Puriton Newsletter



Photo: Tanya Greene

Issue 45

2020 - #3



Cottage along Riverton Road (next to Newlyn Crescent)

M5 construction and motorway footbridge 1969





Old Vicarage on Riverton Road 1949

Photos sourced by Peter Russ

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The deadline for articles for the next newsletter is 30 November 2020
Please send contributions to: puritonnews@gmail.com

From the Editor...

Welcome to the latest edition of the Puriton Newsletter!

It is definitely more challenging to compile a newsletter when there are no events happening around the village! I am really missing all the photos showing what we've been up to, and the build up and excitement of anticipating upcoming events. We should have photos of Party in the Park, of our Flower Show along with all the lists of results, of dog shows, and all sorts, in this issue. And the diary would be full of all the autumn and winter events that are being planned. I find my empty social calendar all a bit sad to be honest with you, and really miss seeing people. As time goes by it gets harder every day when you miss the regular social interaction you are used to.

How have you all been over the last few months? Everyone's experiences have been so varied: some people have continued going out to work throughout everything, often juggling childcare. Some have been working from home, and may still be. Some may have had a break, and some may not have a job to return to anymore. Some have busy families, and have finally managed to clean the house with the children back at school. Some have been very lonely and isolated. There's such a huge range of experiences, but for most I think it is true to say it has been a difficult year.

I have tried to make the most of my situation, supporting my children returning to school, trying to keep things as normal as possible for them, but always with one eye on the figures, and always trying to keep as safe as possible. I've really valued contact with friends, enjoying many doorstep chats over the summer, or evenings sitting in gardens putting the world to rights. With it getting so cold and dark now though I feel like retreating under my duvet for a few months. It will be much harder to feel connected through the winter and I worry how that will affect me.

I hope that during the winter we can all be aware of how each other are doing. How people cope in different ways, how varied our situations are, and how just stopping to talk for a few minutes can make such a big difference to someone.

Keep talking and connecting with your neighbours and friends, that's the key to a good community. If everyone does that, then we're all thinking of each other, and will look out for each other. Be resourceful at keeping in touch, and step outside your comfort zone to try new things. Video calls are really easy, yes it's not the same as face to face contact, but they're a good second best for now. Better than no contact at all. And most of all, look after yourselves, in every way.

Best wishes,
Jessica Cather
Newsletter Editor
puritonnews@gmail.com

Chairman's Round Up

Hi folks,

I wish every one of our parish health and happiness; I'm sure the current increase in covid cases is worrying to all of us. Thankfully our area is doing well in terms of spread of the disease, but we can't become complacent. Please stay safe and stay healthy.

On a lighter note, Christmas is coming, and I for one am going to do my very best to enjoy it. We are also planning to install the Christmas tree on the village green again this year and bring a little light into the parish.

On another lighter note, the Christmas Lights Competition will continue this year, something we all enjoy seeing, the houses lit up and that little bit of competition drives our keen 'twinklers' (that's the only name I could think of) into a frenzy of ladder climbing, dangerous electric extension lead plugging, and Christmas themed illuminati (pinched from Harry Potter). Most exciting of all, the parish council gives out prizes for the best (in the opinion of the judges) so get clipping and pinning, climbing and hanging, and let's make this year the best ever. We all need a bit of light in our lives. This will be judged by 17 December by two members of the Parish Council, and the winners will be announced at the Parish Council meeting on 12 January at 7pm.

The pump track has not been forgotten or stopped: funding is sat there waiting to be spent. Progress is slow due to the covid crisis, and we are currently getting the legal side sorted. We will be awfully close to getting the project started soon, we hope this year at least. Please don't give up on it! We have the money, we have a contractor, and we have the place to build it. It has been marked out, and we just have to get these things out of the way. Big thanks again to Villages Together and Viridor for their sponsorship of this project.

The Parish Council meet monthly online instead of at the village hall.

Some may be aware of new steps having been installed at Webbers Way, improving accessibility to the lane which runs along to the school and back to Puriton Hill. A great job completed in good time, and further improvements are planned to make the path easier to walk on. This is to be carried out by Alan Griffiths who has kindly offered to provide the materials and get them on site. We have no date yet but hope we can sort this very soon and make access easier and less muddy.

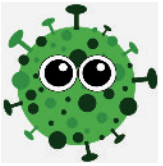
Stay well, stay healthy,
Simon Langley, Chairman Puriton Parish Council

If you are new to the village and have not yet received a Welcome Pack, please email: Nik Lewin: nik.suzuki.65@gmail.com or Denise Eggington puritonbrownowl@gmail.com and we will get one to you as soon as possible.

Poetry Corner

I am insignificant
in fact I'm very small.
If you didn't have a microscope
you'd not know I was there at all.
I can get into every little space
you'd not know where I am hid.
You see I am that little bug
known as number nineteen Covid.
Because you know that I'm around
you must stay alert.
So wash your hands and don't forget
it's still two metres apart.

Anon



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Puriton Parish Church

After some 6 months of enforced closure in response to the pandemic we were at last able to reopen in mid August. Much cleaning and many restrictions have been put in place to make it a Covid-free and safe environment.

We held our first regular service on Sunday 6 September, a short communion. Face covering is required and the usual social distancing rules are adhered to. This means we can accommodate between 23 and 30 people - the number varies depending on the number of social `bubble' groups attending.

Funerals - and we have had a lot this year - can now return to being held in the church after a long period when only a short graveside service was permitted.

We have had a lot of complaints about dog mess in the churchyard. Please keep dogs on leads and pick up any mess, signs were put up only to be torn down.

Our next service was held on 4 October, and will be followed by further planned services on 1 November and 6 December, both at 11.30am. All these are short Communion services lasting about 35 minutes.

We will be holding a Remembrance service on Sunday 8 November at 10.30am. This will be held in the church and not by the memorial on The Green. Currently we can have up to 30 in the church, but only 6 on the green!

Christmas arrangements - as with most things in the current situation, are unclear at present. The Christingle, Carol and Crib services are highly likely to be cancelled. A Christmas Eve service is planned but the timing has not yet been decided.

