

Purton Magazine



*Operation Christmas Child: The Shoeboxes are on their way from Purton!
See story on [page 23](#)
Photo: Sylvia Freemantle*

We wish a Merry Christmas to all our readers!

December 2013

50p

PURTON CONTACTS



Wiltshire Councillor	Jacqui Lay	770704
Doctors	Purton Surgery	770207
Dental Surgeries	Church Street	770532
	Philip Cooke	771022
Junior Church	Mary Hodges	770505
Library	Librarians	770870
<i>(Mondays 2 - 5pm; Tuesdays 2 - 7pm; Wednesdays 10am - 5pm; Fridays 2 - 5pm)</i>		
Museum	Curator: Jan Walker	770124
<i>(Closed 21 Dec to 22 Feb 2014, otherwise open Weds 2 - 5pm; Sats 10am - 1pm.)</i>		
Police / Fire / Ambulance	Emergency number	999
Police	Non-emergency Number	101
Post Office	c/o Best One	771718
Purton Age Concern	Tony Price	770696
Minibus	Maurice Card	770338
Purton Helping Hand	Pauline Ward	770251
Purton Parish Council	Shirley Bevington	771066
Veterinary Surgery	Purton Veterinary Group	771869
Wiltshire Good Neighbours	Ellen Blacker	07557 110414

Schools and Play Groups:

Bradon Forest Comprehensive	Secretary	770570
Playclose Playgroup	Dawn Phillips	778141 or 07759 583566
Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup	Fionna Griffiths	771723
St Mary's Primary	Secretary	770239

CHURCH OF ENGLAND – PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

<i>Vicar:</i>	<i>Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith (Priest-in-charge), tel 770077 (for emergencies only, 773031) email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Curate:</i>	<i>Revd Judith Wells, tel 770627, email curate@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Wardens:</i>	<i>David Nettleton, tel 772298 Sandra Horsnall, tel 770157</i>	
<i>Administrator:</i>	<i>Rosie Harris, tel 773035, email administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Web site:</i>	<i>www.communitigate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>See Diary Page in this magazine</i>	

METHODIST CHURCHES

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Rev David Perkins tel 853197 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>PURTON See Diary Page in this magazine BRAYDON Sundays 6.00 pm Evening Worship</i>	

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT		
<i>Parish Deacon</i>	<i>Reverend Terry Aspell tel 325681 Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>Holy Days 7.30 pm Sundays 10.30 am Mass For times of weekday services please see Church notice board</i>	

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

<i>Priest</i>	<i>Father Philip Beisly tel 01285 712586 St Mary's Church, High Street, Cricklade</i>	
<i>Holy Days</i>	<i>7.00 pm Mass</i>	<i>Sundays 9.30 am Mass</i>

From The Editors

“At Christmas play and make good cheer for Christmas comes but once a year.” So wrote Thomas Tusser in “The Farmer’s Daily Diet” from *One Hundred Good Points of Husbandry* in the 16th century. Although essentially written for other farmers, some readers maybe thankful that it does only come once a year with all the planning and preparations that a 21st century Christmas entails.

Yet, dear reader, this issue of your magazine is crammed fuller than a festive stocking with so many seasonal events and activities to keep you amused, engaged and interested. As is customary at this time of the year, music features heavily this coming month. Perhaps a dozen and more concerts, Carol services and a ladies sing-a-long during December are listed throughout this magazine culminating on Christmas Eve with the village carol Service at 4 pm in St Mary’s and the Age Concern carols under the tree at the Institute at 7 pm.

Before then there are several opportunities to buy some gifts locally at a Christmas Bazaar and a market stall as well as at an Open Day at Jubilee Gardens. If all that sounds a little too energetic, then there is a World Challenge quiz night on 29 November, a Christmas Social organised by the Historical Society and a Christmas Time quiz night staged by the Twinning Association on 20 December.

Then there are numerous Santa Specials scheduled at the Swindon and Cricklade railway with more details on [page 30](#). Santa even comes to lots of places in the village on 19 and 20 December and we notice on [page 42](#), that Christmas will be repeated as the theme for next year’s Purton Carnival. “... comes but once a year”?

In the year that another (future) King was born – Prince George – an article on [page 21](#) vividly highlights the stark differences between the two births and provides a timely reminder of the origins of Christmas. It seems appropriate to highlight here that the midnight communion service on Christmas Eve will start at 11 pm in St Mary’s – half an hour earlier than usual.

In closing, please can we remind everyone that, as the January magazine is printed before Christmas, all contributions really must be received by 10 December – thank you. All that remains is for your magazine committee to wish every single reader, distributor, contributor and advertiser a happy Christmas and a very healthy New Year.

390

students catered for at the new Bradon Forest school in 1962
– see [page 26](#)

420

shoe boxes filled and despatched to Ukraine (30 more than last year)
– see [page 23](#)

8.6m

square miles was the size of the Russian Empire early in 20th century
– see [page 31](#)

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The logo for Purton Magazine, featuring the word 'Purton' in a large, stylized serif font with 'Magazine' written in a smaller, cursive font underneath it.

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Typeset & Printed by: **In Touch Services**

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by 10th of each month, please

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Parish Council News

The Parish Council would like to wish all parishioners a HAPPY CHRISTMAS.



Play Close Play Area – some of you may have noticed that the roundabout has been removed from the Play Close Play Area due to the fact that it is beyond repair and we have been advised by Wickstead who carry out our annual inspections of the play equipment that it should be removed. It is sad to see it go as this piece of equipment has given endless pleasure to several generations of children.

The good news is that we have some S106 money from developments to spend on the Play Close play area and plans are close to completion on the new equipment that will be installed. So watch this space over the next few months to see the instillation of exciting new pieces of equipment for the younger children to enjoy.

We also have some grand plans for the Village Centre play area, this will be done in stages as and when S106 money becomes available to us so again watch this space.

Planters – you may have seen some new planters appearing around the village. In the main this is thanks to our Groundstaff Paul and David who have been making them over the past few months when the weather has been bad and they cannot work outside. The wood they have used has been recycled so the cost has been kept to a minimum. The ones that have been installed to date will be planted up for the winter including some bulbs for the spring, and then later with summer flowers. We hope that the introduction of the additional planters will help to brighten up the village throughout the year.

Over the Christmas period you should also keep your eyes open for some extra decorations, including additional lights at the Village Hall and some large wreaths that will appear around the village.

Road Closures – the B4553 Cricklade Road/Packhorse Lane will be closed in Phase 1 from 6 January to 14 February 2014 for carriageway reconstruction and associated work, during this period a temporary speed restriction will be introduced on the C70 Hayes Knoll, Purton/Cricklade. Phase 2 of the project will start from 17 to 21 February 2014. Diverted routes will be displayed.

B4696 Lydiard Plain, Purton, Lydiard Millicent and Lydiard Tregoz from its junction with C67 Braydon Crossroads to its junction with C128 Flaxlands to enable carriageway resurfacing and associated works to be carried out – from 15 January 2014 for four days between the hours of 9 am and 7 pm.

PLANNING

A Planning Application N13/04676/FUL has been received for Land at Restrop Road for 36 Dwellings including creation of new access from Restrop Road, provision of public open space and associated work. The deadline to comment will have passed by the time you read this, however the progress of the application can be followed on Wiltshire Council's web site.

Also the addition of 50 houses on the Moredon Bridge site – N13/04912/FUL has

been received. Some people may not realise that this development falls within Purton Parish but it does.

