at 10:30 a.m. at The Coach House Tea Rooms. Friday Drop-in Coach House Tea Rooms 4th September 10.30 -11.30am.

Our monthly coffee mornings are increasingly popular, and sometimes one hour just doesn't seem long enough! So, for those who are interested, we are going to follow our get-togethers in the Coach House with a stroll in the park, enjoying the seasons and discovering more about its natural environment and history.

It's the perfect time to enjoy the colours, scents and open spaces of Lydiard Park. Bring the family for a picnic on the grass, take a long walk through the park, or simply find a quiet spot to sit and enjoy the surroundings. And don't miss the gloaming. Summer evenings are perfect for a nature walk, when wildflowers release their scent to attract insects and, as twilight falls, bats can be seen swooping between the trees.

The grounds of Lydiard Park are open every day from 7:30 a.m. to dusk

Heritage Apple Days

Coach House, 23rd-27th September 2026, 11.00am-3.00pm. Admission: FREE

Discover the wonderful varieties growing at Lydiard in the Walled Garden and celebrate the stories, traditions, and flavours of these historic fruits. Enjoy an exhibition of artwork celebrating the historic apple varieties found in Lydiard Park's Walled Garden, with family drop-in activities and produce stalls.

Cirencester History Festival 2026

First glimpse of 2026 headliners!

Exciting news! With our programme about to go to press, I can finally share this year's first wave of headliners with you.

We are thrilled to welcome Robert Harris, Simon Sebag Montefiore, Philippa Langley, Alice Loxton, Ben Macintyre, Ronald Hutton, Kate Williams and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment – with plenty more brilliant names to be announced in the coming weeks.

Following in the formidable footsteps of The Sixteen, who opened for us last year, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment will be bringing world-class musicianship to town, launching this year's festival in style with a candlelit concert in the Parish Church on Friday 23 October.

As always, alongside our speakers, you can look forward to an exciting mix of walks, tours, workshops, film, feasting and family activities perfectly timed for October half term. Do make sure our festival dates (23rd October to 1st November) are firmly in your diary, along with our on-sale date of 4th September. If you want to get ahead of the crowd, now is the perfect time to email Di about joining us as a Festival Friend or Patron, with perks including priority booking.

Finally, this year we're trialling a work experience scheme for two 16–22-year-old event runners who have a passion for history and/or event production.

Jessica Yarrow, Festival Director

First Headliners

- Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment - World leading period instrument ensemble with residencies at the Southbank Centre and Glyndebourne.
- Simon Sebag Montefiore - Prize-winning historian, broadcaster and novelist whose work reveals the human stories behind global empires.
- Robert Harris - Unrivalled master of historical fiction and bestselling author of *Fatherland*, *Pompeii*, and *Conclave*.
- Alice Loxton - Dazzling young historian and social media sensation reviving Britain's rich cultural heritage for modern audiences.
- Philippa Langley - Pioneering historical investigator whose relentless search discovered Richard III buried beneath a Leicester car park.
- Ben Macintyre - The Times columnist and multimillion-selling author behind history's most extraordinary true espionage thrillers.
- Ronald Hutton - Beloved historian, broadcaster and leading authority on ancient Britain's pagan past, folklore and ritual.
- Kate Williams - Popular broadcaster, professor, and bestselling author bringing royal history and intrigue to life.

New Work Experience Programme

This year we're launching a work experience programme for two 16-22 year olds from the Cirencester area with a passion for history and/or live events. Candidates will join our operations team as a runner and will need great interpersonal skills and good availability over October half term. Don't worry about having a snazzy CV – we are a friendly team and are mainly looking for enthusiasm and reliability. Anyone interested should email their CV and a short covering letter, explaining why they'd like the role, by 18 September.