To end on a positive note, the Rev Kirsty Wells has been appointed Priest in Charge of our Church (along with Pawlett, Cossington, Bawdrip and Woolavington). She will be licensed in the new year and will reside in the vicarage at Woolavington. In the meantime Rev Chris Keys from Westonzoyland will carry out duties for us.



If you require any help or advice please contact:

Rev Chris Keys
01278 691098
chris.keys@me.com

PCC Secretary Pete Russ
01278 684221
peterruss64@gmail.com

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Fresh from the Oven

One of my family's favourites, a variation on a Quiche Lorraine.

It can be eaten hot or cold, ingredients can be swapped to suit your taste and it's good for freezing.

I am a bit lazy and don't blind bake, but if you would rather do this or even use a pre-bought case, it's up to you.

CHEESE & BACON FLAN

Pastry
6oz (150g) self-raising flour
3oz (75g) fat
Pinch of salt
Cold water to mix

Filling
4 rashers smoked bacon (chopped)
1 onion (chopped)
3oz (75g) grated cheese
6 fl oz (170ml) milk
2 eggs
Ground black pepper
Sliced tomato to decorate



Method:

Preheat your oven to 190°C/Gas Mark 5. You will need a 9" flan dish/tin.

To make the pastry - rub fat into the flour until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. add the salt. Mix in a enough cold water to make a dough. Knead gently on a floured surface, wrap in cling film and place in the fridge while you make the filling.

To make the filling - fry onions until soft, add bacon and fry until cooked, leave to cool. Whisk the eggs and milk together.

To assemble - roll out the pastry fairly thinly and line the dish (blind bake at this stage if you prefer). Evenly distribute the onion and bacon mixture over the bottom of the flan case. Sprinkle over the grated cheese. Season with ground black pepper and pour over the egg and milk mixture. Finally decorate with thin slices of tomato if you wish.

Bake for approximately an hour until nicely browned on top.

Sue Lukins

What To Do When the 'To Do' List Is All Done?

Some of you may have read about my Lockdown List in the previous edition. If you remember - I had one thing left unticked – a vintage standard lamp in need of upcycling. I've even done that now and, as I write, we are at medium risk, on tier 1, and seem to be back where we started! That just makes me sigh a big sigh and I'm sure I'm not alone. It all seemed better when the sun was shining and we were full of hope that it would all be over by Christmas. Now we're not so sure, are we, and it's too cold to sit in the garden, so how will this pensioner get through the winter? Well there's the Christmas List but, apart from being fairly sure we're going to get a roast dinner on the big day, it's hard to drum up any enthusiasm for the Festive Season as there won't be much else to get excited about.

So, let's think about the positives! The children are back in our lovely primary school and pre-school. That is absolutely great, as they can't afford to miss any more of their education. The Post Office still has a queue outside most days. It's good that people are still supporting those happy smiley helpful people, just as they supported us in our days of need – though I must say I preferred queuing in the sunshine! The butcher's shop is never empty, and people can get a haircut without leaving the village, so these are all things to be pleased about. At least we know who we can count on.

Anyone who drives east out of the village will have their mood boosted by 'Billy Blue Hat' on the Gravity roundabout, giving a cheerful wave to one and all. And who hasn't had a smile put on their face by the fantastic blooms adorning the village hall as we drive west? Well done to the green fingered folk who put so much work in around there. The sports centre has opened again and I, for one, am glad to be back to 'live' Pilates classes, with plenty of space and a super clean floor.

Who knows which tier we will be on come the spring, but we can only hope a 'zero' category will have been created and we can all get back to normal life. In the meantime I'm sure you'll all agree we are lucky to be living in this particular village – it could definitely be a lot worse!

I'm just going to have to tackle that massive task of sorting out the photos on my computer…

Kerry Chaplin

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Potting Shed Tips…



We have a guest writer for this feature this issue - over to you Bridget!

How quickly Autumn seems to be upon us and the temperature has dropped, so jobs in the garden are changing now as we prepare for slower growth.

I'm lucky enough to have a greenhouse and this provided me with lovely tomatoes and cucumbers throughout the summer, but these are over now, so it is time to clean out the greenhouse and wash down the glass. This will help keep the environment good for growing your plants next year and to keep down pests and disease use a suitable garden disinfectant.



It's time to pick any fruits and store the decent ones if you have a surplus, I have some wonderful apples and pears. We don't generally have anywhere to store them, but love eating them and freezing them too. I also have grown a pumpkin for the first time and it's rather small; I've picked it and it's ready for one or two of my grandchildren to have a go at making a face on. I am harvesting beetroots and carrots too.

The lawn gets cut as and when I can get out when it's dry; it seems to be growing well still. I'm also dead heading plants and cutting back shrubs as appropriate.



Apparently you can sow peas in October for early crops next year. I know this about sweet peas, which I like to do as the plants are stronger, so I think I will try peas, as I have become rather partial to pea shoots!

I really enjoyed growing lots of extra vegetables during lockdown, and using that time to concentrate on seedlings, digging, planting, and showing my young grandchildren where some of their food was coming from. So if you fancy trying your hand with some lettuce, broad beans or cauliflower all these can also be sown now.

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Registered Charity no: 1020832
Ofsted Rating: Good

Hello from the Puriton Inn!

We would like to extend the warmest of welcomes to you as we embark on a new venture as the team behind your local, The Puriton Inn.

Who are we?

Very simply we are a family. I am Shaun, an experienced publican who specialises in the operating of community venues with a good food offering. I believe in tailoring the menu at the market of good quality, home cooked food at a competitive price and I think that is exactly what the Puriton lends itself to. That is not to say that if you fancy something a little different we can't cater for you, with enough notice and a simple conversation we can make near enough anything possible.

My lovely wife Tina supports me behind the scenes as do my two sons, all of whom play a part in the business and bring their own views and personalities to the decision making process.

What did we see in The Puriton Inn?

We remember the Puriton from the “good ol’ days” when booking was essential, when it was always one of the top considerations when deciding where to dine out and when it always offered a friendly welcome. That is what we believe the Puriton should be once more. The venue lends itself well to creating a welcoming environment with breakout spaces surrounding the central bar, a large patio area with a large garden at the rear for the warmer summer days.