Another significant development is N13/04872/FUL – *Land at Bentham Farm, Bentham Lane*, Construction of 18ha up to 8MW solar park to include associated buildings, perimeter fencing, cameras, landscaping & other associated works.

Planning Applications

The following applications have been granted planning permission:

N13/03740/FUL *Buryhill Farm, Braydon*, Floodlights to existing outdoor riding arena.

N13/03620/ADV *Church Bush Hall*, Display of 1 non-illuminated signage.

N13/03645/FUL *14 Proud Close*, Erection of garage/store.

N13/02900/FUL *58 Station Road*, Change of Use of garden to additional parking area.

N13/01913/FUL *Caerhays, The Hyde*, Detached dwelling and garage with formation of new access (Revision of 12/01862/FUL)

N13/01723/FUL *Braydon Manor Farm, Braydon*, Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar array to provide circa 7 MW generation capacity together with transformer stations; internal access track; landscaping; security fencing; security cameras; access gate; and ancillary infrastructure.

The following Planning Application has been refused planning permission:

N13/03578/FUL *15 Thompson Court*, Resiting of garden fence to boundary line

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

email address: clerk@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Parish Council's letter box is on the wall adjacent to the side door (entrance door to the Parish Council offices) to the rear of the Library/Institute.

On our new web site you can join up to receive regular updates and newsletters which will keep you informed of matters happening in and around the village such as planning information and road closures etc. Please have a look at the site we currently have over 80 people signed up and we have been getting some very good feedback. Go to www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk and sign up today.

Have your Purton Magazine delivered FREE

Instead of remembering to buy your Magazine every month you can have it delivered free to your door.

For a £6 annual subscription we will deliver FREE within our area. Postal deliveries cost £15 per year. You can join our scheme at any time during the year with the price adjusted pro rata.

For further information call [John Creasey](mailto:John.Creasey).

The Remembrance Service

I thought our Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph went very well. There are so many people to thank for all that goes into organising this service – the British Legion, whose occasion it is, Helen from the Parish Council, the Silver Threads for the use of their hall as a standby, Malcolm, Lynda and Christopher Warren for the speaker system (by comments the best yet), the Cricklade Band, Ian and Judith who officiated at the service, John Lilley and Steven Hazell for cutting the hedges etc. to make the Cenotaph look spick and span and let's not forget all you who came along to pay your respects to those that gave their lives so that we could have the life we have today.

I would like to mention two pupils from Bradon Forest School who came along to represent their school at the Remembrance Service and to lay a wreath, which they did with dignity and respect. They also said that they would like to come along to the Cenotaph the following day at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month. There were many remarks expressed about how nice it was to see Anna Wilka (head girl) along with deputy head boy Gus Gardiner, paying their respects. I know it was appreciated by everyone there and I estimate that that number must have been 250 plus. We know that the uniform groups do the same thing at the service but we tend to take that as part of their training – however, they all do a great job.

Another person who will be there at 11 on the 11th day of the 11th month is Brian Broad, who will have sounded the Last Post for the two minutes silence and, after the silence, the Reveille, so many thanks Brian, in anticipation.

We were all wondering what would happen with the traffic situation as there would be no police presence for the road closure, but we need not have worried as Kevin Law and his friends sorted that out and what an excellent job they made of it, so our thanks to all concerned here for letting us have a peaceful, noise free service. If this is part of the way future carnivals will be organised, I think we are in for some good times. I think we should book them for future Remembrance Day services.

I haven't mentioned the people who tend the Cenotaph all the year as I am going to make an appeal because unfortunately we have lost several of our squad through illness. We usually go to the Cenotaph for about an hour a fortnight, sometimes a little longer. It is all according to what wants doing. It makes it easy if we have a big enough squad – say about seven (we only have four at the moment). It does not matter if a couple cannot make it as the others still carry on. Please have a think about it. Paul and David cut the grass and we plant, weed and keep the area generally tidy. I am sure you would find it rewarding. Thank you.

TONY PRICE

Coffee and Chat

We meet every Wednesday from 10 am until noon at the Silver Threads Hall. We play Scrabble, cards, dominoes and other games, or you can just 'sit and chat'. If you want some company, come and join us – a welcome awaits.

Join us on Wednesday 18 December when we will have Carols, a Raffle and Festive Food!

BOB TINSON

Purton & District Age Concern



Could I start by saying that all of us in Age Concern were truly sorry to hear of the tragic death of Frances Verity in an accident. As you know, Frances was almost blind, so all we can hope and pray is that she had no knowledge of what was about to happen and when it did it was instant, which, according to the Police, it would have been. Frances was a very smart person who called a spade a spade, a-matter-of-fact lady and I say lady because she was every bit of that. In Age Concern we have a lot to thank Frances for as she was one of our first street wardens and her patch was part of Witts Lane, the Common, Locks Lane and, of course, Whitfield Close. What an excellent job she made of it – very efficient and always on the ball. Not only that, she was very kind and generous towards Age Concern. I am not going to say any more as there are more qualified people going to do that. Could I just say many thanks Frances for all your help towards Purton Age Concern.

We are still getting excellent service from the Bobby Van for security and the Fire Service for their smoke alarms. If you need either of these services, contact your street warden with your name, address and telephone number.

There are still places available at the T'ai Chi class every Thursday at the Millennium Hall, 2 pm to 3 pm. The first lesson is free so go along for a taster and see if it will suit you. There are also places at Luncheon Club, which is on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Silver Threads Hall. You'll have good company and a delicious meal. You need to book in so just give Pat Suddaby a ring on 771331 – mind your first meal isn't free!

We have had various letters back with regards to ours about the letter box at the Post Office and also our worries about people crossing the roads to get there but it seems that the powers that be are not listening to us. However we will keep an eye on the situation but I must say how lucky we are to still have a Post Office.

With reference to our Remembrance Day Service with no police being on duty, we have met with James Gray but the answer he got back from the Police was the same as ours, so we shall be relying on members of the Carnival Committee to do the job for us, for which we thank them.

Our Antiques and Collectables Fayre was a great success so thanks to all concerned for this, especially Jenny Barnes. During the setting up we realised that it was our 25th Fayre and Jenny had organised them all.

Christmas is coming up so you will have your street warden's name and telephone number on the Christmas news letter that you get with your voucher, so keep it safe as that is the right way to contact Purton and District Age Concern – through your street warden.

The Christmas season gets under way with our less able party on Saturday 30 November in the Silver Threads Hall, 3 pm to 5 pm with tea and entertainment. Your names should have been in by now but there might still be room. Give me a ring on 770696. The cost is £2 with carers going free. On the Sunday after we shall be putting the Christmas tree up on the wall of the Institute. Thanks to all concerned here, especially our younger friends – they make it all look so easy.

Then on Saturday 7 December, we have our main party in the Village Hall from 5 pm to 8.30 pm, again with tea and entertainment. If you haven't booked yet there might still be room and the cost for this is £5. The following Saturday 14 December we have our market stall outside the Pavenhill shops with a taste of Andrew's world wide famous sausages. Anything for the stalls, especially cakes and seasonal treats, would be greatly appreciated. It is always a lovely occasion and the stall is open from 9 am to 12 noon. We shall be drawing our Christmas raffle at our committee meeting on Tuesday 17 December at 7.30 pm. so your support for this would be greatly appreciated.

