

# PURITON NEWSLETTER



*Photo: Stevi Willis*

Issue 47

2021 - #1



The winners of the Puriton Christmas Lights Competition are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> 82 Puriton Park

Joint 2<sup>nd</sup>  
(combined effort)  
18 & 19 Orchard Close

3<sup>rd</sup> 8 Hillside Crescent

Well done to all for creating such lovely festive displays!

# Contents

# Page

Christmas Lights Competition	2
From the Editor	4
Chairman's Round Up	5
Hello From Your New Vicar	7
Is It You?	8-9
Fresh From the Oven	10
Pause For Thought	11-12
Handicraft Bunny	12
Puriton Pantomime	13-18
Potting Shed Tips	20
Puriton Girl Guiding	21
Regular Events	22-23
Hello From Our New Parish Councillor	25
From the Clerk's Desk	26
Puriton Christmas Window Trail	26-27
Learning in Lockdown at Puriton Primary School	28-29
Puriton Nature Network	30-31
Puriton Litter Pickers Alliance	32
Walking in Somerset	33
Easter Village Trail	34
Ranger's Ramblings	36
You Ain't From Round Yer!	38-39
60 Second Interview with... Betsy Bowerman	40-41
Spring Is In The Air!	44



The deadline for articles for the next newsletter is 15 June 2021.

Please send contributions to:  
[puritonnews@gmail.com](mailto:puritonnews@gmail.com)



## From the Editor...

So... Here we are, a year on from the start of all this crazy situation. If anyone had tried to warn me about all this before it happened, that life would just stop, most shops would close, children would be doing video calls and remote learning, about what was about to happen, I really don't think I'd have believed them!

It has really been such a strange time to live through. I hesitate to use the word "unprecedented" as I feel it risks being used an unprecedented amount of times over the last year, but that's what it is I suppose. Actually it's interesting to notice how our language has been adapting and evolving, how words or phrases have been created or appropriated. Most of us will understand what these terms mean: social distancing, furlough, covid-secure, key-workers, lockdown, self-isolating, elbow-bumping, the rule of 6, "hands, face, space", zoom-bombing, doom-scrolling, covidiot, and of course, flattening the curve.

Are we nearly at the end of this? It would be nice to think we are, but I for one suspect life won't be going back to what it was before all this kicked off. It feels like someone picked up a snow-globe containing life as we knew it and has shaken it around, and now I just don't know if I trust that it will all settle again or will be shaken even more. It makes me much more wary. Much more aware of the fragility of our normal lives.

I am, however, so grateful to see more sunshine lately, to be over the worst of the wintry weather. Spring is definitely in the air, and we've tried to bring you a variety of things to read to reflect this. This year more than ever I hope that spring's promise of new beginnings as the natural world comes to life is inspiring to you all.

Our village is still pretty quiet in terms of events and news, but we've tried to bring you any news, along with a general celebration of our community. Groups cannot meet in person yet, but they are still there, many are meeting online, are regularly contacting members, and keeping that feeling of community going.

Fingers crossed everything will be more like normal once more at some point soon. In the meantime, take care and keep safe.

*Best wishes,*

*Jessica Cather*

*Newsletter Editor, puritonnews@gmail.com*

If you are struggling due to the current Covid-19 situation  
and are isolated or are in need of meals for you  
or your family please contact the  
Village Agent on 07375 371554

## Chairman's Round Up

Hi folks! I hope you are all keeping well and safe from this dreadful virus. Prospects look a lot better.

The Parish Council, despite not meeting face to face, have been working hard in the background, planning, and addressing local issues. We hold Zoom meetings which are posted on our website, all are welcome to observe proceedings should you wish.

Around the village a few changes have taken place: new dog waste bins, a new path surface from Old Puriton Hill to the school in Rowlands Rise, the sub-structure material was kindly supplied by Gravity. The money for the path and dog bins has come from CIL money, this is money the Council receives from Sedgemoor District Council when new houses are built in the village. The money must be used for projects to benefit the community. This money is a compulsory payment for construction companies and has been the norm for many years. Once our Neighbourhood Plan is in place, we will receive a larger proportion of any money SDC receive which, again, can be used for improvements to benefit the community. This eases the burden on the precept, the money we all pay on our council tax.

The Council have been in communication with Gravity over the last year and meetings have taken place to keep us informed of the progress and developments of the project. The new roundabout has just been integrated into the A39 and late spring should see completion of the new access road and the long-awaited green bridge. Planting of the bund will proceed on completion of the road, together with the village enhancements promised as part of the S106 agreement in Gravity's planning application. This will introduce reduced speed limits and traffic calming in many areas around the village.

Following a successful application to Villages Together and Viridor, the pump track group received funding to install the pump track at the sports centre. A pump track is a circuit of rollers, banked turns and features designed to be ridden completely by riders "pumping"—generating momentum by up and down body movements, instead of pedalling or pushing. Pump tracks cater to a wide variety of rider skill levels. This project also secured funding for CCTV and various other improvements to enhance your visit to the track and sports centre fields.

Manse Lane was fitted with up to date LED street lighting to improve the reduction of light pollution and lower consumption.

We are hoping to secure funding to enhance the area at the bottom of the fields at the sports centre to make this a nature area with micro forest planting, a footpath, and various areas of planting to provide a natural environment that offers a pleasant walk together with encouraging insects and a better environment.

We look forward to another year serving our community.

*Simon Langley, Chairman, Puriton Parish Council*



# ***CWB Plumbing & Maintenance***

For Free Estimates Please Call

## **07809565046**

- Bathroom Installation
- Accessible Shower/Wet Room Installation
- Tiling
- Plumbing Maintenance
- Toilet and Basin Replacement
- General Maintenance
- Handyman
- Garden Maintenance
- Assisted Living Aid Installations
  - Grab Rails
  - Shower Seat
  - Drop Down Rails

3 Rowan Close, Puriton, Somerset, TA7 8AL

[carlbarrett2007@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carlbarrett2007@hotmail.co.uk)

## Hello From Your New Vicar



Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome I have been given to the village, I look forward to getting to know you all. I anticipate getting involved with village events, church events, the school – and any other organisation. I join village life at a strange time, where we are all socially distanced and unable to easily meet in person, but I would like everyone to know that I am available for everyone who lives and works in the village of Puriton.

I previously worked as chaplain at Musgrove Park Hospital, helping to care for the pastoral, spiritual and religious needs of the patients, staff and visitors, as part of a team. Prior to that I was in rural Dorset, latterly working with 4 churches straddling the Wiltshire border. I was curate in the Benefice containing Sturminster Newton.

While all are welcome to join us at the church for services and events, when they can happen, I hope this is not the only place I will be able to meet people – maybe over a coffee (I'm a Vicar who doesn't drink tea!).

In my spare time I can be found at dog shows throughout the country, including Crufts, and enjoy walking the dogs in a variety of places and look forward to being able to explore the village with them. I play Bridge and enjoy playing other games. If there is a quiet moment at home I sew, craft or bake, and would love to learn new skills in all these areas.



If you would like to access pastoral care (just a chat), spiritual care (maybe a question about the meaning of life) or have a religious need (maybe Holy Communion or prayer) please contact me.

Unfortunately, I have arrived at a time when the church building is closed for public worship, due to the on going pandemic. However, the church is not closed, it's just left the building for now. We are meeting online for Worship on a Sunday at 10.00am and Monday – Thursday at 9.30am. If you would like the Zoom link, please email [revkirsty@hotmail.com](mailto:revkirsty@hotmail.com).