What are we bringing to the Puriton?

A good food offering of home cooked meals at a reasonable price. We strongly feel that we do not want to transform the Puriton into something it was never destined to be by introducing an overly complicated food menu. In our view, the Puriton is perfectly set to establish itself as the hub of the community and that is something we will strive to achieve. We will deliver this by listening to our customer’s feedback, introducing initiatives to keep the offering fresh and by delivering great customer service.

We are using local suppliers for our produce where possible as we look to support small businesses in the area and do our bit for the community.

What do we offer?

We are very much trialing menu ideas in the initial stages to see what sells and what doesn’t sell but our menu theme is traditional home cooked meals. You will find your classic selection of starters including soup of the day and garlic mushrooms, the mains will include a range of locally sourced steaks, butchers sausages, shortcrust pastry pies, mushroom stroganoff and more. Desserts include Tina’s Toblerone Cheesecake, which is by far the best selling item on the menu.

There is not much more to say other than we hope you will pop in and support us as we begin our journey here at The Puriton Inn. *Shaun Standen*

Looking After Our Wildlife

Now the weather is turning colder and we start to wrap up in our hats and scarves, spare a thought for our gorgeous garden visitors. Animals will also be looking for a place to shelter in the colder weather, and what could be more wholesome and heart-warming than to make a little hidey hole for our resident toads!



Like many of the UK's native species, the common toad (Bufo bufo) has felt the impact of loss of habitat, particularly the loss of breeding ponds, and are now considered 'at risk'.

The amount of wet woodland has reduced, due to drainage of wet areas, and of course the more cars there are on the roads, the more likely it is that toads will be killed by traffic, especially during the spring as they travel to their breeding ponds.

For most of the year, toads live in gardens, rough grassland, hedgerows and woodland, away from water.



During the winter months, the common toad overwinters rather than hibernates.

It will spend a lot of its time burrowed in mud (or in a sandpit, like we discovered last year!) or in compost, emerging in the milder spells to forage.

A toad hole like this one is an ideal place for a toad to hang out and conserve energy during the day, before heading out at night to hunt for food.

A toad's favourite foods include slugs, snails, spiders and ants. Yum!

MAKING A TOAD HOLE

This step by step was taken from the RSPB website.

What you will need:

- An old terracotta plant pot about 20cm across the top
- Trowel
- Leaves, moss and mulch

Step 1
Find a spot that's cool, shady and out of the way. Under a bush is especially good, somewhere with minimum disturbance from animals and people.



Step 2
Dig a hole about 10cm deep (or about half the width of the plant pot you have), and as long as the pot. If you are able to, then dig it facing north to south.

Step 3
Place the pot in the hole on its side so that it is half buried. The mouth of the pot should face south to avoid most strong winds and rain.

Step 4
Half fill the pot with your leaves, moss and mulch and scatter more around the entrance to the pot. Now sit back, and wait for one of our beautiful Puriton toads to make your pot its cosy daytime home!



TOP TIP!
If you don't want to end up in your child's bad books, wait for them to come home from school to help you with it, rather than going ahead and doing it on your own!!

Hopefully your efforts will be rewarded with some of our native wildlife being encouraged to take up residence in your garden!

You can also support the common toad by leaving part of your garden to grow wild, giving toads somewhere safe to overwinter.

Beth Denro

Emillie's Honesty Shop

We started the honesty shop on Tuesday 11th of August and lasted till Thursday 13th when all the apples were all gone. The reason for this fund raising was for many years Emillie's Nana (Ros Warde) was an active supporter/volunteer/member of Children Hospice back in Devon. 10 months ago she had to move along with us into one place to be together, with the idea that we can look after her when she needed us. Unfortunately for health reasons Nana can't tolerate prolonged standing and walking, or even sitting, because of her spinal stenosis, and this was a disappointment, making her think that this may hinder her supporting the charity she loved to work with.

But the 11th of August proved not only to Nana but to all of us that health shouldn't be a hindrance when you want to help others! When your heart's desire is to help and support people, it will find ways to reach and to touch individuals who are willing to help. Emillie was an witness of how Nana was loyal and supportive towards her charity. Her love of Children's Hospice was reflected to Emillie and she was excited to help.

We are still planning to do another Emillie's Honesty Shop and we have planned some options to put on display, not just apples! We had to do the apples first. I love making iced cookies and iced biscuits, this is part of our future ideas. We have previously supported a school's fundraising with these cookies, and one mother suggested this as an idea, so we hope it will work in the village. Wish us luck!

[Photograph on next page] *Edy Warde*

Puriton Puzzlers

Puriton Puzzlers arose from the realisation that 'my collection' of jigsaw puzzles was taking over the home, and it was apparent a good number of people in the village were keen for something to do to keep them occupied. So, I thought I would share them and raise a few pennies during the process.

Well, the response has been brilliant and its been really good to see people get involved and donations of puzzles and monies. So much so I have been able to donate £100 to Brain Tumour Support and we have now started working towards the next £100 as long as people still wish to continue puzzle swapping etc.

The reason why we chose Brain Tumour Support was they were there when our eldest daughter aged 30 was treated for a brain tumour, providing support and advice to both her and her husband. If you are interested to read a little more about her experiences go to: www.braintumoursite.wordpress.

I have just received the really nice note from the charity, so I thought I would share it with you all. So thank you Puriton Puzzlers. Keep Puzzling!