Still keeping on our fundraising vein, we will be holding our Burns night at the end of January. This is on Saturday 25 January and the tickets are £20. A little bit more about this in the next magazine. This is usually a sell out, so if you want to make sure you get tickets, give Ron or Heather Harris a ring on 770850.

Mary New, the conductor of Purton's own band, is all ready for the carols around the tree on Christmas Eve and, as usual, there will be a break with hot punch and mince pies. We like to do this to thank you all for the way you have supported us through the year. This starts at 7 pm and lasts just over the hour. Hope to see you there.

Could we offer our congratulations to Rowie Meers of Purton House Organics for obtaining the business award of the month. What a great achievement with all that goes on in and around the Swindon area. I reckon she should receive one for all her hard work as I have never known anybody work harder than Rowie. We in Age Concern will be for ever grateful for all the help she and her late husband Alex gave us when we held our horse shows at Purton House. Wouldn't Alex have been proud of her, just as we are. Well done Rowie.

TONY PRICE

A Tribute to Our Pauline – The Guide

It is very difficult, nay almost impossible to span over 50 years of great dedication into a few minutes.

It was a privilege to have Pauline Hall as a friend, my earliest memory was early in my roll as Division Commissioner when I presented her with her 15 year award.

Apparently she became a Guide almost by accident. In her own words, taken from her Guiding History, which she completed as a challenge to Guides in 2010, on the occasion of the celebration for 100 years of Guiding.:

"My first memory, when a friend Dianne Woolford said to me, are you going to Guides tonight. I did not know what she was talking about! She said we are meeting at Purton House. I rushed home and told my mother. At the appropriate time, together with my sister who was 10 or 11, we cycled the 2 miles along country lanes to Purton House. We all sat by the lake in horse-shoe formation, it was a beautiful evening, I remember the stillness of the lake and birds on the water, and hence began my Guiding life!"

Wearing a brown overall-type dress which had two large pockets, she became a member of the Robin six. Her sister was in Swallows. They enjoyed lovely times at Stoke Fleming, Charmouth and Clevedon.

An outstanding memory was her Guide Brown Owl, as she was known then, commenting on poor Mrs Berry was managing all on her own with another pack. You guessed – Yes Pauline, being Pauline, asked if she could help Mrs Berry. She was welcomed with open arms and so began her life as a Guider, which was to last for 50 years!

She became a Pack Leader for the Brownies and as a Ranger she remembers travelling by train with them to Great Windsor Park and seeing Princess Margaret and Margurite de Beaumont.

In November 1958 she gained her Tawny Owl warrant or in today's jargon became Assistant Guider. In May 1968 she became Brown Owl, planning the Brownie programme over the telephone with her Assistant after they had both put their own children to bed.

From 1970 District Secretary was added to her jobs. In 1984 she gained her Pack Holiday licence spending many happy times on Pack Holiday. In 1992, she took on the role of District Commissioner and eventually gave up the role of Brown Owl after 40 years with the same pack. She had 5 young helpers and felt the Pack was in good, safe hands. Proof she had done an excellent job, four of those girls became Guiders.

I personally, love this little anecdote. One of her Brownies had moved to Hong Kong and sent her a card addressed to Brown Owl, Purton. And she received it; Oh the wonders of Post Past!

1992. Her time as District Commissioner came to an end. She did not rest on her laurels, oh not Pauline. She took on the role of District Guider which meant that any Guider needing help in her unit, could and did, call on her. Her comment "That's the way to enjoy Brownies without stress!"

2005. Pauline reached that magic age when G.G.A. rules state you must retire from uniformed Guiding. The Division gave her a wonderful surprise thank-you party with the Theme "Your Guiding Life"

You might be forgiven for thinking that was it...not a bit of it. February 2002 her next position was as C.R.B. Co-Ordinator for Wiltshire North County. Chasing people for forms, making sure they were all filled in properly. Her admin skills were second to none. I can assure you it was a tremendous job which required hours of work.

Then in 2011 everything went on-line.

Pauline received her 15 year, 25 year, 30 year, 40 year and 50 year awards for active Guiding, together with a County Good Service award and a County Standard Award. She was the Division President, this enabled her to keep in close touch with all the units.

The time came for her to join the Trefoil Guild, enjoying the friendship involved and again able to join the Units for their special occasions and yes, I feel sure you have guessed, she undertook the role of Chairman for the Guild. I can personally tell you of the wonderful job she did keeping us all in order!. 100% to the end!

It was a privilege to have her as a Guider and a friend and she will be greatly missed by so many of us around the county. She was a lady of great courage in the way she coped with her illness got on with life and lived up to her Guiding promise to

the end. We thank her for her friendship and inspiration to us all. Farewell dear friend and thank you for the pleasure of knowing you.

Pauline's full history is well worth reading as I have only just scratched the surface. For and on behalf of North Wilts Trefoil Guild.

HAZEL MEAD

Mrs Pauline Hall

How do you do justice in a tribute to a lady like Pauline Hall who was an inspiration to us all, not only recently when she was suffering from cancer but making the most of her life with all her ups and downs – although when you spoke to her you would never think she had many lows as she was the type of person who got on with life the best she could. What a success she made of it too – a real credit to her. I will try my best to give a little bit of her full life.



Pauline was born on 18 January 1940 at Kingshill Maternity Hospital. It was a freezing day with people having a job to get up Kingshill. Pauline's home was in Linslade Street where she stayed until 1944 and could remember the time she had sat under the stairs with her mum and family when bombs dropped on Ferndale Road - very frightening with the candle jumping up and down. She had started school at Jennings Street, going with her gas mask in a box but when the family moved to 5 The Pry she had to wait until she was five before she could start school in Purton. The distance to school was at least one and a half miles and bear in mind that this meant they had to cross the level crossing. (Mr Turner was the crossing keeper and he lived in a house right by the crossing, also there was a crossing keeper's hut where he would operate from – there were no problems then as the large and small gates would lock automatically when a train was coming.) To start with, she would ride her three wheeler along with Lily Brown who kept an eye on her – incidentally Lily was in my class at school. When Lily left school it was Pauline's responsibility to make sure all her brothers and sisters got to school and she even took brother John on the saddle of her bike. Mind, this wasn't easy as he hated school and played Pauline up. When he was being really naughty, she smacked him and told him to get off home but it was Pauline who was in trouble when she got home because John had wandered up the railway line and was found by a ganger who took him home. All the children from the Pry area used to ride to school together, led by Brian Cook. What about the day Pauline and sister Judy had fallen out as children do – could I just add that there's nothing they would not do for one another – it is the same with all the family. They heard a scream, looked round and Judy had fallen into a ditch full of stinging nettles and water. Did they stop – no they didn't and carried on laughing all the way to school. I would think the children might have had a few days off in the bad winter of 1947 – still knowing Pauline's determination I expect they would try and get there. I do know that, playing by the petrol dump at Brimble Bridge in the snow, Kenny Kinnett jumped into a snow drift and disappeared out of sight. Pauline thought he had gone down to Australia!

The family was very disciplined – all had their little jobs to do, to clean their shoes the night before, help make the beds and change them and wash up the breakfast things before they went to school. Talk about organisation – Mrs Beasant had a points system – you started off with twelve points which represented twelve old pennies. If you didn't do your jobs properly or you misbehaved, you had a point deducted and a penny less in your pocket money. Pauline didn't remember her mum giving out much pocket money at the end of the week. I don't know whether it was in the deal but Pauline had to get the family allowance at the Post Office, then collect the accumulators from Mr Webber to run the wireless, also to collect various medical items from Nurse Gower and Nurse Lambert's clinic and bring it all home on her bike.