Services can also be viewed on Facebook at the churches' page 'Woolavington, Cossington, Bawdrip, Puriton and Pawlett Churches' We are hoping to announce a more concise name soon – suggestions welcome.

With all good wishes

Kirsty

The Rev'd Kirsty Wells

[revkirsty@hotmail.com](mailto:revkirsty@hotmail.com)

01278 452656

## Is It You?

Thoughtless  
Brainless

Selfish  
Thick

Lazy  
Inconsiderate

Ignorant  
Rude

These are just a few of the words heard spoken by villagers, many of them dog walkers themselves, to describe those who refuse to clear up after their dog when out for a walk. In spite of there being numerous waste bins and signs asking owners to bag it and bin it bought by the parish council for the benefit of the entire community, there are still some owners who refuse to do what is right for everyone.

Within the village the problem is evident to all when found on pavements but dog fouling also occurs on footpaths, verges and droves where the public walk and children in particular play. The solution is still the same wherever it happens. **Pick it up!** Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant it is dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause **toxocariasis**, a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even seizures and blindness.



If you have a few minutes to spare, dog owner or not, Google not only **the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014** to find out where you stand in the eyes of the law but also information on **toxocariasis** which you may or may not have heard of.

# I PASSED WITH



## 07717 363761

 Drivesafesouthwest  Drivesafesouthwest

For some dog owners, when it's dark it doesn't really matter if the dog poops on the footpath, verge or drove because, once you have looked around to make sure that there is nobody about, you can just carry on as though nothing has happened. Besides, you can't see where it is to pick it up anyway because you haven't got a torch. Never mind. Who cares? You believe you won't be reported and if nobody can prove it was your dog you won't be fined. Of course the dog walking chore is often passed around the family and it is a young son or a young daughter who is given the responsibility. Are they made aware of the law by their parents? Are they told by their parents to clean up after the dog? If they are not happy to do so, should they be given the responsibility of walking the dog in the first place?



All poo bins are there for a purpose and they are regularly emptied by an employee of Sedgemoor District Council. **The annual bill for emptying these bins amounts to more than £1600 and it is paid to Sedgemoor District Council by the Parish Council using funds from your council tax contributions.** Residents, whether they are dog owners or not, have every justification in resenting paying for a facility that is not being used appropriately by some dog owners in the village. Even those owners who do not clean up after their pets are paying for a service they are failing to use. It makes little sense.

The vast majority of dog owners do clean up after their dog but unfortunately there are some who don't. We all know picking up poo is not the most pleasant of things to do but surely if you decide to own a dog you also take on the responsibility of cleaning

up after it to the benefit of all. I have yet to meet anyone who likes to tread in dog poo let alone cycle through it, push a pushchair through it, play football in it or play with the children in it.

**If you pick poo up please continue to do so because that is what every resident of the village and the law expects you to do.**

**If you don't pick it up for whatever reason, please give it a try because every resident will thank you for it.**

*Cllr John Lunn*

# Jo's Mobile Hairdressing

Ladies, gentlemen  
& children

Friendly & reliable service

Fully qualified & insured

Tel: 01278 683016



# Fresh from the Oven

A simple biscuit recipe you can make into your favourite shapes to decorate.

## BUNNY BISCUITS

### Ingredients:

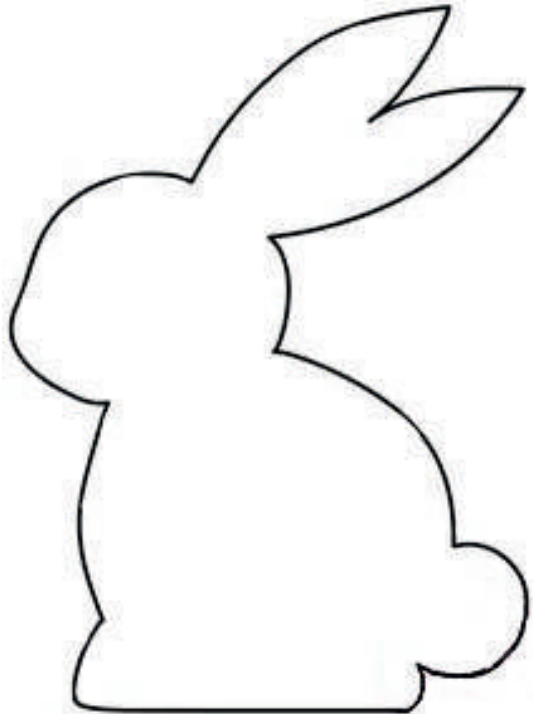
120g Self Raising Flour  
1/4 tsp Salt  
75g Unsalted Softened Butter  
65g Granulated Sugar  
1 Large Egg Yolk  
1/2 tsp Vanilla Essence

### To Decorate:

Egg White  
Icing Sugar  
Sprinkles  
Mini Marshmallows

### Method:

Preheat oven to 190°C/Gas  
Mark 5 and line baking trays  
with parchment



- Mix flour and salt together in a bowl. In a separate bowl, use a hand held mixer to cream together the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy. Add egg yolk and vanilla, mix until well combined.
- Add the flour in thirds, until it comes together and you can form a ball of dough with your hands.
- On a floured work surface, roll the dough until about 3mm thick and use the template above as a guide to cut out your biscuits. It will make about 9 biscuits.
- Cook for 8-10 minutes until the edges turn golden. Leave to cool.
- Mix a little of the egg white with icing sugar to make royal icing to decorate your biscuits. Swap the icing for melted chocolate and dip.

*Sue Lukins*



**Wishing you all a  
Happy Easter**

## Pause for Thought

I am sure many of us have been enjoying the latest David Attenborough BBC production 'A Perfect Planet.' Breath-taking images of oceans, animals and far-flung places enter our living rooms, reminding us that there is life outside our front door. We are blessed to live in a beautiful part of the country, with the opportunity to see nature either from our windows as the local wildlife enters our gardens or lands on our bird feeders, or if we venture out on our daily exercise. Many of us have also noticed that since the first lockdown our skies have seemed a brighter blue and the air quality has improved.

However, this isn't the whole picture, we are warned on a regular basis in the media about the danger of climate change, this isn't a remote danger which will happen to others but will affect all of us living in Somerset too. It is easy to point the finger and look at the deforestation abroad, or the intensive use of fossil fuels in other countries producing smog and think that it doesn't apply to us. But, this isn't the whole picture. The UK uses a lot of single use plastic, we litter our waterways adding to plastic pollution in our rivers and seas, and we use fossil fuels in our cars – sometimes on journeys when we could walk or cycle.

From a Christian perspective I believe we are custodians of this beautiful world. A view shared by many of the world's religions. But even without a spiritual element, how can we ensure a world for our children and our children's children? We have all probably



## Sunshine Pre-School

Sunshine Pre-School in Puriton has been providing education and care for children from 2 years old to school age for over 40 years

We are open during term time:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 08:30-15:00

(Optional pick up time after lunch at 13:00)

Tuesday & Thursday 08:30-13:00

If you would like to book your child a place for September or require further information please call the pre-school on 07746 487759 or contact us via our Facebook page: Sunshine Preschool Puriton

Registered Charity no: 1020832

Ofsted Rating: Good

said I can't make enough difference, but even a small change could help towards reducing the impact of climate change.