[Photographs on next page] *Ruth Lough*

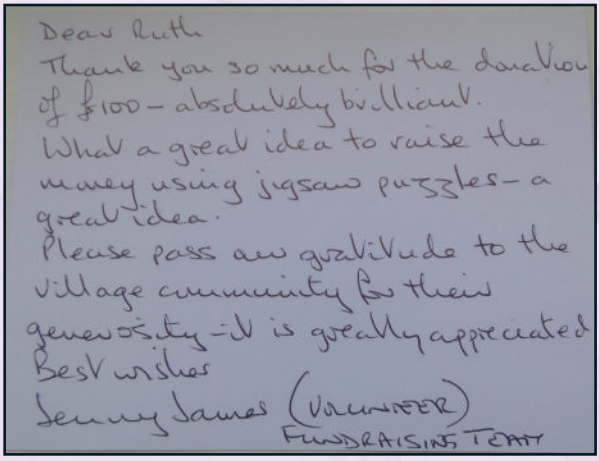
Emillie with her Honesty Shop
Raising money for Children's Hospice





Puriton Puzzlers
Raising money for Brain Tumour Support



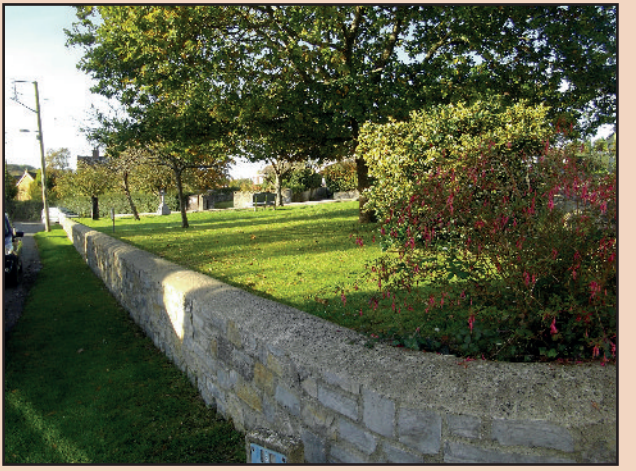

Dear Ruth
Thank you so much for the donation of £100 – absolutely brilliant.
What a great idea to raise the money using jigsaw puzzles – a great idea.
Please pass our gratitude to the village community for their generosity – it is greatly appreciated
Best wishes
Jenny James (VOLUNTEER)
FUNDRAISING TEAM

A huge congratulations to these villagers for achieving so much for charity, and for providing such a valuable community resource!



Puriton Village Green

Bathed in sunshine on an autumn day.





Photos: Chris Gulliford

Puriton Women's Institute

Puriton WI was founded just after the Second World War but I think I can say with confidence that the past six months have been one of our toughest challenges ever. We thrive as a group on getting together once a month, seeing our friends, hearing speakers or enjoying practical sessions and of course, having a cup of tea and biscuits or cake. The coronavirus crisis has meant that our meetings have had to be cancelled as live events at the village hall and we have struggled to keep the spirit of those meetings alive and to keep in touch with our members. We've tried emails, newsletters, phone calls, Zoom meetings and one attempt at a picnic. This last event was abruptly ended before it really got started by a huge clap of thunder and a flash of lightning! We retreated to our cars and went home in short order. Lately, we have been trying out more online meetings. In October we had a Zoom speaker, Sally Mabey, who gave a very enjoyable talk on her game show appearances on both Eggheads and Mastermind (twice). This month we will be trying out a 'meeting in a bag.' Members will receive a goody bag with instructions on decorating that bag and other items. They can then watch a Zoom demonstration of gift bag decorating during our regular meeting.



The county and national organisations have also been working hard to keep the WI going. Somerset has offered lots of free talks on topics such as policing in a pandemic to a Q and A session with a former Bake Off contestant. The national organisation puts on Zoom talks every week. I've 'attended' a talk on the 1936 Olympics, Hitler's Olympics, and a historical walk through Bloomsbury in London, all from the comfort of my sewing room. Last night I 'attended' a talk on stem cell donation which is one of the WI's current campaigns to get more people to sign up to the stem cell register. The WI has a long history of campaigning on issues that particularly affect women and families. Some of the current campaigns include 'Make Time for Mental Health,' 'Climate Change' and 'No More Violence against Women.' So, you can see that the WI isn't just about tea, cake and Jerusalem although we do all three at our meetings!

Puriton WI always welcomes new members. You can attend your first meeting for free if you'd like to try us out. Our members range in age from their thirties through to nineties. We're a friendly group who are well known for our excellent summer and Christmas parties! Like many village groups, we're looking forward to the time when we can meet again face to face.

You can contact our President Vicci Langham on 420755 or our Secretary (that's me) on 683532 for more information.

Betsy Bowerman

How's Puriton Primary School Been This Year?

It has certainly been a strange time for the school with the introduction of the national lockdown meaning the school closed to all but essential worker children. Despite only having a few days' notice, staff responded brilliantly in setting up home learning activities and providing a varied online curriculum. Whoever suggested PE with Joe (now Joe Wicks MBE) has a lot to answer for though, as months later I am still addicted to a daily workout!

It was great to get more children back for the end of the summer term though following a lot of hard work to ensure they could return safely. It was surely a first to have them so super excited and eager to return to school!

This autumn of course saw everyone back following further adaptations to ensure safety. Staggered start times, one-way systems, and more hand sanitizer are just some of the measures. It was also nice to be able to welcome the new reception class children on the start of their education journey with us.

All the children have been brilliant over these difficult months, showing amazing resilience and adaptability during lockdown and the on-going measures. I'd like to think that part of this is down to the excellent experience they have, and the core values taught at the school.

The school is a key part of the local community, everyone will know children who go there, or indeed went there themselves. The current pandemic has been tough but what has been great has been the strong community spirit, people looking out for each over and offering to help. Hopefully when things return to some form of normality, we will be able to resume our more outgoing activities, including social events like the summer fete, as well as encouraging volunteers to help out with reading, or even maintaining some of the garden areas (you have been warned).

And if anyone has a burning desire to become more involved in supporting the school, there is currently a vacancy for a school governor. This is a really rewarding role and a chance to help shape and support the school. If you are interested then please email me and I can explain a bit more about the role: nick.tait@puritonprimaryschool.org.uk.

Nick Tait, Chair of Governors

The Christmas lights competition will be held as usual this year. Please make your wonderful displays as bright and vibrant as always! We look forward to seeing the village lit up beautifully.

The winner will win a £20 gift voucher, second place £15 gift voucher and third place £10 gift voucher.