It was a hard life as their cottage had no mod cons only oil lamps, primus stoves and an outside cold tap. Saturday night was bath night, the copper was lit, the tin bath put in front of the fire, the youngest went in first and Pauline, being the eldest went in last – with seven of them, the water must have been a bit past it's best when it got to her! Pauline could remember the range in the kitchen with the oven door left open at night to try and keep the house warm. One morning they shut the oven door, lit the fire and after a while they could hear a mew inside – they had a look and out jumped Snowy the cat. Knowing Pauline's life long love of cats, I wouldn't be surprised if she had put something in there for him to sleep on. She loved Snowy and told me she used to dip her brothers and sisters' dummies in Virol and let the cat lick them – not much hygiene there as she didn't wash them after.

The children all went to Sunday School at the Upper Square Methodist Church, which was at least two miles away, with classes according to the children's ages and when Pauline was 14 she became a Sunday School teacher. She has always been a Methodist and, when the Upper Square Chapel was closed, Pauline worshipped at Playclose. She has been very involved with the life of the Methodist Church all her life, taking great comfort from the fellowship, and involved with things like the Lent Lunches and other events. Her faith was really important to her and has helped her cope with life's ups and downs.

Pauline really enjoyed her school life although she was frightened of some of the teachers, mainly the men, some of them were very good at throwing the blackboard rubber if someone was misbehaving. Mr Lloyd used to walk around with a cane in his hand but Mr Farrar, the headmaster was a very kind gentleman. Pauline was pretty good at all sports except swimming becoming ill with flu like symptoms when the school took the children to the GWR Swimming Baths at Milton Road. It was eventually discovered that she was allergic to chlorine. In her last year at St Mary's she became House Captain, netball captain and hockey captain. Pauline would say that, because she didn't pass the eleven plus, she was a big fish in a small pond and would have struggled at grammar school but I'm not so sure about that. Pauline was taught her cooking at home, doing it the practical way without the theory, which we all know stood her in good stead as she was an excellent cook – I shall miss her gifts of cheese scones that are the best I have every tasted (unless anybody wants to prove to me otherwise). She found cookery lessons boring like teaching children to make cocoa, when she would have made more cups of cocoa than the teacher ever

would have. The teacher also showed the class a complicated method of crimping the edge of the pastry and Pauline realised it was exactly what her mum did only she did it far faster. Pauline learnt not only how to cook from her mum but how to make her housekeeping money go round, cooking delicious economical meals and never, ever wasting anything – something which she put into practice all her life – as she would say, making a penny go as far as a shilling.

Pauline didn't have many early recollections of her father, simply because of the long hours he worked. The children were in bed at 6 pm and up at 7.30 am and he had been and gone by that time. Sadly he died when Judy and Pauline were at Guide camp and they were not told until their return, by which time he had been buried. Of course this meant that times were hard and the family who were old enough took a paper round. Pauline's was Pavenhill and Upper Pavenhill – she would go up to the paper shop, pick up her papers, deliver them and she would get home at 8.30 am, wash her hands and off to school.

In their last year at school the girls were encouraged to go to night school and Pauline did. She was taught typing by Miss Haskins from Purton – better known as Aunty Marj and Mr Wheeler who taught book keeping and shorthand. They suggested that Pauline applied to the GWR and helped her with her application form. All went well and she finished school at Easter and started work on the Tuesday after in the Motive Power Office, travelling to work by train as so many from Purton did. Her starting wage was £1 19s. 11d. a week and Pauline always felt that Mr Wheeler and Miss Haskins helped her to get this job as her father had died the previous August. They both worked inside themselves.

Pauline and her family moved to Reids Piece in 1954 and I do know that she would jog down to catch the train to work. She married in October 1961, renting 1 Church Path for ten shillings a week (50p in today's money). It was a bit primitive there with an outside toilet and outside tap – in the winter they had to light newspapers to thaw the water out. They saved very hard for a deposit for a house and, after two years, 17 Church Path came up for sale. They purchased it and Pauline finished work in 1967 to have Ross, followed by Ian and Nicky. Pauline was a worker as we all know and had many jobs over the years – home help to Miss Bennett, who used to have the Old Post Office, child minding, Godwins Bakery, the Maltsters, Brian Broad's jewellers shop, Jubilee gardens and St.Mary's school just to name a few.

Through circumstances, Pauline had to move to 11 Kibblewhite Close but what vision she must have had because it was a tip when she moved in and look at it now – all down to Pauline's hard work. And what about the rescue chickens she had there. It was Nicky who rescued them but, not having room for them at her home, brought them over to her mum and you could see them turn from almost featherless birds into birds with lovely shiny plumage. They all had names and different characters – when the patchwork group met at her house Pauline had them all in stitches about their doings. They made themselves at home and would sidle in if the patio doors were left open. They were very fond of grapes and sitting on the sofa watching Countdown and it was not unusual to find one asleep on the bed! Pauline did enjoy their company, especially when she was gardening with them pecking around her and eating the odd worm she dug up. Pauline loved her

garden and was so knowledgeable about all the plants.

Who hasn't benefited from Pauline's help at some time or another. I know Sheila and I will be ever grateful for the help she gave us when we were nursing Sheila's mum and dad and her aunty.

Pauline had many interests, especially in the village. She was chair of the Trefoil Guild, treasurer of the Methodist fellowship, a member of the Historical Society, Gardeners' Guild, St Mary's Fellowship, patchwork group and a knitting group (this was held at our house and Pauline had my special chair and I was confined to the garage). She was also involved with Luncheon Club, Coffee and Chat, the shoebox appeal and collecting for Christian Aid. One of the things really appreciated by Pauline was yoga, something she had done for many years. She felt it was a great help through her illness and she had great support from the class and from Carolyn the teacher, who was kind, patient and helpful, giving her special exercises that she could cope with. Thanks Carolyn. What about her Guiding, which was so important to her all through her life – there is a lady more qualified than I am who will be putting a piece in the magazine about that.

She was a great asset to our village and beyond. She always said what good neighbours she has had – well it takes two to make that happen so I will say no more. In that vein could I just say to Stephanie Frost how Pauline really appreciated your help. Thanks Stephanie. In her words, you have been fantastic, especially during her illness. Pauline was so pleased she could stay in Purton and we as a village were glad she did.

Pauline was very well organised because, when she knew she was dying, all her paper work was up together, all ship shape and Bristol fashion and that included her cremation and celebration service details so the family thought, but there was nothing. Was that the first test to give the family without her – they knew she wanted a cremation first, then a service of celebration with the Revd David Perkins, the Methodist minister taking it, at St Mary's. They also knew that she wanted Hazel Mead to say a little about her guiding and Trefoil Guild days and for me to do her eulogy (something that I was so proud to do). She also had wanted the Guiders to sing 'Taps' and 'Go Safely' at the end of the services. The family had to start from scratch with the rest of the service and I think the family did her proud with suitable readings and hymns (at least they knew one very favourite hymn 'Father I place into your hands the things that I can't do').