Apparently, it takes 6 weeks to effect a change in behaviour. Christians often use the period of Lent to do this, maybe it's no coincidence that it's just over 6 weeks. For the next 6 weeks what could we do to help the planet: recycle more, find a product usually wrapped in plastic in alternative packaging, walk rather than using the car for short journeys – there is an almost endless list of possibilities.

As we enjoy 'A Perfect Planet' on TV, what will we do to help it stay A Perfect Planet?

*The Rev'd Kirsty Wells*

---

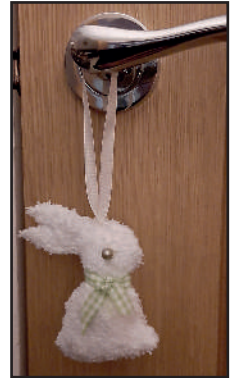
## Handicraft Bunny



After making all those delicious biscuits, Sue reused the template to make a cute little handicraft bunny!

She used the template to cut two pieces from a flannel, then stuffed the bunny with flannel oddments. She sewed on a bead for an eye and then stitched the two sides together, just before sewing closed she inserted a piece of ribbon to hang it with. Then the bunny was decorated with a neck ribbon.

Very resourceful Sue, and very sweet!



# Wood 'en Stuff

**For all your carpentry & property maintenance**

Including:

Kitchens and bedrooms fitted

Door hanging

Laminate flooring

Timber fencing and decking

**Call Gary on 01278 683734. Mob: 07821 513608**

Free estimates

# Puriton Pantomime

We couldn't have a pantomime this year - **AWWW!** It was all the fault of that baddie Covid-19 - **BOO HISS!** So instead - let's meet some of the crew - **OH YES WE WILL!**

## JOH DABENETT

I have held most roles apart from the Dame, a baddie, and the principal girl! I've been principal boy several times, fairies too. I have been involved for about 35 years, Robinson Crusoe was my first panto in 1987.



My favourite pantomime would be the first time I was principal boy in Jack in the Beanstalk in 1989. Alan Scott was my mother in that show so I've called him mother ever since. When my children were born of course he became Granny Alan. My all time favourite moment was Sleeping Beauty (2013) when I sang a duet with my daughter Jenna. It was such a heart-warming moment for me, I really treasure that memory. Being on stage with my own children was awesome.

When we did Wizard of Oz (2017) Alan and I were supposed to do a duet but we couldn't keep a straight face. We had to cut the song in the end! Another time in Aladdin (2014) Alan was meant to walk on stage the opposite side to me but he was in the changing rooms so I was on stage staring at the audience with nothing to say, just waffling on about nothing!

Sometimes people take the pantomime too seriously, it's meant to be fun, that's what the audience comes to see. If you want a polished performance then go to the Hippodrome! I don't think I'd change anything about our panto, I've grown up with it. Children join who are so scared,

and then a few years later they've got principle roles. I love seeing children feel they belong somewhere - they just need enthusiasm and commitment. It's a family, yes we squabble, but we all back each other up. I wish some parents would get involved supporting the production, and I wish there were less tantrums sometimes! Alan is the driving force though, without him it wouldn't be what it is.

## PAUL GARDENER



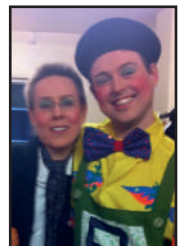
I've been involved in panto for 16 years and have had lots of roles, including back stage, the sound, and various onstage roles.

My favourite panto was Lorna Doone. A very good script and good laughs backstage and rehearsal. My funniest memory is being an Ugly Sister with Alan in Cinderella.

I'd love us to have a bigger stage!

## SAM LEWIN

I first joined Puriton Players back in 2000 as a member of the junior chorus. Since then, I've continued to act, dance and attempt to sing, as well as choreograph, edit music and sound effects,



design tickets and programmes and film some of the shows. I even took a stab at writing and directing Aladdin back in 2014. I took a couple of years out before returning for Babes in the Wood in 2020.

I have 3 favourite pantos: Aladdin 2014 is special as it was my first time taking the reins on a big show. Luckily, I had the experience of the team, particularly Alan Scott, to help me. Jack and the Beanstalk 2015 sticks in my memory as it was my mum's first (and only) time on stage. It was great fun sharing the stage with her and helping her learn her role. My favourite though, and the one I keep watching again every panto season, is Aladdin 2004. It was a fun show as I had a great comedy role as Wishee Washee. I even won Best Under 16 Performer that year at the Cinderella Awards.

My funniest memory was in Sleeping Beauty 2013. I introduced a scene at a village fete but then the curtain wouldn't open. I had to stall for a few minutes (though it felt like hours) and even once the scene eventually got started, there were lots of missed entrances and our king and queen fell on top of one another. It was one hilarious moment after the

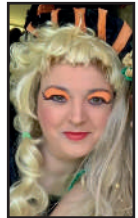
other. Judging by the laughter, the audience seemed to enjoy it lots too.

The most awkward moment was when I had to exit into Dame De'Mure's cottage through her front door. The door got stuck and wouldn't open. I couldn't get off the sides of the stage as there were too many people blocking the way so, in the end, I had to climb through a cut-out of a window. Trying to fit a 25-year-old me through a small gap in bright yellow dungarees was definitely not the most dignified of exits.

I've often thought over the past few years that I would love the panto group to do a concert or bring back the fantastic summer shows they used to do.

#### LEIGH CAULTON

I have been involved for 2 years, onstage playing the evil Queen Rat in Dick Whittington and Chardonnay in Babes in the Wood. They were both fabulous fun!



## PAW PRINTS CATTERY



*"Home from Home"*

At The Mallards, Edington Road, Burtle, Nr Bridgwater TA7 8NX

**Tel: 01278 722252**

Fully licensed with choice of luxury large heated chalets

Cat loving family run with flexible opening hours

Quiet country location

4 miles from A39/6 miles from A38

Email: [pawprintscattery@gmail.com](mailto:pawprintscattery@gmail.com)

[www.pawprintscattery.co.uk](http://www.pawprintscattery.co.uk)

Collection and delivery service available

As Queen Rat I was telling Dick off, pointing my finger at him, and got too close so Dick licked my finger! This threw me completely and I forgot all my lines and just stood there corpsing! Also a favourite memory is doing the 'Sister' routine in Babes in The Wood with the wonderful Tina, we had so much fun choreographing the skit. The worst moment would be getting stuck in the sewer opening!

I wouldn't change anything about panto, it's wonderful! I can't wait to get back to the stage and entertain you all!

### **RICHARD STOCKHAM**



I was involved in the first ever panto with my mum and dad helping paint scenery many years ago. I then carried on the work of lighting when my father decided to take a break and have continued ever since. I was made a life member many many years ago after spending hours at the village hall involved with summer shows, plays and pantos. After so many years I cannot really pick a favourite as every show is different. Puriton players is fun to be involved with plus puts on a great event once a year, and I really hope it continues for many more years to come.

### **TINA STONE**



I have been involved with panto since 2004 when Amber first started age 7. My first time on stage was 2010 Robinson Crusoe as chorus. Since then roles I have had are Will Scarlet, Fairy Green Moss, Choo (a stupid police

man) opposite Jenny Lloyd, Bella Donna Blackheart (the baddie), Penny (a crow in the tree with Maggi Powell), Wicked Witch of the West, Tom the Courtier, Fanny the Servant, and Moet alongside Leigh Caulton (the sherrif's sister). Lots of best bits, playing a baddie is always fun. I think being a double act is great, I've been so lucky to do them with Jenny, Maggi and Leigh. Last year Leigh and I got nominated for best comedic scene.