Two members of the Parish Council will judge the competition by 17 December. Winners will be announced at the Parish Council meeting on 12 January 2021 at 7pm.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Regular Events

VILLAGE HALL		
Parish Council	Meeting 2nd Tues of month	7pm
Puriton Afternoon Club	Every other Thurs, 2.30-4.30	Grace: 683355
WI	First Tuesday in month, 7.30	Vicci: 420755
Rainbows (age 5-7)	Tuesdays, 5.00-6.00	Denise: 07889 202068
Brownies (age 7-10)	Tuesdays 6.00-7.30	Denise: 07889 202068
Sunshine Pre-school	Mon, Wed & Fri, 8.30-3.00pm	07746 487759
(age 2 - school age)	Tue & Thur 8.30-1.00pm	
Line Dancing Social	2nd Friday, 8.00-11.00	Debbie Statton 788825
Bingo	Every Monday, 7.00 for 7.30	Ivy Ryan: 455393
Puriton Players	Thursday evenings	Alan Scott: 07734 357981
Woolavington Youth Theatre	Friday 5.00-6.30pm	
CLIST CHURCH ROOM		
Coffee Stop	Tuesdays, 10.30-12.00	All welcome
MU Bring & Buy & Coffee	Last Tuesday in month	
Patchwork & Quilting	Tuesdays, 7.15-9.15	Lin Fry: 691398
Bell Ringing	Mon 7.30	Norman Salter: 684050
(at the Church Tower)	(newcomers welcome)	
Social Arts & Crafts Group	Alternate Tuesdays 2.00-4.00	Robin 684700
Puriton Guides	1st Saturday in month	Karen 07811 004531
	Kingfisherpuriton@gmail.com	
Tai Chi/Qigong	Mondays 9.30-10.15	Gemma Carpenter: 07989 371796
Coffee @ the Clist	Some Thursdays 2.00-4.00pm	Sue Wood: 686921
PURITON INN		
Charity Quiz	Alternate Wednesdays	Pete 684757
OTHER ACTIVITIES/SERVICES		
Hunny Bears	Daily 8.00-6.00	Lorraine Toms: 683512
(age 2 - school age)	(including school holidays)	
Slimming World	Thursdays 7pm	Meet at 37 Club

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Dan: home: 01278 683479 mobile: 07789 224042

SPORTS CENTRE

Puriton Bowling Club	All day, every day	Derek Clarke: 683882
Puriton Gold Archery Club	Tues & Fri, 7.00-9.00pm	Keith: 284063
Coastal Archers	Weds 7-9pm, Winter Only	Robin Leveridge: robin9longbowsrus@btinternet.com
Puriton Amateur Boxing	Thurs evenings	Rob Haddon: 07950 909247
Line Dancing	Monday evenings	Debbie: 788825
Whist	Monday & Thursday pm	Derek: 683882
Table Tennis	Weds pm or by arrangement	Sue Wood: 686921
Pilates with Sara	Saturdays 8.30-9.30am Bring a mat and turn up	Sara Marsh: 07887 560278
Pilates with Gemma	Tuesdays 9.45-10.45am	Gemma: 07989 371796
	Tuesdays 11am-12 noon (beginners course)	Debbie: 07931 756554 Call Debbie to book a place
	Wednesdays 7.45-8.45pm	
Puriton Happy Tots	(parent-led toddler group) Friday 9.45am-11.30am	Rachel Addinall: 687297
Victoria Park Rangers FC	(Juniors)	Jason Bale: 07786 851710
Ballroom & Sequence Dance	Friday evenings	Margaret Brown: 685125
Cross40fitness	Various times cross40fitness@gmail.com	Phil Heyward: 07824 999570

HIRE CHARGES

Facility	**Contact**	**Charge**
Village Hall	Kim: 07419 842834	£15.00/hour (private function)
	new bookings clerk to come	£10.00/hour (Hall & Kitchen)
	Enquire for regular user rates	£8.00/hour (Committee Room)
School Hall	Reception: 683630 or office@puriton.somerset.sch.uk	£7.50/hour
Clist Church Room	Mrs A Russ: 684221	£6.00/hour
Sports Centre	Judith Fletcher 07717 831082 prices may be subject to VAT	please enquire when booking
	Two meeting rooms available, a large function room/kitchen Also Sports Hall is very suitable for a kids' party. puritonplayingfields@gmail.com	

Simon Langley 8 Riverton Road Puriton TA7 8BW Tel: 683007 Email: simonlangley.ppc@gmx.com	
Judith Fletcher 24 Hillside Crescent Puriton TA7 8AP Tel: 07717 831082 Email: judithfletcherppc@gmx.com	
Sandra Tizzard 4 Middle Street Puriton TA7 8AU Tel: 685093 Email: sandratizzardppc@gmx.com	
Mark Healey Tel: 685368 Email: markhealey@gmx.com	
John Lunn Tel: 324351 Email: johnlunnppc@gmx.com	
Julie Coleman Email: juliecolemanppc@gmx.com	

Barrie Crow
Email: barriecrowppc@gmx.com



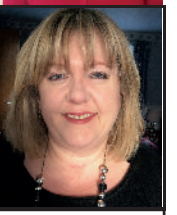
Vanda Crow
Email: vandacrowppc@gmx.com



Dawn Saunders
Email: dawnsaundersppc@gmx.com



Parish Clerk:
Sally Diaz
clerk@puritonparishcouncil.org
01934 221659





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From the Clerk's Desk

Work in the Parish continues... The steps at Webbers Way have been improved and there have been new dog bins installed. I would like to ask that people use the bins when they are walking their dog and they need to deposit bags from their walk and not the entire contents of their garden, which some do!

Work on the Parish Plan continues and is updated on the Parish Council Website. The Covid-19 pandemic has held up the delivery of the new streetlights at Manse Lane as they are being imported from Spain.

Can I ask that you continue to be mindful of your hedges and over hanging branches and keep them well maintained and trimmed back. Parking continues to be problematic in the village with cars parked poorly and hindering visibility, so please park sensibly. Children are on bicycles and there are plenty of learner drivers who are out and put at risk by poor parking.

The council will be discussing the budget for next year and suggestions are welcomed, you can email me on clerk@puritonparishcouncil.org

During lockdown over 4000 prescriptions were collected in the Sedgemoor area. We will be sending out details of the prescription delivery service and encouraging residents to set this up before any future lockdowns occur.