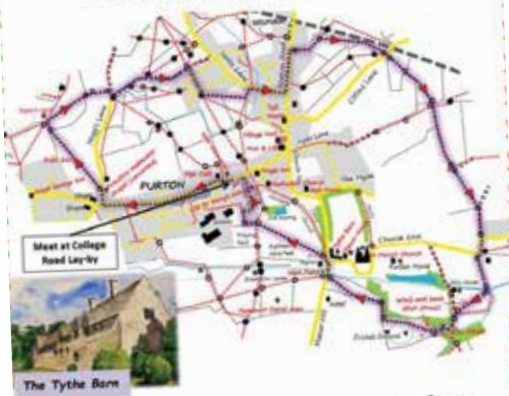
Purton Placard

Annual Village Walk

Sunday 6th September 2026

Meet at the College Road lay-by at

1:50pm for a 2:00pm start



This walk is about 4 miles and stile-free.

There may be cows and/or horses in some fields and also long grass in some areas.

This walk is not led by a qualified, professional leader and people take responsibility for themselves.

Purton Women's Institute

Meet on Monday 14th September at 10am in the Silver Threads Hall. The speaker will be Gordon Brockman from RWB Auction House who will tell us about 'Silver or not Silver'. Non-members welcome
£5 to include tea/coffee.

Calling all Crafters

We are holding a charity craft stall/de-stash afternoon on Saturday 12th September at Purton Silver Threads Hall 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. There will be refreshments, a raffle and a charity stall

All proceeds in aid of The Alzheimer's Society. Lindsey, Sue & Sally, tel 07726 167619 for further details

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



VILLAGE BARN DANCE & SUPPER FOR HARVEST

Saturday 3rd October 6.30pm

**Seasonal Rural Celebration
In Heritage Venue – C13 Church**

Caller – The Kilted Vicar

Entry by ticket – free from village shops, Eventbrite,
calling 770157. Prize draw for winning ticket
Contributions of food and drinks to share appreciated

Family groups welcome

Proceeds – helping bring a harvest in Mozambique
Hosted for the village by St Mary's Church



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Aged 17 to 18 (born Sept 2007 - Aug 2008)	Book online from 13 July
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nhs.uk/book-menb



Girlguiding
Purton district

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Meetings held at The Memorial Hall,
Station Road, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4
8EN. Doors open at 7p.m. Meetings start
at 7.30pm. Visitor fee £3 per meeting,
annual membership £17. For more
information email: pat.perryman1@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook [facebook.com/
WoottonBassettGardeningClub](https://facebook.com/WoottonBassettGardeningClub)

7 September - Philip Aubrey, Pruning:
keeping shape, why, when and how.

Purton Guides

Purton Guides will be focussing on helping those in need over the winter by knitting and crocheting squares to make blankets. Donations of knitting needles (4/4.5), crochet hooks (3/3.5/4) and double knitting yarn would be welcome. Volunteers to help the Guides with knitting or crochet on 22 or 29 September (7.30-9 p.m.) also very welcome! Contact Jo Sully, 07913 725390/jo.sully2@gmail.com

St Mary's Fellowship of Women

Meet at the Methodist Church Monday September 21st at 2pm. The speaker will be Christine Senior who is an ambassador to the 'Wrens Benevolent Trust and Association of Wrens'.

Purton and District
AGE concern

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Come and Sing Day

Come and Sing - excerpts of Handel's Messiah

Saturday 10th October 2026



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Come and spend a day singing excerpts from the world's most performed oratorio, including all your favourite choruses! Enjoy a friendly, welcoming atmosphere and lots of fun. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

£15 for the day, vocal scores available to rent.

Doors open at 10am; public workshop concert at 5:30pm.

Workshop concert free entry with retiring collection - all proceeds go to St Mary's Church, Purton

Tickets available here:



<https://rbgy/ptrxp6>

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Swindon SN5 4EB





Breeze through the tunnels



On 19th July our Breeze group went on a summer outing to Bath - thanks to Tracy and her van, we were able to take all our bikes, including e-bikes. The well-known Bath Two Tunnels circuit was a bucket-list bike ride for us and the route is freely available to download from The Walk Wheel and Cycle Trust website.

It was perfect weather as we cycled through town and joined the Kennet and Avon Canal tow path at Bathampton. It was a great route cycling next to the water and seeing all the brightly painted pleasure and house boats, both moored and travelling sedately along the canal.

At Dundas Basin we cycled between the canal and the river Avon towards Brassknocker Basin and the excellent Angel Fish Cafe, where we stopped for welcomed cold drinks and a delicious lunch.