My funniest memory is when Mags and I were crows dancing in our tree and no-one knowing quite what you're up to..! The most cringe-worthy for me was when I was the Witch in Wizard of Oz, and not being able to get rid of the green makeup. It stayed for a good week after!

It would be really hard to change much, I think maybe more help. I think the very best is seeing the youngsters grow and become braver and more confident and able. To see them believe that they can is truly fabulous. Its a fabulous group of people that really do become family. I'm just so very thankful that Amber wanted to be involved, it's a magical family

### **JENNY LLOYD**

I called into rehearsals to see what went on in 2010 and I've never been allowed to escape since! I have had many roles including Woo, the Queen of Gooseland, the Guard of the Gate, and Little Joan.



I don't have any favourites and there are too many funny moments to mention. I would love it if the stage and the facilities as a whole could be improved - a lovely make-over for the Village Hall.

## TREEZ MARSHALL



I have been involved for over 20 years. I've covered almost every part of panto: acting, make-up, costumes, curtains, and I did audio (sound effects music etc) and raffles. Onstage I have been a chocolate fairy, an

undersea witch and the last role was principal for Lorna Doone

I think Robinson Crusoe was one of my favourites (2003), the funniest moment was on that set where John Rowland in his gold lame pants was digging for treasure with Beki Gardener and he messed up a line and couldn't get his composure back - neither could anyone else!

My most cringe-worthy moment was probably being on stage with Alan Scott (Carver Doone) and me as John Ridd both riding horses, and the scenery of my horse fell flat on the ground! Very embarrassing, a wrong line you can bluff through but not a flat wooden horse!

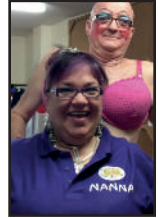
I would like a bigger village hall with separate changing rooms and more seating, as the children love acting and being a part of panto. A bigger stage could include more children.

Being part of the panto and other village ventures made me feel a bigger part of the village, and also I met lots of people. It is lovely when we see all the old timers of the village come to watch panto, it is a great way of becoming part of the village. I love watching 8 year olds that have been in it for many years and watching them grow up, like Ben Wyatt who now has a job at Disneyland. Also, of course,

everyone any age is welcome and not just to act but to help with other things too.

## YVONNE COLLINS

My role in the panto is make-up, wigs, making sure we have enough helpers for the children's make-up, and of course, helping Alan get into his under garments and frocks!! Also making teas



for backstage crew and men's changing rooms during the interval.

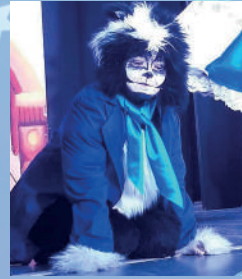
I have been doing this since the very first panto, donkey's years ago!! I missed one year when my daughter was born in 1988. I started after my friend talked me into joining in with the Summer Shows which Puriton Players used to put on, a variety show - comedy sketches, singing and dancing. It was great fun, but it made me realise that backstage was less stressful for me. All in all I'm guessing I have been involved and loving Puriton Players since the early eighties!! Blimey!

My funniest memories of panto are usually during rehearsals and of course backstage can be hilarious! I must admit that when it comes to cringe-worthy moments, they turn out to be the funniest moments, the sort of moment when you know you shouldn't be laughing but can't control it. There's been hundreds of those moments. Obviously my lips are sealed on backstage shenanigans! As Alan Scott would say... "You couldn't write it"

As long as the panto has bums on the seats, I wouldn't change a thing.

I find that the current panto is always my favourite. When I stop feeling like this I will give up.





# Somerset Electrical

COMPANY LTD

- Full and partial rewires
- Fuse board replacement
- Extensions and conservatory wiring
- Garage and shed supplies
  - Periodic testing
  - Outside lighting



Enquire now for a **professional,**  
**affordable** and **reliable** service.

01278 284894  
[info@somersetelectrical.com](mailto:info@somersetelectrical.com)  
[www.somersetelectrical.com](http://www.somersetelectrical.com)

## Potting Shed Tips...

By the time you read this Spring will be here with the garden bursting into colour with primroses, snowdrops, polyanthus and cheerful daffodils all looking magnificent. Tulips are poking through ready to pop another exquisite range of blooms for the month ahead.

Don't forget to dead-head daffodils, but let the foliage die back naturally, the plants will then put all their energy back into the bulbs ready for next year.

Helleborus orientalis come in various shades such as white or pink to the darkest purple, nearly black. Perfect for a shady border or easy to grow in a container. They will brighten up the dullest of days.

As the weather warms up there are plenty of jobs to get started on in the greenhouse and garden:

- Seed potatoes can be chitted now. Place the potatoes in an egg box and once shoots appear they are ready to plant out around late March for earlies, and main crops April/early May.
- Trees and shrubs benefit from a general fertiliser and a mulch of garden compost.
- Sow seeds undercover in the warmth of a greenhouse or on a windowsill, annuals, summer bedding and vegetables.
- Once the risk of frost has passed, onion and garlic sets can be planted out.
- Wipe down greenhouse glass inside and out to get rid of algae and grime to let light in, control pests, and be ready for the growing season ahead.

*Sarah Phillips*



### *Jo's Homecare*

*Personal Carer  
with 15+ years experience  
working within care sector.*

**Tel: 01278 683016**

#### **Services include:**

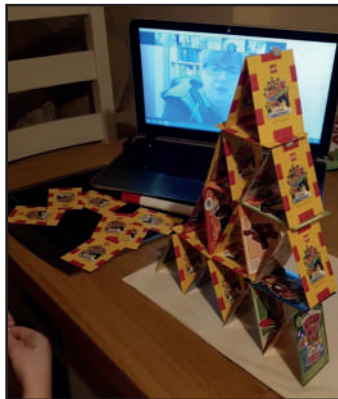
Personal care, sitting service,  
shopping, meal preparation,  
cleaning, laundry & pets.  
Fully insured and DBS checked.



# Puriton Girlguiding

Puriton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have continued to meet via Zoom during the recent lockdown.

The Rainbows have been working towards various badges including "Feel Good" and "Live Smart". The girls have been working towards interest badges at home: "Family Tree" is very popular. They have also cooked fork biscuits, melted



snowmen and are looking forward to doing some Easter crafts.

For Thinking Day – February 22<sup>nd</sup> – the Brownies completed challenges learning about Peace to earn a special badge. They have completed the "Network" badge which concentrated on what makes a good friend and team work. We also tried to learn some ballet positions, made some monuments and cooked lemonade scones.

*Part of the "Network" badge was to make a house of cards.*

New members are always welcome, please email for more information:

[puritonbrownowl@gmail.com](mailto:puritonbrownowl@gmail.com)



*The Sphinx*



*The London Eye*

## Regular Events

Because of Covid restrictions, we suggest contacting group organisers for up to date information about any of the groups listed on these pages.