Here's to our next few months of hibernation…stay safe *Sally Diaz, Parish Clerk*

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Sunshine Preschool

It was lovely to welcome all our children back again in September!

They have all settled in brilliantly and have enjoyed lots of fun, laughter and learning outside!

We have implemented our new safety precautions and would like to thank all our parents/carers for being so understanding during drop off and collection times.







Sunshine Pre-School Puriton









Charity No: 1154472

HPC Community Fund

VOLUNTEER VISITING SERVICE

Do you know someone who is visually impaired and would benefit from Somerset Sight's Volunteer Befriending Service?

We are a long established charity supporting people with sight loss. Our befriending service provides fully trained and checked volunteers who visit sight impaired people on a regular basis to provide company and support. The ongoing help and friendship of a volunteer can make a lasting difference to a person's quality of life.

For more information, please contact Somerset Sight on 01823 333818

Somerset Sight

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Grants for Greener Homes



The Green Homes Grant scheme has opened for Sedgemoor residents to apply for vouchers worth thousands of pounds to make their homes more energy efficient.

Any Sedgemoor homeowner or landlord can apply for vouchers for green home improvements where the government will fund two-thirds of the cost of eligible works, up to £5,000, which could help families save up to £600 a year on energy bills. Low income households will be eligible for up to 100% government funding up to £10,000.

The scheme covers home insulation, low-carbon heating, draught proofing, windows and doors and heating controls and is applicable for all owner-occupied homes, landlords of privately and socially rented properties, park home owners, as well as people on low-incomes. Residents must redeem the voucher and ensure improvements are completed by 31 March 2021.

Residents can check to see if they are eligible for a voucher by using Simple Energy Advice's checker here:
www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/pages/green-homes-grant

If you need advice and support on how to apply for the Green Homes Grant voucher, please contact the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) www.cse.org.uk/advice.

More information: www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme.

Time to Trim Your Hedge!



Now the autumn is upon us, and the nesting season over, it's now the ideal time to get the garden cutters out.

The Parish Council has received a few reports over the summer of several properties in the village where garden growth has extended, in some places very considerably and over a long period of time, across the property's boundary.

This has led to pavements, roads, street and road signs, and other street furniture becoming obstructed, and in places almost encompassed, by excessive growth which causes a hazard to both pedestrians and road visibility.

We would prefer not to have to contact individual householders so could we please ask householders that have any excess foliage to arrange a cut back to their property side of the boundary over the coming few months. We thank you in anticipation of your co-operation.

In Memory of Peggy Moody

Peggy was a character, loved meeting new people, and was an enthusiastic member of many different organisations and clubs during her 92 years on this earth.

Originally from Taunton, Peggy and Doug moved to Downend in 1955, then to Puriton Park in 1971, raising their four children, and over time grandchildren and then great grandchildren arrived too.

Peggy was involved in many aspects of village life. She loved the church, was a member of the choir and the Mother's Union. She took up bell ringing, once getting locked in the tower by some local children playing a prank. It was only after about an hour of 'extra' practice that a villager realised there was a problem and investigated. She became a Guide Leader in later life, once being rescued by the army in thick fog on the Quantocks with six young guides from the village! She joined Puriton WI in the 1960s, and was a very active member for a very long time, becoming president during the 1980s. She enjoyed many creative pursuits, and also many sporting ones. She took up bowls and became Ladies Captain of Eastover Bowls Club, and played indoor bowls at Puriton Sports Centre. She also loved playing games with her grandchildren and great grandchildren, and wouldn't let them win either!



Peggy moved to the Towans Residential Home in Burnham-on-Sea in 2017 and enjoyed three happy years there.

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You Ain't From Round Yer!



So this article is somewhat light this month. I had an article planned, "appreciating the small things", I'd drafted it out in my mind, had it ready to be written..... and then, my wife was admitted to hospital, and our second little bundle of joy was born, a few weeks premature.

In related news: all members of the family are doing well and normal service will be resumed in due course!

Jon Sharpe



Many congratulations to Kayla and Jon from all of us! Please spend time enjoying your growing family and we look forward to hearing more from you again in the future!

Puriton Girlguiding

1st Puriton Guides

For the last couple of months Puriton Guides have held their meetings outside on The Rye where it has been lovely to see the girls in person rather than on the screen during our Zoom meetings.

We have made sunlight pictures using special photographic paper, tealight lanterns from tin cans, and wind socks. We had campfires in colanders and made S'mores (toasted marshmallows between two chocolate biscuits - yummy!).

We have of course continued with working towards our badges and played many games.

With the weather changing we are hoping to return to indoor meetings from November - socially distanced of course.

New members are always welcome, please email for more information: kingfisherpuriton@gmail.com

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Odile's Courgette Cheesecake

Sally makes a Courgette Cheesecake which comes highly recommended, and she was kind enough to share her recipe. An interesting twist on a popular dessert!

For the base:-

100g crushed Tuc biscuits
50g finely grated Parmesan
50g melted butter

20cm loose bottomed tin, greased.
Place this on a baking tray or wrap the base

For the cheesecake mix:-

3 medium sized courgettes
150g **soft** goats cheese
50g soured cream
2 tablespoons milk
1 clove garlic
1 teaspoon cumin seeds
3 tablespoons chopped parsley
2 beaten eggs
1 tablespoon plain flour



Method:-

Mix the ingredients for the base, press into the tin and chill.

Wash the courgettes and trim the ends. Use a potato peeler to cut the courgettes into long ribbons avoiding the middle when too many seeds appear.

Steam the courgette ribbons for 5 minutes, refresh in cold water, drain and leave on sheets of paper towel to absorb the moisture.

Mix the cheeses and cream together in a large bowl and loosen with milk.

Crush the garlic and add to the mix with the cumin seeds, parsley, eggs and flour. Add the courgette.

Pour onto the base, smooth the top and bake at 180 degrees centigrade for about 40 minutes. The top should be allowed to brown a little.

Place on a rack to cool for 15 minutes. Loosen the sides, remove the tin and leave on the tin base until cool.