If anyone wanted to see ecumenism in action at its' best, this was it. As we know the Methodist Church played an important part in Pauline's life and this was a real joint occasion. Viv, our verger at St Mary's, gave so much help and advice for the service but then took a backward step on the day so that Bob and Linda Tinson could bring a bit of Methodism into the service by welcoming everyone coming in. Didn't they all make a good job of it. Then there was Frank Harvey, the organist, who went to so much trouble to sort out suitable music. Finally, of course, Revd David Perkins brought it all together to give Pauline a tribute worthy of her.

What an example Pauline was to us all. She had a strong faith and put her beliefs into practice as a true Christian, and she wasn't afraid to die. She did not suffer too long, although my feeling is that she was in more pain than she told us.

You think 'Why did they take someone such as Pauline' – the answer to that is that he needs good people up there to help with his work. We shall all miss her, but I am certain she is looking down on us, perhaps with the occasional little criticism! We offer our deepest sympathy to Ross, Helen, Ian, Nicky, Jack, Emily and all her family and friends.

TONY PRICE

Mr William Baker (Bill)

I am going to pay tribute to a man some people would not have known but those who did felt the benefit of a good conversationalist with a sense of humour, kind and generous, a lovely neighbour – well in fact a very nice man. Bill Baker was born in Holt, a village near Trowbridge in 1919 the third eldest of eight children. Sadly his father died when Bill was ten years old, leaving his mother to take care of eight children, which in 1929 was some task. There was plenty of trouble in the country in those days but it could not have done her much harm as she lived till she was ninety-one.

Bill went to the Royal Greenwich Hospital School in 1930 – this was a school for children whose parent had served in the Navy and had sadly died, so I assume Bill's father was a Navy man (this school is now the Maritime Museum). The Hospital School moved to Holbrook near Ipswich in 1932 where it is still going strong and I presume Bill moved with the school. In 1935 Bill joined the Royal Navy as a boy seaman becoming a leading torpedo man and finally retiring in 1949 as an electrician. Bill served on many ships during the 1939-45 war – destroyer Hasty, cruiser Newcastle, two American built frigates and he also served for a time on a French destroyer and, at the end of the war, on the U-boats as they surrendered. In 1941 he got mentioned in dispatches for distinguished service for sinking a U-boat while on convoy duty. He saw a lot of active service in the Mediterranean and Atlantic. When he was on the Newcastle the ship got hit by a torpedo leaving a great big hole in the side - it went right through and out the other side but did not sink the ship. Just before leaving the Navy in 1948 he joined the Royal Antediluvian Order of the Buffaloes – where did he join? It was in Singapore to the Sir James Oxberry Lodge no.3945. During his sixty five years membership he transferred to various lodges before finally joining Ye Olde Saxon Lodge East Cotswold Province. I cannot emphasise enough what an important part of Bill's life the RAOB were. It was a very fitting tribute that there were so many of the RAOB members at his funeral to give him a traditional RAOB farewell. Could I add that, during his sixty-five years in RAOB he held most of the offices in their organisation. What a great asset he must have been to them. On retiring from the Navy he returned to Holt where he originated from. He met Margaret and they married in 1953.

In the 1960s life was becoming a busy one for Bill and his wife Margaret with three daughters, Sheila, Sally and Sue and a move to Waitemeads Close was the next thing when Bill had got a job at Pressed Steel in Swindon in his trade as an electrician (he used to travel to work with me). The daughters left home and, of course, there were grand children. I said earlier that the RAOB meant a lot to Bill, well the most important thing in his life was his family, especially when the

grandchildren came along. One of their favourite spots for holidays was Brownsea Island along with uncle Len. What a lovely place to spend time, amongst the red squirrels. Sadly they all had a great shock awaiting them as Margaret had a massive heart attack and died, which was all so sudden. However they all got on with life the best they could, but obviously missing her all the time.

One of Bill's great joys was gardening and he loved to grow his own veg and his flowers always looked a picture. He was a true gardener – none of this buying plants, everything was grown from seed. He must have had that magic touch because, according to reports, he didn't have many failures. In later years he just concentrated on his flowers and always had a lovely show.

Bill was a member of Purton Bowls Club for a good number of years and a bowler to be reckoned with. When you played with him he would always encourage you but with that look 'You had better improve or else'. One thing that used to tickle the players a bit was the fact that he always wore braces and his trousers would be up under his arm pits, but that did not stop him being a very good Club bowler. He was a very sociable person who got on well with everybody at the Club. He was friends with Tony Smith so you can gather he had a good sense of humour. As I have already said, Bill was a very keen gardener, growing everything from seed. Well this stood the Bowls Club in good stead as he used to do all their hanging baskets for them.

Bill also attended and enjoyed Lunch Club and they enjoyed having him because he would chat to the others and any conversation with Bill was always interesting. Bill had many interests, including music. I think his favourite was country and western and I know that, along with Tony Smith, they would spend an evening listening to music. Mind, I expect they had a drink and sometimes it would be in others' houses, like the Blacklands Arms.

To Sheila, Sally, Sue and their families, to Bill's friends and the RAOBs, could I say thank you for money coming to Age Concern in lieu of flowers in Bill's memory. It is greatly appreciated.

TONY PRICE

Lilian Dyer

Lilian Dyer passed away peacefully at the Cedars Residential Home on 26 October last aged 102 years.

Lilian had lived at The Cedars for the past two years having moved from her bungalow in Melksham where up until the age of 100 years she was living with the help of her daughter and son-in-law and other members of her family.

The family wish to place on record their sincere thanks and appreciation for the exceptional level of care and support Mum received from all members of staff at The Cedars.

Obituaries

Purton Magazine is always happy to include obituaries. If you wish to have us publish an obituary of a loved one, please send it via the contacts on [page 4](#) of the Magazine.

Our Friend Frances

Frances and Jim Verity came to live in Purton in the mid 1970s. They met whilst serving in the RAF and married in 1960. Frances then left the service to set up home. She moved with Jim to various postings, finally coming to RAF Lyneham. After a while Frances and Jim decided to buy their own house and settled in Purton. As Jim was a loadmaster flying out of Brize Norton, he spent quite a lot of time away. Frances immersed herself into village life, becoming a founder member of PADS, joining the WI and becoming a street warden for Age Concern. All this added together with enjoying her job at Webbers shop.

Frances was very outgoing and loved both acting and singing. Her most memorable role in PADS was Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of being Ernest* and her deliverance of the line "In a handbag" was very impressive. Frances was very passionate about music and formed the WI choir, but had to give this up due to her failing eyesight. Another skill in which she excelled was cooking, providing many sought after delicacies at the WI Market. But again she had to retire from this due to her poor eyesight.

Sadly Jim passed away in 2011 leaving Frances lonely and bereft but she didn't give in. Determined to still have a life, she carried on with the WI, St Mary's Fellowship as well as dining at the Luncheon Club at the Silver Threads. With the help of her carer Angela and her friend Peggy, she managed to stay in her own home. She also enjoyed holidays accompanied by Inez, with St Dunstons at Brighton and Llandudno. From time to time we would all meet for lunch and Frances would take her turn with coffee mornings.

This year she was delighted to celebrate her 90th birthday with her family and friends which was a memorable occasion. In Purton we all have very fond memories of her and are sad to say goodbye to a very good friend.

ANNE, INEZ, PAM & THEO

Christian Aid Crafty Flower-making Day (for Syria appeal funds)

In October a group of people met for a 'crafty' day, to make all sorts of flowers using a variety of crafts and styles. Some used felt, fabric, clay, water colour paints; there was a wide choice available, even fantasy flower making and barge art!