### 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 (age 2 - school age)	Mon, Wed & Fri, 8.30-3.00pm	07746 487759
Line Dancing Social	Tue & Thur 8.30-1.00pm	
Bingo	2nd Friday, 8.00-11.00	Debbie Statton 788825
Puriton Players	Every Monday, 7.00 for 7.30	Ivy Ryan: 455393
Woolavington Youth Theatre	Thursday evenings	Alan Scott: 07734 357981
	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 (at the Church Tower)	Mon 7.30 (newcomers welcome)	Norman Salter: 684050
Social Arts & Crafts Group	Alternate Tuesdays 2.00-4.00	Robin 684700
Puriton Guides	1st Saturday in month Kingfisherpuriton@gmail.com	Karen 07811 004531
Tai Chi/Qigong	Mondays 9.30-10.15	Gemma Carpenter: 07989 371796
Coffee @ the Clist	Some Thursdays 2.00-4.00pm	Sue Wood: 686921

### OTHER ACTIVITIES/SERVICES

Hunny Bears (age 2 - school age)	Daily 8.00-6.00 (including school holidays)	Lorraine Toms: 683512
Slimming World	Thursdays 7pm	Meet at 37 Club

## M & D WINDOWS

Mike Trigger and Dan Parker are now able to offer a complete, high quality installation service for UPVC windows, doors and conservatories.

Please call for a free quotation or for free advice

Mike: home: 01278 683702 mobile: 07834 623617

Dan: home: 01278 683479 mobile: 07789 224042

## SPORTS CENTRE

Puriton Sports Centre is open in line with current restrictions.

Puriton Gold Archery Club	Tues & Fri, 7.00-9.00pm	Keith: 284063
Pilates with Gemma	Tuesdays 9.45-10.45am	Gemma: 07989 371796
	Tuesdays 11am-12 noon (beginners course)	Debbie: 07931 756554
	Wednesdays 7.45-8.45pm	Call Debbie to book a place
Victoria Park Rangers FC	(Juniors)	Jason Bale: 07786 851710
Rugby Tots	Contact for more details	Gareth Turnbull: 07717 753322
Little Kickers	Contact for more details	Andy Parkinson: 07557 533170 aparkinson@littlekickers.co.uk

## PURITON INN

Charity Quiz	Alternate Wednesdays	Pete 684757
--------------	----------------------	-------------

## HIRE CHARGES

Facility	Contact	Charge
Village Hall	Kim: 07419 842834 *new bookings clerk to come* Enquire for regular user rates	£15.00/hour (private function) £10.00/hour (Hall & Kitchen) £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 Two meeting rooms available, a large function room/kitchen Also Sports Hall is very suitable for a kids' party. puritonplayingfields@gmail.com	please enquire when booking



If you are new to the village and have not yet received a Welcome Pack,  
please email:

Sally Diaz clerk@puritonparishcouncil.org.uk  
and we will get one to you as soon as possible.

Simon Langley  
8 Riverton Road  
Puriton TA7 8BW  
Tel: 683007  
Email: [simonlangley.ppc@gmx.com](mailto:simonlangley.ppc@gmx.com)



Judith Fletcher  
24 Hillside Crescent  
Puriton TA7 8AP  
Tel: 07717 831082  
Email: [judithfletcherppc@gmx.com](mailto:judithfletcherppc@gmx.com)



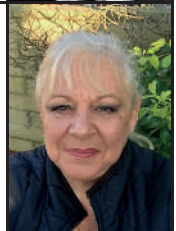
Julie Coleman  
Email: [juliecolemanppc@gmx.com](mailto:juliecolemanppc@gmx.com)



Barrie Crow  
Email: [barriecrowppc@gmx.com](mailto:barriecrowppc@gmx.com)



Vanda Crow  
Email: [vandacrowppc@gmx.com](mailto:vandacrowppc@gmx.com)



John Lunn  
Tel: 324351  
Email: [johnlunnppc@gmx.com](mailto:johnlunnppc@gmx.com)



<p>Dawn Saunders  Email: dawnsaundersppc@gmx.com</p>	
<p>Sandra Tizzard  4 Middle Street  Puriton TA7 8AU  Tel: 685093  Email: sandratizzardppc@gmx.com</p>	
<p>Sue Chambers  Email: suechambersppc@gmx.com</p>	
<p>Parish Clerk:  Sally Diaz  clerk@puritonparishcouncil.org  01934 221659</p>	
<p>County and District Councillor:  Mark Healey  Tel: 685368  Email: markhstudiok@aol.com</p>	

## Hello From Our New Parish Councillor...

I have lived with my family in Puriton for over 30 years but was born in Mevagissey, Cornwall. I am lucky to have two of my grandchildren growing up in the village and I'm particularly interested in the opportunities that can be offered to children as they become more independent, the same way their parents had when they were younger.

I retired from Avon & Somerset Constabulary in 2017 where I had responsibility as the Customer Services Manager for the Enquiry Offices and now I enjoy time with the family, walking my dog, holidaying in our caravan and playing lots of golf.

*Sue Chambers*

## From the Clerk's Desk

Work continues in the Parish and additional issues have been seen in the village with an increase in litter. This problem seems to be happening in many parishes; however, we have some help in the form of Puriton Litter Pickers Alliance, who are superheroes volunteering to clean up the village. The Parish Council will be donating health and safety equipment to help their mission. The Parish Council is very grateful for your time and effort to clear other people's mess.

On another note of kindness and generosity one of our residents in Puriton Mr Keith Prowse has donated a new litter bin at the bus stop on the A38 at Downend. The Parish Council are very grateful and thank you for your donation.

The Parish Council issued their Good Citizen Awards to District and County Councillor Mark Healey and Darwin Currie for their services in the community during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

The Parish Council have applied to Somerset County Council for funding for a nature reserve at the Sports Centre and we are awaiting to see if we have been successful. We will keep you updated once we have an answer.

We are inching closer to Spring and the days are getting a little longer. I sit with fingers crossed that this strange episode of our lives is reaching a plateau and we can see the return to an element of normality on the horizon!

Stay safe!

*Sally Diaz, Parish Clerk*

---

## Puriton Christmas Window Trail

Between the dates of December 1st and January 3rd our village was lit up by some amazing Christmas displays. We had an outstanding amount of households taking part and the village had never looked so beautiful at night. Families enjoyed walking the village whilst completing a trail with questions, these were based on the displays that were seen, and also a little map was provided so you couldn't get lost! It was a huge success and was a very enjoyable time for people to get out in the fresh air.

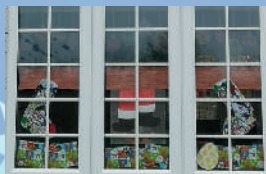
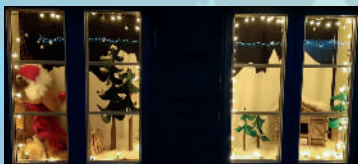
The money raised, which was a whopping £251, has been shared between Puriton Primary School and the Young People's Project.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who took part, Morrison's Taunton and Bridgwater, the Willow Youth Theatre and the individuals who donated chocolates and candy canes, and lastly thank you to Alan Scott for the fantastic idea!

We are looking forward to planning for the next one!

Photos of some of the windows are on the opposite page.