Adapted from a French recipe.

Sally Lunn

Gravity News

Over the summer, our focus has been on forming the landscape bund. 145,000 tonnes of blast mound material have been recovered and transported from the site to the link road. When complete, the landscape bund will act as a noise and visual barrier between activity on the link road and the local community. The recycled material used on the link road forms part of our sustainable materials management strategy. Visit our website to find out more.

On 8 September, Gravity Directors, Martin Bellamy and Lord David Triesman penned an open letter to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, outlining the urgency of support need to support UK innovation. Gravity firmly believes that the South West has the foundations in place to become a hub capable of fostering clean and inclusive economic growth.

We continue to place Clean Growth at the centre of Gravity with proven evidence from delivering a successful material management strategy, and sponsoring the 'Environmental Achievement Award' at the 2021 Somerset Business Awards. You can read about our achievements in reducing carbon emissions on site via our web-site.

Our commitment to developing a leading smart campus underpinned by clean growth starts with its foundations. Evidence of Gravity's successful material management strategy, created in partnership with Ashfield Solutions, is explored in an interview on our website with Gravity's Programme Director, Paul Lowndes.

> *"Our partnership with Ashfield Solutions ensures that Gravity has and continues to recover, reuse, recycle and repurpose all suitable on-site materials. This has significantly reduced disruption in surrounding communities and reduced our carbon footprint.*
>
> *We hope this strategy and its environmental considerations will guide more low-carbon developments across the UK".*

A £50million railway restoration is at the heart of Gravity. Network Rail's feasibility study confirms the rail link will connect passengers and freight to Bristol, Bristol Port, Exeter and beyond, and is both deliverable and has sufficient paths to run the new rolling stock. Read more information on the railway project on the website.

Gravity recently outlined plans on for the development of six low-carbon homes at Knowle Hill. Thank you to everyone that has already sent through their views. There is still time for those that would like to feedback. Simply respond via our feedback form on our website.



For more information about Gravity, visit https://thisisgravity.co.uk

Puriton Neighbourhood Plan

Although all meetings of the Neighbourhood Plan Group are now held virtually, work continues towards completion of the draft plan.

Recent work has included the completion of a site design codes document. This looks at key aspects of the village including movement, landscape and character areas picking up on the results of the questionnaire consultation. It demonstrates how future developments might create high quality places in a way which responds to and enhances the rich character and tranquil landscape of Puriton.

It also provides a masterplan framework for the site south of Woolavington Road (which is the subject of the current planning application), integrating the site with the wider area in order to respect its rural character.

This document will be a valuable tool for securing high quality development in Puriton, especially on potential sites that might come forward in the future providing more certainty to both developers and the community. It was formally adopted by the Parish Council on 17th September.

The Parish Council has also written to Sedgemoor District Council asking them to ensure that the key design principles are a condition of any planning permission for the Woolavington Road site. The case officer has confirmed that he will impose such a condition as requested.

The site design codes can be viewed on the Parish Council website. *Tim Burton*

Court Farm Butchers

Family butchers run by Stuart and Jenny

Beef and Lamb all raised on our own local farm plus a huge selection of quality meat and meat products, dairy produce, jams, sauces, pickles, fresh vegetables, home made cakes and bread.

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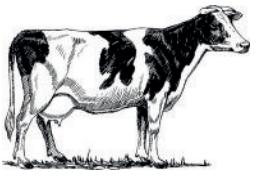

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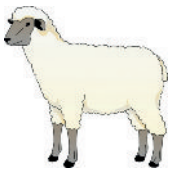

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Ranger's Ramblings

Hi all



In these odd times we still seem to carry on, and I am sure things will improve (although I didn't say when..).

Thanks to the people who clear up and keep tidy the properties that back onto the paths and bridleways. If you back onto a path please check, and I am passing a message on from the footpath liaison officer to keep the grass cuttings away from the footpaths/bridleways, as not only is it smelly, it is also very slippery.

Mowing the grass at the church triangle the other day I noted and picked up 2 piles of dog mess, such a shame as the area is used by children also. If the problem persists would be a shame to see dogs banned.

The road bank on the new road seems to get higher and higher, skiing in the winter anyone?

What a summer we had! Only 2 trips to the caravan - that's not good, and it's not good for the veggie patch! I'm not complaining as it looked like I had been abroad at times with the long spell of sunshine.

As we slide into autumn temperatures are dropping. You can put string around the winter cabbage as cooler weather means pigeons will pay a visit. String means they won't get tangled but they won't land as their wings hit the string. With netting they can get tangled.

Now the hope is some breezy days to blow all the leaves into a pile to allow easy pick ups.

I must say I do love the cooler weather. The grass is looking nice and slowing down. What is not to like?

Take care and stay safe.

Chris Gulliford, Parish Ranger





What is Normal?

I am now in my mid-eighties so childhood is a long way back, and as such memories don't seem to be retained much before the age of three or four, and only then when something out of the ordinary occurred. Like that first ice cream – a Lyons Maid cone. The shopkeeper would take from the freezer a paper wrapped cylinder which looked as though it was cut from an ice cream sausage, place it on a marble slab, grab the paper wings and pull to unwind the paper leaving the naked ice cream waiting to have the cone gently pushed on top. It was then picked up, turned over and presented with the request “two pence please” (2d as was) and then “thank you young sir”. Yes even being young you were respected.

Living at the edge of what is now Greater London where the suburbs were still developing there were plenty of parks, gardens and open spaces. It was part of the John Innes estate before major development. I liked Saturdays because I was allowed to help the milkman – horse and cart of course! At the end of the morning sixpence probably out of his own pocket. Then if we got as far as his café maybe a dripping sandwich. If the horse left its droppings in the road by your door it was your first dibs for the roses.

At Christmas time my father's lodge gave the local kids a party and of course Santa dished out presents. Trust me to let the side down; after getting mine I blurted out “that's not Santa, that's my dad!” A very poor disguise. Do you remember playing five stones or dabs as it was also called? Five different coloured clay cubes about the size of dice. You held them in your hand, threw them in the air and caught them on the back of your hand each time performing a different move without dropping a dab. If you did, game over. Nowadays it's phones and computer games etc.