After lunch we had the most challenging section of the ride as we made our way

uphill out of the basin through Monkton Combe and followed

quiet country lanes to Tucking Mill where we joined the Two Tunnels Greenway. This dedicated walking and cycle path follows a disused railway line through a wooded cutting and the suburbs south of the city centre. The most exciting part of this is of course the two tunnels - one of which is over a mile long! The tunnels are dimly lit and a bit damp but have lovely smooth tarmac and were beautifully cool on a hot day. We of course had to do the obligatory 'whooooo!' as we cycled through.

At the end of the linear park we cycled down the appropriately named 'Burnham Road', crossed the River Avon and joined another excellent traffic-free route, the Bristol to Bath cycle path which follows the river into the city. After a brief stop to take on water in the

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12/26



shade at Nelson Place West, we returned to our vehicles at Charlotte Street.

However, this wasn't the end of our Sunday in Bath. From the car park we could hear music and a short walk from the car park took us to the large open space in front of the Royal Crescent where a traditional bandstand housed a brass band playing rousing tunes. A sizable crowd had gathered, enjoying ice creams from a nearby van under the large trees. There was nothing for it - we had to join them, a perfect end to our day.

Our next ride will take place on Sunday 13th September, 10am, starting from Moredon Sporting Hub.

Women of all abilities are welcome to join Breeze rides, 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>

Free guided rides for women (Breeze), mixed groups (Let's Ride), both on and off-road are organised throughout the year by a dedicated team of volunteers, why not join in and see where your bike will take you?

*Heather Ponting-Bather,
Breeze Ride Leader*

Stay safe around lakes and rivers during hot weather

With warmer weather encouraging more people to cool off in local rivers, we're reminding everyone that open water swimming can carry serious risks.

Cold water shock, strong currents, hidden hazards and sudden changes in depth can all present significant dangers.

River water quality can also change quickly, increasing the chance of illness from bacteria and other pollutants. Especially when levels are low, as they currently are, and harmful pathogens are more concentrated.

Stay informed, stay aware and enjoy the water safely.

11/26

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Unprecedented community support enables Prospect Hospice to expand in-patient beds by 50%

Thanks to exceptional and unprecedented support from the local community over the past year, Prospect Hospice, Swindon and North Wiltshire's dedicated adult hospice providing end of life care, has announced plans to expand its Inpatient Unit (IPU) by 50% by January 2027.

The move will see a total of nine dedicated beds staffed by specialist end-of-life nurses. As a result, it is expected that around 90 more patients each year will be able to receive the personalised care and compassion that Prospect Hospice is renowned for, with their loved ones supported too, both emotionally and practically.

Earlier this year, the charity revealed it was turning away six patients a week due to a lack of funding – a stark example of the financial pressures facing hospices across the country. The need for change is now recognised nationally, with NHS England acknowledging that current hospice funding arrangements are not sustainable, and Prime Minister Andy Burnham putting reform of care funding high on the government's agenda.

With just 16% of Prospect Hospice's funding expected to come from government sources annually, the generosity of the local community is



vital to ensure that the hospice can provide excellent care in both the hospice and in people's homes. People support Prospect Hospice in many different ways – from donating and fundraising to shopping in its 17 shops, visiting the hospice café, taking part in events, volunteering their time and supporting through local businesses, corporate partnerships and more.

“It's just brilliant that we are in the position to increase the number of beds on our IPU,” explained Chief Executive Jeremy Lune. “We've been fortunate to have had an unprecedented level of community support in our 46-year history and this is a huge step forward in providing choice and consistency in

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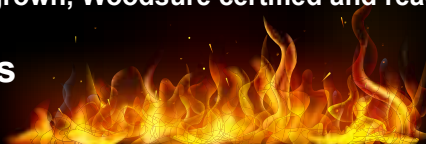
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04/27

end-of-life care.

“Turning away dying people is a heartbreaking position to be in, but now, thanks to the positive power of our community, we will be able to give more people the choice they deserve at the end of their lives. We’re incredibly grateful to the people who have dug deep when everyone has been affected by the cost-of-living crisis and not only enabled us to stabilise, but also to grow.