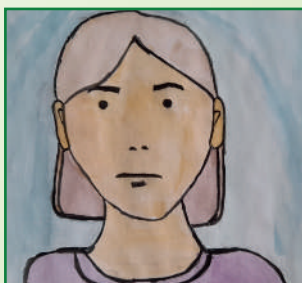
*Kelly Paynter & Meg Kanka*



# Recent Work from Pupils of Puriton Primary School



Digital Pop Art  
by Brooke



Julian Opie inspired  
Pop Art by Freya



Andy Warhol inspired  
Pop Art by Tegan



**Emerald Class**



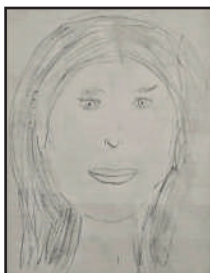
**Ruby Class**  
Dulcie B

# Learning in Lockdown at Puriton Primary School

The news of another lockdown on 5<sup>th</sup> January wasn't what we expected or wished for, on the first day back at school in 2021. However, staff, children and parents alike, have worked tirelessly to make sure that the children have been in the best possible position to access their learning, albeit in a very different way. It's strange to think that this time last year, many of us had barely heard of Teams, let alone worked out how to meet, teach and deliver whole class, group and 1:1 interventions through it! School has remained open to Key Worker and vulnerable children, and these children, along with those at home, have been incredible and a credit to the school and their families. Those children at home have had to adapt to looking for their lessons on the school website and have looked forward to twice-weekly Teams meetings with their teachers, along with smaller group meetings offering support when needed.

Here are just a few of the things that have been going on during home learning.

**Sapphire Class** have been working incredibly hard, learning all about light and sound for their 'Lights, Camera, Action' science theme this term and how they can be used for entertainment purposes. They have been learning about how sound travels, pitch and volume. Linked to the topic, the children have learnt how to draw self-portraits, have created an e-book of their poetry and created videos of their performance poetry.



Chloe H



Joseph

**Ruby Class** have been learning about animals that live in hot and cold places. They created information leaflets about them. They then linked their topic with their DT work and were set the task of designing a home for an animal from the Arctic, Antarctic or Savannah.

**Emerald Class** spent last half term studying Pop Art, looking at the work of artists like Andy Warhol, Julian Opie, Richard Hamilton and Wedha Abdul Rasyid. They used different media to create some amazing artwork.

Emerald Class have been scientists at home as well, exploring how changes of states occur in different ways in the home. They have carried out simple investigations to explore boiling, dissolving, separating, evaporation, condensation and burning.

Hopefully, very soon all the children will be back in school, learning and playing together. In the meantime, we hope that everyone stays safe and we thank all the parents and other family members, who have played a key part in keeping our children safe but still learning, during this difficult time.

*Jo Madge*

## Puriton Nature Network

Winter can be an uninspiring time when it comes to gardening, but now the sun is poking its head through the grey clouds, we are spending more time outside. As a family we like to get out as much as possible and whilst rain and cold weather doesn't put us off, it's lovely to feel the warmth of the sun again!

Once home schooling has finished for the day we start to look for creative things to do to help the wildlife in the garden. We have lots of bird feeders, a couple of ponds, bee houses, bug hotels and log and stone piles – so, we have to think a bit more outside the box when it comes to creating new habitats.

Today we decided to make a little haven for a rather controversial insect – the earwig. Earwigs have got a bad reputation, and they do look a bit menacing, however they are beneficial to the garden ecosystem. They help to break down dying plant material and feed on live and dead insects, including aphids and other common pests, so they can help with the gardening, and certainly assist with the composting! The female earwig is very unusual as she cares for her babies. She will move them around the nest making sure they are warm and safe, and she will guard them from other earwigs, which is rather sweet! So we set about making an earwig hide. It's a very simple activity which takes about 10 minutes, it's fun for little ones and they can do every step of the make.

### DIVINE BELLE

- Nail Enhancements
- Pedicures
- Waxing
- Facials
- Lash Lifting
- Lash & Brow Tinting

Based in Puriton

For an appointment or further info please contact Shelley on

Tel: 07783 786728

 [www.facebook.com/divinebelle19](https://www.facebook.com/divinebelle19)

### Purely Probate SOLICITORS

**Wills, Trusts, Probate,  
Power of Attorney**

Free Initial Consultation and  
Home Visits

**Judith Derbyshire**

[jd@purelyprobate.co.uk](mailto:jd@purelyprobate.co.uk)

**01458 850 146**

*"Purely Probate were wonderfully thoughtful, efficient and professional in their dealing with the preparation of my Will. Thank you for so clearly explaining all the relevant points to me"*

[www.purelyprobate.co.uk](http://www.purelyprobate.co.uk)

# An Earwig Hide

(from RSPB nature discovery pack)

What you will need:

- Small plastic plant pot
- Straw/grasses
- Leaves
- Garden cane/stick



1. Stick your cane/stick into the soil near vegetation or a compost heap. We stuck ours right next to the compost heaps at the bottom of the garden.
2. Fill your pot with the straw/grass and leaves. We also used some dry bark to pad it out.
3. Turn the pot upside down and balance it on the stick. Earwigs like spending the daytime in small, dark places, so your pot will be perfect.

Keep an eye on your pot to see what you can see crawling in and out. It will also be a nice warm safe home for lots of other insects and spiders. You could even spend a few hours watching it with a camera and take close up photos of your new garden visitors.

If you do make this and take any photos we would love to see them – either send to [puritonnaturenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:puritonnaturenetwork@gmail.com) or post them to the Puriton Nature Network Facebook page.



Enjoy!

Beth Denro



# Puriton Litter Pickers Alliance

What an amazing community we have! Just about a month ago Joe and Laurie were spotted litter picking in the village as part of their volunteering for their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. They decided on litter picking because they both noticed the amount of litter in the village on our regular walks, and as they can't really go out and volunteer for an organisation at the moment, they felt that this would be a good way of helping out. Their work was noticed by some lovely members of Puriton People and lots of folks commented on the Facebook page, with offers of help and encouragement.



Which is why, in a fit of community spirit, they decided that we needed to set up a page for our local band of litter pickers - and since then this thing has just grown and grown. So many brilliant villagers have signed up to do a litter pick on their walks, that we are heading towards being the tidiest village EVER! What an amazing response we have had - thank you all so much.

Encouraged by all this amazing activity, and in a bid to keep everyone safe, we are now able to order litter pickers, bags, hoops (to keep the bags open), hi-vis vests and gloves because our Parish Council, Villages Together and Gravity have all been incredibly generous. We will bank the donations with the Village Hall, and hope to be buying all the lovely bits and bobs very soon. If you would like to be part of this move towards a tidier village there are a few things you can do:

1. Join Puriton Litter Pickers Alliance on Facebook
2. Make sure that all your recycling is packed into your boxes carefully so that it doesn't blow around.
3. Don't drop litter(!)
4. Pick up after your dogs and please use the provided bins....
5. Stay safe - don't pick up anything without a litter picker stick or gloves, and please be aware of traffic.

Thank you so much for your incredible support. It just shows how much we love our beautiful village. All you Litter Pickers are wonderful, wonderful people.

*Katie Newell*



## Walking in Somerset

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Somerset [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/somerset](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/somerset) is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Somerset (part of the Walking in England suite of websites ([www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

*John Harris*

*[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)*



# STEVE HODGE

01278 722956 or 07708 062 145

- All types of Property Maintenance
- Gutters Unblocked, Cleaned or Replaced
- All types of Roof Repairs
- uPVC Window Repairs or Replacement
- Locks Replaced
- Internal & External Painting

Fully Insured ★ Prompt Service ★ Free Quotes

## Easter Village Trail



With Christmas being over and being in yet another lockdown, things felt very gloomy. A few of us in the village took part in a zoo scavenger hunt. I know at my house, we had a lovely time learning about different zoo animals and then decided on which animals we wanted to display at our 'zoo'. My eldest loved helping paint and put together her animals, as well as looking for other animals in the village.