Over £600 was raised for Christian Aid that day, thanks to the generosity of all those who attended and especially thanks to all the 'teachers' of the various crafts who gave their time for free.

One lucky person went home with the famous handmade Quillow, a combination of a quilt and pillow, made by Marie, of College Road.

All the money raised was specifically for the Syria Fund, and we have received a grateful letter of thanks. The money has already gone to a Christian Aid partner REACH (Rehabilitation, Education and Community Health) which is working in refugee settlements, providing hygiene kits to some 1,500 refugee families that have sought sanctuary from the devastation in Syria.

So thank you all.

LIBBIE & MARY

on behalf of the Christian Aid team

PURTON PLACARD

Groups are invited to submit to the Editor details of forthcoming events in, for and on behalf of our community.

Swindon Choral Society Christmas Concert 2013

An A to Z of Carols

Saturday 14 December

at St Mark's Church, Church Place, Swindon SN1 5EH
along with Special Guests
the choir of St Bartholomew's School, Royal Wootton Bassett.

The concert starts at 7.30 pm (doors open 7 pm)

Tickets cost £10 with concession of one free under 18
with one full-paying adult,

from the Society's website at www.swindonchoral.org.uk,
the Information Centre in Central Library
and from members of the choir.

World Challenge Quiz Night

At Purton Village Hall
Friday 29 November at 7.45 pm

£2 per person

Maximum 6 people per team

Licensed bar

For tickets contact

Dee 771435 or Lorraine 772357

Jubilee Gardens Open Day

Saturday 7 December

from 10 am to 2 pm

Sale of hyacinths, Christmas Wreaths,
bird boxes, pickles and much more.

Refreshments

Raffle and tombola

Free admission

Church Bush Hall, Purton Stoke

Christmas Coffee Morning

18 Church Path

Friday 6 December

10 am - Noon

Cakes, Books,

Bric a brac & Raffle

In aid of local charity

PURTON AGE CONCERN CHRISTMAS MARKET STALL

on Saturday 14 December
outside the Pavenhill shops
from 9.30 am to 12 noon

Lots of bargains, bric a brac,
toys, books, home made cakes,
and lots more with a last chance
to buy our Christmas raffle tickets

**Purton Under Fives
Christmas Bazaar**

Sunday 8 December
2-4 pm at the Village Hall
Admission Free

Philippines Fund Raising Evening

Saturday 14 December 8 pm till late
Purton Village Hall
S-Hit5 plus support band.
tickets on door £6 - children £4
Raffle, Burgers. Licensed Bar
All profits to Philippines Disaster Fund
please come along and support this needy cause
Ring Tony/Sue 772581

Purton Twinning Association
Christmas Time QUIZ Night

at The Silver Threads Hall
on Friday 20 December
7.30 for 8 pm start
Teams of up to six
£6 per head to include a Ploughman's Supper
To book contact Len Page on 770160
or Sara Brown on 778362

Wednesday 18 December
10am to 12 noon

**Carols at
Coffee and Chat**

with a raffle and festive food
at the Silver threads Hall

St Mary's Church, Purton
Events planned for 2014

Saturday 1 February
Curry Evening with a quiz
Saturday 22 March
Murder Mystery evening
Put these dates in your diaries!

St Mary's Church, Purton
Classic Christmas Carols

Come and join us
in singing traditional Carols
followed by Mince Pies and Punch
Sunday 15 December at 6 pm
in St Mary's Church, Purton

*Happiest 50th
Birthday
to*

Mr Mark Haines

*with best wishes
for the 4th December*



*from all who
know you!*

PURTON POSTBAG

The Editors reserve the right not to publish letters received where space and content dictate. No correspondence can be accepted for publication without the proper name and address of the correspondent being supplied. However those details may be withheld from being published if so requested.



■ GRAHAM LEON SLEE

born 31 Dec 1957 - died 14 Oct 2013

We would like to thank everyone who phoned, emailed and/or sent sympathy cards, following the sudden and unexpected death of our son, Graham. It was a great comfort to know that we have so many caring friends in Purton.

Our son, Graham, lived in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. He had been unwell, for quite a while. At the beginning of September doctors discovered a lump on his lung. A biopsy and scan found that it was cancerous and - worse - the cancer had spread to other organs throughout his body. Just three weeks later Graham died in the presence of his mother and father. Graham was calm and alert right to the end, ensuring that, his wife Anna, step-son, Mark and we were all fully aware of his situation and made us promise not to be sad for him but to enjoy the rest of our lives.

The Pembury NHS hospital treated him with great care but when it became certain that no further treatment was possible a bed was found in a local hospice, the Hospice in the Weald. Graham was only at the hospice for three days and we were grateful to witness the care and compassion show to him and us.

Cancer can be so destructive and deadly taking people whilst they are still young. If you can, please make a donation towards research into its complete eradication.

Thank you, *Leon & Marlene Slee*

■ THE OLD POST OFFICE

Many thanks for the cards, gifts and good wishes received from customers on my retirement from the Post Office.

I have enjoyed my 28 years as Purton's sub-postmistress and wish to take this opportunity to thank Anne, Helen, Jane and all previous staff who have helped me over the years in providing the post office services for the village.

Sue Budd

■ HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL MY FRIENDS

To all my friends and neighbours in Purton and the Lydiards; instead of sending Christmas cards a donation will be made to a local charity, so I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2014.

Theo Marchant

■ PURTON F.C.

Following my letter in the October issue I would like to thank all those people who contacted me to support Purton FC. in the fund raising "Pound a Point scheme! Unfortunately NOBODY did! What a shame that you talk to so many people who have fond memories of Purton FC. either watching or playing and probably within the next couple of years there will be football on the Red House pitch but sadly it may not be Purton FC. Can I respectfully suggest to the readers that it is still possible to sign up!

Terry Crumbie

Purton Churches Together



A man born to be King

On 22 July in St Mary's Hospital Paddington, a special baby was born, a man born to be king, prince George Alexander Louis. He is currently third in line to the throne. He has had the best medical treatment money can buy, everything possible has been done to give him the best start in life. If all goes according to plan and nothing untoward happens (and working on average life expectancies for members of our Royal Family) he is unlikely to become king for at least 50 or 60 years. If nothing changes constitutionally he will have considerable influence and a full ceremonial role as head of state but not much real power.

Compare with me another special baby also a man born to be king. King not merely for a few years (not only for 60!) but for ever. Not just ruling over a small country, but over the entire universe. His title is Lord of Lords and King of Kings (Revelation chapter 17 verse 14). This is not just influence and a ceremonial role but real absolute supreme power. This is a baby worth thinking about this Christmas time. Because despite all the busyness of the season Christmas starts with Christ.

Yet this baby had far from a privileged beginning, his mother (along with his acting father) had to travel a long distance (quite possibly on foot) to another town in obedience to the tax authorities, all this in the last few weeks of her pregnancy. When they arrived there was no medical treatment and no hospital to go to, let alone a maternity unit, in fact all the guest houses were full. The only place to stay was far from hygienic by modern standards; it was just a shed with an animal feeding trough as a cot. He had a relatively short life; he was not seen much until the last three years of his life. He gathered around him a band of mostly uneducated followers; he had some popularity with the crowds but not with the authorities. In the end the tide of popular opinion went against him and he ended up being put to death by being nailed to a piece of wood. And yet it would be fair to say that all the armies that have ever marched, all the navies that have ever sailed, all the governments that have ever sat, and all the kings and queens who have ever reigned put together have not effected this world as much as this one solitary life. Not bad for a man born in a shed!