“With an ageing population, the need for specialist care is continually increasing and the NHS 10 year Health Plan rightly places more care into settings like the hospice. So, opening more beds in our IPU also means that our colleagues at Great Western Hospital can use their beds for the purposes they’re designed for, and more people will be able to receive the right care in the right place.

“Each year we care for around 180 people in our IPU, and so from January we expect to be able to accommodate an additional 90. For these people and their families, this will mean an end to uncertainty and the opportunity to have their choice of care and support at the end of their lives. Despite this wonderful news, the hard work isn’t over, as care in our IPU costs over £1,000 a night per person, but we’re incredibly determined to maintain this momentum. That’s why it is so important that hospices are funded fairly. If this did happen, we would be able to open 12 beds, the number our community needs.”

James Wallace’s wife Becca died at Prospect Hospice aged 45. On hearing the news, he said: “Becca was one of only six patients to receive expert palliative care at the hospice when she

died three years ago. When we would walk down the corridor to visit her, it was heartbreaking to walk past empty rooms.

“Together with our two teenage daughters, we were all supported through the difficult time and so it’s incredible to know that so many more families will benefit from the care and love that we experienced from Prospect Hospice.”

Hospice UK, the organisation that represents the community of more than 200 hospices across the UK, shared Prospect Hospice’s celebration. Charlie King, Deputy Director of External Affairs, said, “It is brilliant news that the fantastic team at Prospect are going to be able to re-open three beds. This is a huge testament to the phenomenal support of the local community. From all of us at Hospice UK, thank you.”

With six in ten hospices in England having either made, or are considering cuts to frontline services, Charlie continued, “Across the country hospices have been closing beds and reducing services at an alarming rate in recent years. Rapidly rising costs and insufficient government funding are putting huge pressure on hospice finances, and on their ability to reach more patients with the care they need.

“Time and again, communities step up to plug the gap. This is amazing – but, in the long run, we need government to do the same, to play its part in ensuring a long-term future in which hospice care is there for all who need it.”

For more information about Prospect Hospice or to learn how to support its work, visit: www.prospect-hospice.net

Mini crossword

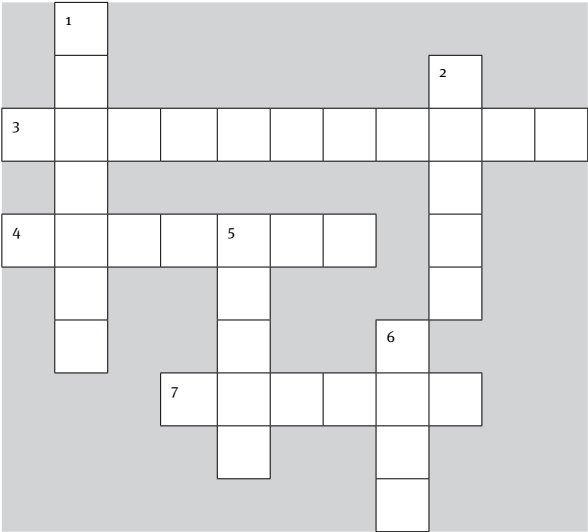
This is the next in our series of mini crosswords that are only designed to be a bit of fun and without prizes. The answers to August's puzzle are

1D) Friendly, 2A) Purton,
3D) Home, 4D) Village, 5A) Countryside, 5D) Clubs, 6A) Walking, 7A) Wildlife

This month there are seven clues.

- 3 across Natural open spaces (11)
- 4 across Hold in high regard (7)
- 7 across Heed or obey (6)
- 1 down Look after (7)
- 2 down Notices or boards (5)
- 5 down Relish (5)
- 6down Rule or principle (4)

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



Funerals at St Mary's Church

13 July 2026 Ronald George Townsend (Ron) (79)

16 July 2026 Hazel Kathleen Beckett (81)

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Email: SueC@beyonddementia.org.uk
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We would like to invite families of Year 5 and 6 pupils to our Autumn Open Events:

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 24 September 2026

5.30pm - 8.00pm

Headteacher talks: 6.00pm,
6.40pm and 7.15pm

OPEN MORNINGS

Thursday 1 October -

Tuesday 6 October 2026

9.15am - 10.30am

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