With Easter coming, I am planning an Easter trail. Unfortunately, we will be spending another Easter where we won't be able to get together, enjoy Easter egg hunts and really celebrate the arrival of Spring. If you're interested in helping bring some Easter cheer to the village, please do participate in the Easter trail. All you need to do is choose to display an Easter Egg, Chick or Bunny (or a combination of the three) in a window. You can make this as simple or as complex as you'd like. Please feel free to print out and colour in a picture or put a stuffed animal in the window.



If you're interested in participating, please let me know by the end of the day on Thursday the 18th of March. You can contact me on Facebook messenger (Kayla Sharpe) or via email (ksharpe@cheerful.com). When you message me, please let me know what you'll be putting in your window, its primary colour and the street you live on.



I'm looking forward to Easter and celebrating the arrival of Spring. Brighter days are ahead!

*Kayla Sharpe*

### **MASON AUTO SERVICES LTD**

Taunton Road Service Station, Taunton Road  
Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6LD

#### **SERVICING & REPAIRS**

MOT                      Tyres                      Welding

Air Conditioning Service

Chip Tuning

ECU Re-mapping

Electrical Diagnosis

Tel: 01278 420077

[www.masonautoservicesltd.co.uk](http://www.masonautoservicesltd.co.uk)

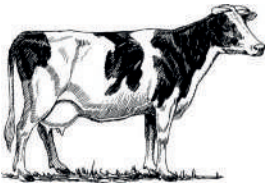
# Court Farm Butchers

Family butchers run by Stuart and Jenny

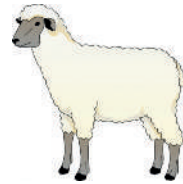
Beef and Lamb all raised on our own local farm plus a huge selection of quality meat and meat products, dairy produce, jams, sauces, pickles, fresh vegetables, home made cakes and bread.

Outside catering and Pig Roast available

**You've tried the rest, now try the best!!**



Riverton Road  
Puriton  
TA7 8BW  
Tel: 01278 683394  
Mob: 07743 896977



**David Howe.**

**Painting, Decorating & General Maintenance**

Free Quotation NVQ Qualified

Tel: 01278 652699

Mob: 07710 236991

Email: [dandchowe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dandchowe@hotmail.co.uk)

## Ranger's Ramblings

Well, what an odd Christmas that was. People came round to see us and no one came in. We exchanged presents and had a chat with no cup of tea and homemade sausage rolls, hope next year we're back to normal. Perhaps by then we will not be dressed as surgeons or robbers.



Spring is certainly around the corner. Working out the front of our place got told off by a blue tit for being too close to the nest box, bodes well for later in the year. While cleaning the stream from Woolavington Road to Purewell, picking up the rubbish and clipping back the brambles etc., I thought the water would have been very cold. It was not. I was told by a senior customer once when she was a girl they used to play and drink the water summer and winter as it was spring water. Well, that is not the case now! Where has the spring water gone if it is not going down the stream?? Mid-February the brambles are budding up ready to grow. I was hoeing and sweeping the path from Middle Street to Rye and a robin popped down, picked up a worm and flew off, it was lovely to see.

It must have been a bit chilly as my winter cabbage drooped, glad we don't get it really cold here like they do in Canada and America, -35° blimey that's cold! I noted the lamp posts up on the New Road. Won't need a front light it will be all illuminated. Thanks to anyone who picks up rubbish, it's a great help, hi-vis vest and litter picker available if you would like to help.

*Wired Up Electrical Services*

*Simon Langley*  
Part P registered electrician  
38 years experience



Domestic installations  
Repairs, replacement  
accessories, new lighting,  
new sockets, garden and garage  
electric's.  
Fuseboards and testing.  
Electric heating  
Home security and home auto-  
mation  
Even changing a lamp  
Honest advice and  
competitive quotes

01278 683007  
07769227721

E-mail: [wiredup@gmx.com](mailto:wiredup@gmx.com)  
Integrity . Capability . Quality  
8 Riverton Road,  
Puriton, Somerset, TA7 8BW

Working on the footpath over the motorway, hoeing and sweeping up the mud, moss etc., I noticed at 8.15am how busy it was, the noise was amazing. Another thing was how far it is from one side of the footpath to the other with a bag of mud etc. weighing 10 kg in each hand.

Next time I put pen to paper so to speak the clocks will have changed and the nights will be lighter and days warmer, time to crack on with the next set of jobs.

Chris Gulliford,  
Parish Ranger





# POLDEN HILLS VETERINARY CENTRE



The Woollands  
Brent Road  
Cossington  
Bridgwater  
Somerset  
TA7 8LF  
01278 722088

Opening Hours  
Monday - Friday  
8am - 7pm

Saturday  
8am - 1pm

## VETS LIVING ON PREMISES 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

**FREE** clinics available from fully qualified,  
experienced Registered Veterinary Nurses

All are welcome to view our facilities and meet our friendly,  
caring and professional team

10% **Discount** for all pensioners (60+ years)  
every day

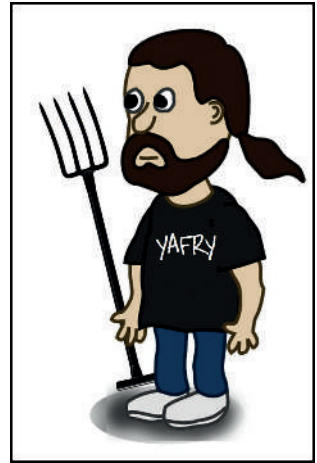
[www.poldenhillsvets.com](http://www.poldenhillsvets.com)



# You Ain't From Round Yer!

## Yogurt pots and bog rolls

So spring is nearly here, and there are things to look forward to! I am not going to bang on about the 'vid or the 'cine, I am going to talk about the other things that I am currently looking forward to.



- The first thing about spring is the days getting long. No more do you wake up in the dark dank miserableness and wait for the sun to drag its carcass over the horizon like a lazy nearly-dead dog: it is already starting to appear, and shortly will be there with its cheerfulness to welcome the day.
- Evening walks will soon be possible with not having to worry about torches, light, cold and darkness!
- Sooner rather than later the “big warm coats” can be put away for the “light spring coats”.
- Next we have the joyful little flowers that start the spring shows: the crocuses, the tulips, the wonderful little daisies, and my personal favourite the ever so happy daffodil. I love daffodils, almost as much as I love dandelions (yes, the things people call weeds). They are such happy, smiley flowers, little pockets of sunshine in the gardens, hedges, fields and banks. They always make me smile when I see them. I love the dandelions more as they are so prevalent, and always put on a show. I cannot wait to see them bursting all over the fields and hedge rows again.
- Soon it will be the joyous event of the lambing season. When the tiny cute little balls of oh-so cute wool, that will eventually become wondrous yummy chops, roasting joints and kebabs, come into this world, start to find their feet gambling away in the field, running, playing, enjoying their new found lives.
- All of these little things are indications that summer is on its inexorable way.