This Christmas can I encourage you to make time amidst all the busyness of the season to consider again this special baby. I would like to invite you to our normal Christmas services at St Mary's and Purton Methodist (as advertised elsewhere in this magazine) and especially to something new for 2013: Classic Christmas Carols on Sunday 15 December at 6 pm at St Mary's: with favourite Carols, Classical interludes from Bach and Handel, St Mary's Choir, familiar Bible Readings, and (hopefully) Handbell Ringers, all followed by Mince Pies and Punch – a good way to start your Christmas with Christ.

Your Vicar and Friend

Revd IAN TWEEDIE-SMITH

Church Floodlighting

With thanks to those who have sponsored floodlighting of St Mary's Church.



- 3 December St Mary's will be floodlit for **Jake Smith** on his 23rd birthday.
In loving memory.
Very much loved and missed by all his family and friends.
- 9 December St Mary's will be floodlit for **Elsa Trotter** 'in memory of a loving Mother's birthday.'
- 14 December St Mary's will light up tonight in celebration of the **anniversary of our wedding**, which took place in this Church 45 years ago, 14 December 1968.
It's good to be living back in the village where we started our married life. Lynne and Maurice Watkins.
- 18 December St Mary's will be floodlit for all my wonderful friends and neighbours at **Waitemeads Close**.
Thinking of you all: wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Love Carol Boast
- 19 December The Church will be floodlit for my wife, **Elsie Goodings**, on what would have been her birthday.
From Pete Goodings
- Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
St Mary's will be floodlit to wish **all Purtonians** a very Happy Christmastide.
- 28 December St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Nelson Woolford** on the 13th anniversary of his death.
Also for Mary. Loved and remembered always.
Barbara, Martin, Alan and families

Please note: New Floodlighting contact: Sandra Horsnall for the next few months. If the lights don't work, for any reason, we offer apologies and, of course, another floodlit evening for free, or your money back.

These things happen occasionally and it is really disappointing for all concerned. We can only try our best.

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *The Fox, The Pry and Collins Lane*.

If there is anyone or anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Revd Judith Wells or Revd David Perkins. Their contact details can be found on the inside cover of this magazine. You can give as much or little information as you wish. We don't even have to know a name.

Nativity Sheep Trail

It's time to meet the sheep. One of the Purton shepherds wants to go and see baby Jesus, but he can't find all his sheep! The sheep are hiding in the village. He knows that he went into some shops in Purton. Will you help him find his missing sheep?

Trail leaflets can be found in various village shops and at St Mary's School.

Bring your completed trail leaflets to St Mary's Church on CHRISTMAS EVE at 4 pm to meet the lost flock.

For further information contact Mary Hodges or [Judith Wells](#)

We Record ...

Baptisms:

13 October Sophie Isabel Rainbow at *St Mary's Church*

Funerals:

8 November William Baker at *St Mary's Church*

Thanksgiving:

25 October Thanksgiving service for the life of Pauline Hall at *St Mary's Church*

Deaths:

4 November Frances Verity (91)

To add your family announcements to this section contact Purton Magazine. Addresses on [page 4](#). We are happy to include births, marriages, deaths, special birthdays and anniversaries, exam successes ...



Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes

Good news. Due to so many people supporting this project, we have been able to send 420 filled boxes this year to Ukraine. This is 30 more than last year. The boxes were collected from Purton on 12 November and left the Melksham warehouse by lorry to their destination on 15th November. These boxes will be going to a specific area already packed according to age and gender for the needs of that particular area. They will then be distributed by our OCC Partners through the churches, schools and orphanages. When the boxes are handed out, each child will have an official slip of paper that they produce in exchange for their box.

So, let us take a moment on Christmas Day to be pleased about what Purton has achieved and that we have been able to put a smile on the faces of 420 children.

Thank you all so much. Dare I say this? Some of us are on to next year's project already!

SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, *Coordinator*



Lost Property

Gold signet ring lost in the High Street near the War Memorial on Saturday afternoon, 9 November around 2.30 pm. Reward to finder. Phone Geoff on 772985.

Purton Diary - December 2013

1	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United Parade & Anniversary Service at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
4	W	7.30pm	Christmas Whist Drive, Silver Threads Hall, by Helping Hand
5	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
6	F	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Christmas Coffee Morning, 18 Church Path
		7.30pm	Historical Society: <i>Christmas Social</i> , Silver Threads Hall
7	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 2pm:</i> Jubilee Gardens Open Day
		5.00pm	<i>to 8.30pm:</i> Age Concern Party at the Village Hall
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8	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		2.00pm	<i>to 4pm:</i> Christmas Bazaar at Village Hall (Purton Under 5s)
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
9	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
10	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		11.30am	<i>to 4pm:</i> Silver Threads Christmas Party, Silver Threads Hall
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at Royal George
		8.00pm	After 8: "Christmas Sing-a-long" at Mary S's
11	W	7.30pm	Christmas Bingo, Silver Threads Hall, by Helping Hand
12	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at the Cedars
13	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		3.30pm	Communion at the Cedars
		7.30pm	Wessex Male Choir Christmas Concert at Holy Rood R.C. Church, Groundwell Road, Swindon
14	Sa	9.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Age Concern market stall by Pavenhill shops
		7.30pm	Swindon Choral Society Christmas Concert, St Mark's Church SN1 5EH
		8.00pm	Philippines Fund Raising Evening, Village Hall
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15	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Classic Christmas Carols, Pies & Punch, St Mary's Church
17	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
18	W	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Carols at Coffee & Chat, with a raffle and festive food at Silver Threads Hall
		2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.00pm	Bradon Forest Christmas Service at St Mary's Church
		7.30pm	Purton Evening W.I, at Village Hall: <i>Christmas Fun - 1960's theme</i>

19	Th	6.00pm	<i>onwards</i> : Santa visits Purton (see p42)
		8.00pm	Christmas Charity Darts at Red House
20	F	6.00pm	<i>onwards</i> : Santa visits Purton (see p42)
		7.30pm	<i>for 8pm start</i> : Christmas-time Quiz at Silver Threads Hall (Twinning Assoc.)
21	Sa		Winter Solstice
<hr/>			
22	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
			<i>No Morning Service</i> at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		5.00pm	Informal get together at the Methodist Church, tea coffee etc
		6.00pm	Carols at the Methodist Church
24	Tu	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		4.00pm	Village Carol Service, and Sheep Trail, at St Mary's Church
		7.00pm	Age Concern Carols under the tree at the Institute
		11.00pm	Midnight Communion at St Mary's Church
25	W		Christmas Day
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
26	Th		Boxing Day Bank Holiday
<hr/>			
29	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Covenant Service at the Methodist Church
		6.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's Church
31	Tu		New Year's Eve

Every week

Tu	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon</i> : Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
Th	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
Th	11.15am	<i>to 1pm</i> : New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre
Th	2.00pm	<i>to 3pm</i> : Age Concern T'ai Chi at Millennium Hall
Th	2.30pm	Pram Service for pre-school children at Methodist Church

Santa Specials at Swindon & Cricklade Railway
 most Sats/Suns in December from 11am ([see p30](#))

Moon Phases

● 3 December ● 9 December ○ 17 December ● 25 December

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages,
 let us know:

Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
 or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

Please note: priority is given to events which are open to everyone.