The sun always shone - well at least it seemed that way – until, yes, the dark clouds of war. Things now were not normal.

Today's generation are now having to come to terms with their “not so normal” in a similar way. We have to understand something that we can't see or feel and which is silent and threatening. Having to come to terms with restrictions, dos and don'ts, no you cannots etc. Life has been good and it's hard to understand the restraints.

As a lad I faced threats also, some silent like the V2 bombs. It had a soft boom like Concorde before the terrible devastating explosion. Simple things like not showing a light after dark. You could be signalling the enemy. Because that was the norm we had to accept it. I have been carried out of my bed in the middle of the night, thrown over my father's shoulder, down the back garden path to a freezing and musty Anderson shelter with only a candle for light and a paraffin heater for warmth. The only lights that would be seen were parachute flares dropped by the enemy or the beams from our own searchlights. I have also been in the street on a lovely warm, sunny afternoon stood in awe at the sight of and the pop pop sound of a doodlebug V1 flying over. Quite

harmless whilst its motor was still running so no fear on my part. That came from my parent's admonishment for not running for shelter. Being young you don't understand.

Queuing at the shops was quite normal but so too the disappointment of no stock.

And so here we are again two or three generations down the line, once again having to comply with certain restrictions. It's tough I know but if we all conform the sooner we will be back to normal.

At the end of though, if you think about it, is normal normal? Each generation must have its own opinion of it. Perhaps we should be saying acceptability.

As a Boy Scout, one of the laws was to think of others before yourself. This is surely a consideration for us all today. *R.W.*

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Villages Together Update



Hello everybody. This is to introduce myself as Mary Cullen the new Villages Together Community Project Worker. I have been in post for a few weeks now and have been getting a feel for the area, the Big Local and the Villages Together Plan. So far, I have been busy compiling a grants database, reviewing grant forms, developing a communications strategy and meeting local people and partners. We are now also planning for a refresh of the Plan, consulting again with the local community.

I have written to everyone who has received a grant from Villages Together to ask for their feedback on how the money was spent and the benefit it has brought to the local community. This is vitally important in terms of our feedback to the Big Local Trust and ensuring that we continue to receive their support, so I would encourage everyone who has had a grant to complete and return the form as soon as they can.

Project funding is available to support community projects that meet the aims and objectives of Villages Together, to address the identified issues such as support for young people, tackling loneliness and social isolation etc. so if you have ideas for community projects please get in touch and we can support you to bring them forward. Small grants of up to £1,000 are also available to support local community groups that meet in the villages. The application form can be found on the Villages Together website.

The way we can work is now being impacted by Covid-19 restrictions and the need to keep everyone safe, so we are now moving to having partnership meetings by Zoom and exploring other community events and activities that can be held online. Hopefully, we can get back to face to face meetings, events and activities before too long.

If you want to join us, or have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at Mary@shal.org or telephone 07740 410232. I work mainly Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. *Mary Cullen*

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60 Second Interview with…….
Lora Bray PCSO



How long have you worked in Puriton?
I have been the Police Community Support Officer for Puriton for nearly 11 Years.

Describe your involvement in the village……
Policing the community to keep everyone safe.

Describe yourself in 3 words
Loud! Honest and kind.

Tell us something people may not know about you
That I have two children and a cat called Sid who I adopted after he was rescued from a tree at the Police station.

What are your hobbies?
Running and I love going to the theatre, when I get the chance!

Who would be your dream dinner date & why?
Tom Allen – Because he would make me laugh and we could gossip about The Great British Bake off.

What's your favourite pudding?
Any type of crumble as long as it comes with custard!

And your favourite cheese?
Can I have a cheese board? I love pretty much all cheese, the stronger and tastier the better!

And your favourite tipple?
I love a gin and tonic.

What's your favourite thing about Puriton?
The people, it's an inclusive and friendly community.

What's the most interesting/unusual thing in your house?
At the moment it's the Sea Monkeys that have hatched, I'm in charge of feeding them.

If you could wave a magic wand, what would you change or add to the village?
I would love to see a youth club formed to give the young people somewhere to go on a weekly basis. We are trying to get Dreamscheme up and running but this is only for the school holidays.

Thank you Lora, we're very intrigued by the Sea Monkeys - you'll have to keep us posted how they get on! If you would like to volunteer or have any suggestions for who we should interview next time for our "60 Second Interview", then please get in touch!

About this Newsletter

This newsletter, while it is strictly non-political, serves as a forum for information, debate and for the views of the people of Puriton, Downend and Dunball. The views expressed by individuals and published in this newsletter are not the views of the Parish Council, nor does the Parish Council necessarily share or endorse such views. However, un-attributed articles are generally meant to be for the information and the entertainment of the public and as such are largely authoritative.

The Editorial Group reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any material submitted for publication. Any items containing discriminatory material relating to race, colour, creed, gender or age, whether implied or implicit, will be rejected outright.

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Adverts comply with the requirements of all relevant legislation and codes of practice governing the advertising and newsletter industries in force in the United Kingdom at the time of placing the advert.

All adverts submitted to us are legal, decent, honest, truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other relevant codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Authority. Lottery or raffles advertised must be licenced under the appropriate gaming and lotteries legislation.

The Editorial Group reserves the right to alter or abbreviate any advert as they see fit. The Editorial Group reserves the right to refuse to carry an advert on reasonable grounds, especially in the spirit of good taste and decency. The Parish Council does not underwrite any business, product, service or organisation advertised in this newsletter.

Advertising Rates

8cm x 1 column	(1/4 page portrait)	=	£30.00
8cm x 2 columns	(1/2 page)	=	£60.00
16cm x 2 columns	(full page)	=	£120.00

Rates are payable per annum (Parish Council financial year) and pro rata and are payable in advance - effective from 1st April 2020.

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Newsletter Editorial Group

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The deadline for the next newsletter is 30 November 2020.



Puriton in the 1980s *(Photos sourced by Peter Russ)*









Keith Prowse took these wonderful photos while out fishing in the local area recently.

Thank you for sharing them with us Keith, they're great!