Before long the family's attention will turn to the garden. Last year was the first time we tried to do planting and growing of things to eat. Now, yes, we don't all have a great track record with the growing of things. At our last place we tried cucumbers, it managed to provide a single cucumber before valiantly and instantly dying. We had a pot of mint. A large one and suffice to say my wife is the only person I know that can completely and utterly kill mint, destroy it so it never returns. Not because we wanted to, but because we tried to water it and look after it.

So, in the last year we tried:

- Tomatoes – yeah may have planted a few too many expecting most to die, we had too many

- Cucamelons – oh these were good! Cropped well and survived. Another do over this year.
- Dwarf beans – did well another do over.
- Snap peas – cropped well... once. May or may not grow again.
- Broccoli – hahahaha yeah grew and grew and grew and then died. Not going to try again this year.
- Carrots, purple and little round ones – oh, these were a big win, the little one planted, shall we say enthusiastically, and they cropped. She discovered the joys of “pick, wash and eat” and now likes carrots.
- Lettuce – meh.
- Pak choi – did ok actually! Will do a couple more pots of this.
- Beetroot – did well, just lots of space for not a lot of reward. Probably not bother with this year.
- Peppers – died within about 2 weeks.
- Broad beans – did ok, will probably plant again.
- Chili plants – one lived, rest didn’t.



This year we will try some

- Yellow courgettes
- Spaghetti squash

So that means.... beginning 2021 with the collecting of the large yogurt pots and bog roll cardboard so we can start off the plants growing on a windowsill before we plant out. Two bog rolls fit in lovely and makes it easier to transplant a small pot than a massive tray of them when you only have space for a small amount. There - a gardening tip from a complete amateur who knows nothing!

It also means, every evening during spring if last year is anything to compare to, having the little one water the seedling and seeing the joy and happiness on her face when a new seed leaps into life and starts its journey into the world. She is a keen and willing apprentice and takes so much pleasure and joy in the entire process.

Spring has so much to look forward to.

*Jon Sharpe*



**PURITON PAWS**  
DOG GROOMING

It's not just about changing your dog's appearance,  
but providing a friendly and caring environment  
with individual attention using the highest quality  
products

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Groom</li> <li>Full Groom (De-Shed)</li> <li>Puppy Package</li> <li>Handstripping</li> <li>Bathing Package</li> <li>Nail Clipping</li> </ul>	 <p>Made in the UK Using products from UK companies</p>  <p>Cruelty Free Using products that have not been tested on animals</p>  <p>Pet Friendly Using products that care for your dog</p>
--	--

Call Clare on 07939 028699  
facebook/PuritonPaws  
www.puritonpaws.com

# 60 Second Interview with...

## Betsy Bowerman

### How long have you lived/worked in Puriton?

I've lived in Puriton for 35 years. We moved from London to Woolavington Road in April 1986 and then down to Rye in May 1998. We really liked the village so decided to move within it.



### Describe your involvement in the village.....

I am a governor at Puriton Primary School and Secretary of the WI. I got involved in both activities as I was coming up to retirement several years ago. I knew lots of people when my children were at Puriton Primary but had lost touch while working out of the village. Being a governor and a member of the WI have both been great ways to meet and interact with other villagers and keep myself busy and involved. I am also in a village book group.

### Describe yourself in 3 words

Curious, positive and conscientious.

### Tell us something people may not know about you

I was interviewed by Simon Mayo on Drivetime on Radio 2 many years ago. It was a piece on mature students starting university and that was connected to my role at the University of Bristol. It was live and nerve-racking!

### What are your hobbies?

Reading, mainly crime novels, biographies and modern fiction, sewing, aquafit, visiting museums, galleries and National Trust houses, browsing in bookshops and going to the cinema and theatre (virtually only at the minute for several of these hobbies). I'm also a bit of a news junkie. At my retirement 'do' I said I was going to lay on the sofa and watch 'Judge Judy' and I do a lot of that as well.

### Who would be your dream dinner date & why?

I've got to say Paul McCartney. I've been a huge Beatles fan since they 'invaded' the USA in 1964. I remember dancing around my friend Nancy Decker's bedroom while we played 'I want to hold your hand' over and over again.

### What's your favourite pudding?

I usually opt for ice cream on most menus and ask the server to list all the flavours and then go for two or three! Mint chocolate chip is a particular favourite.

### And your favourite cheese?

Wensleydale with cranberries. I get excited when it comes into the shops at Christmas time.

**And your favourite tittle?**

I don't really drink much anymore but can be tempted with a glass of white wine or even champagne if pressed.

**What's your favourite thing about Puriton?**

I've always felt it was good for families – big enough that there's lots going on in terms of school, shops, societies and I also like that it is a very friendly place. When we lived on Woolavington Road and Alan Scott was our postman, he used to come down our path shouting 'It's your mailman' to make me feel at home. I'm a transplanted American who is also now a British citizen.

**What's the most interesting/unusual thing in your house?**

A small Nazi flag from a German staff car captured by my father as the 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of the US Army moved across Germany in the final months of World War 2. They'd just come from the Battle of the Bulge. I brought that flag back through Heathrow after my dad's funeral and thought I might have some explaining to do if I was stopped!

**If you could wave a magic wand, what would you change or add to the village?**

A small café.

**Thank you Betsy for answering our questions. Some really interesting answers there! 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!**



A local Accountant providing a personal service.  
Bookkeeping, Accounting and TAX/VAT returns.

**10% discount offered to businesses in the Polden area.**

Karen Nobes ACMA CTA

**Call 01278 685123 for a free consultation**

karen@poldenaccountants.co.uk  
www.poldenaccountants.co.uk

## 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.

## Advertising - Terms and Conditions of Acceptance

Local businesses are invited to advertise in the newsletter - please contact Sally Diaz, Clerk to the Parish Council, for details - [clerk@puritonparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@puritonparishcouncil.org).

All adverts are accepted on the basis that they comply with the following conditions:

The reproduction and/or publication of any advert does not breach any contract or infringe or violate any copyright, trademark or any other personal or proprietary rights.

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. © Puriton Parish Council - Editorial Group

## Newsletter Editorial Group

Sally Diaz, Parish Clerk, Puriton Parish Council  
Email: [clerk@puritonparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@puritonparishcouncil.org) Tel: 01934 221659  
Website: [www.puritonparishcouncil.org](http://www.puritonparishcouncil.org)

**Editor:** Jessica Cather, 1 Batch Close, Puriton  
Tel: 01278 685113 Email: [puritonnews@gmail.com](mailto:puritonnews@gmail.com)

Parish council: Judith Fletcher, Simon Langley, John Lunn. Contact details pages 24-25.

**The deadline for the next newsletter is 15 June 2021.**

## The Complete Print Service from design to delivery

A professionally designed piece can transform the look and feel of all types of publications. We can design and produce magazines, newsletters, journals, booklets, annual reports, brochures, leaflets and adverts for print or online uses.

Get in touch...

01278 450406

[info@mediaedgeuk.co.uk](mailto:info@mediaedgeuk.co.uk)

[www.mediaedgeuk.co.uk](http://www.mediaedgeuk.co.uk)

### WEBSITE DESIGN

Responsive modern templates designed to suit your business from £299  
Hosting costs start from £15.99 per month

### ECOMMERCE websites

If you haven't got time to do the product template - We can do this for you for a one off cost!  
Your site is then ready for you to log in and continue your online business with everything in place



**Spring Is In The Air!**  
Photos by Paul Stubbs