Transforming Purton Parish - Our Education

Following the initial overview in this magazine of the *Ps and Qs* flagship project, *Transforming Purton Parish* which aims to address and improve the overall resilience of the parish concerning: water, food, energy, waste, health, education, safety, housing, transport, economy, recreation, connectivity and democracy, we have been summarising brief extracts. So far we have extracted key messages and options concerning transport, waste, water, food, energy, health and housing. This extract is about education.

The parish benefits from a primary school (St Mary's Church of England Primary School) and a secondary school (Bradon Forest School). The primary school has recently been rebuilt and caters for 306 children of whom 64 live too far away to walk to school (60 being out of the catchment area). None uses the school buses. The assumption is that many are driven to school in cars.

The secondary school opened in 1962 to cater for 390 students of secondary age, becoming fully comprehensive in 1974, grant maintained in 1993, and a Foundation school in 1999. It is now an 11 to 16 co-educational comprehensive, with approximately 1000 students on roll, drawing from Purton, Cricklade and the surrounding villages in North Wiltshire as well as the north and west of the Swindon area. Of the 1000, 221 (November 2012 figures) are from Purton and two from Purton Stoke. About a year ago, the school had a pupil deficit of about 250 places (mostly due to Swindon Borough Council's decision not to pay for free school transport, from Swindon to Purton).

The schools' main impacts derive from (1) the intense traffic (cars and buses) twice each school day to deliver and then collect the pupils, and (2) the litter in the immediate vicinity of the school estates.

- Unless there is a radical change in the numbers and origin of those using the schools, the traffic associated with the two schools is unlikely to diminish, making the High Street a fairly unpleasant and unsafe place to be walking, twice each day, for the foreseeable future. With the decision on Ridgeway Farm there has been some talk of shifting the secondary school to the Ridgeway Farm site though this is not a priority given that Thames Water, the Environment Agency, Scottish and Southern Electricity and Network Rail are objecting to the current detailed applications; and
- On the other hand, solving the litter problem should be straightforward. Litter will be dealt with in more detail in a future article. Suffice it to say, it is an ongoing problem which has a significant cost and which is paid for, currently, by the council tax payers of the parish.

Assuming that the numbers and origin of those using the schools remain broadly as now, then the twice-daily congestion in the High Street, its noise and pollution will continue without a radical solution. Given that the recent Ridgeway Farm Appeal has been allowed, it can be anticipated that significant additional numbers of pupils will be attending Bradon Forest School in due course. Indeed, Wiltshire Council and the Ridgeway Farm developers have agreed a planning obligation to provide a contribution for an extension to Bradon Forest Secondary School. We

know that Ridgeway Farm development is assumed to require 210 additional primary school places (to be met by a new on-site school). Bradon Forest School is the assumed secondary school and is likely to trigger additional buses and cars arriving from the development.

As far as is known, none of the school children travel to and from St Mary's by bus. In contrast, there are several double-decker buses and coaches that ferry pupils to and from Bradon Forest School, twice each day using primary access routes from Royal Wootton Bassett/Lydiard Millicent and Cricklade. Now that the new Tadpole Bridge is open, and once the newly-permitted 1700 houses have been built (an additional 3500+ residents plus at least 2000 cars) and Ridgeway Farm (700 houses) significant additional traffic through the village of Purton could be reasonably anticipated, based on what has occurred with previous housing expansions at Tadpole and environs in recent years.

Below are the schools in context with the High Street and their predominant access routes:

From Cricklade/Tadpole



From Royal Wootton Bassett

Looking at the flows from Royal Wootton Bassett/Lydiard Millicent first, there would seem to be some potential re-routing (putting aside, appropriate permissions, land ownership, environmental issues and the views of local people). This would allow all school (buses, coaches and private cars) traffic, entering Purton near Battlewell, to be diverted east around the rear of Willis Way and Reid's Piece.

A feasibility study would be needed but, in principle, it would seem achievable. This option would reduce traffic congestion (and its associated noise and pollution) substantially and also make the upper part of the High Street a more pleasant and certainly safer place to be. *This could be extremely unpopular with those who live near this alternative routing.*

Of course, this would also extend the psychological settlement boundary, if not the physical one, and provide some "added value" options for some housing (that

could satisfy resilience criteria) some formalised parking area for users of the (perhaps renovated) Pavenhill retail area, and some additional allotment space.

Traffic flows accessing the schools from the direction of Cricklade or Tadpole are not so easily finessed. These flows are likely to remain and only decline if school size declines.

Of course, education should be a life-long activity. In this regard the parish is not particularly well served though, at times, courses have been available by Swindon College in Royal Wootton Bassett and at Nova Hreod. It would be useful to see a range of adult courses based at the two schools.

The *Ps and Qs Foresight and Resilience Plan* called for:

- A more radical approach to littering by the school
- A feasibility study for a schools' feeder road with the off-take prior to Battlewell, including options for housing, parking and allotments
- Provision for life-learning based at the schools

... and a Happy Christmas to all Magazine Readers!

The full report, *Transforming Purton Parish*, is freely downloadable from www.CarbonBrake.com and there is a hard copy in Purton Library. If you want to find out the latest on potential housing developments at Widham Farm, Restrop Road, and behind Jewel's Ash, then simply go to www.CarbonBrake.com and subscribe to my email alerts.

RICHARD PAGETT (secure@richardpagett.com)

Purton Helping Hand

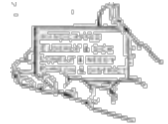
A very sad time for us as this is the final year of The Helping Hand. We will be delivering the Christmas Vouchers as usual this year.

On behalf of past and present members of the Club we say a very big THANK-YOU to everyone who has helped, and supported us, in many ways over the years to enable us to care and help, when needed, throughout the Parish.

We have met and made friends with some lovely people and hope we have helped in some way.

We send our best wishes to everyone for 2014 and for health, peace and a little prosperity. God bless and thank you all.

PAULINE WARD, *Chairman*



Guide Dogs for the Blind

The Helping Hand Table Top Sale was a rather quiet affair; I took £3 on my stall. Thankfully Barbara Herron came across from Chiseldon with all her goodies and she donates her takings to Guide Dogs. So the total figure comes to £83.20. Thank you Barbara.

On 23 November, I shall be at Christ Church Christmas Market, then at *Christmas at Steam* in December.

The committee and I wish you all, a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Many thanks for everybody's continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, *for the Purton Support Group*



After 8



Our October meeting was hosted by Gwyneth who introduced a new lady to the group, hopefully we did not scare her off and she will be joining us at future meetings.

October is our planning meeting and we had some interesting suggestions for the next twelve months these included our New Year quiz, a Romp Through History, Women's Role in the First World War, Board Games, a Book Evening and Eating Right for your Type. If any of these whet your appetite and you would like details of our meetings contact Avril for the full list. Telephone 771542.

Following the business part of the evening Avril led us in a discussion titled "TV Nostalgia".

After a brief history of the invention of television which led to the world's first regular public transmission, by the BBC from Alexandra Palace, on 2 November 1936 we talked about our first TV memories. It is hard to think that not everyone grew up with a television in the house, unlike today when more than one per household seems to be the norm. Some of us remembered the coronation of Queen Elizabeth when friends and neighbours gathered round sets with 11 inch screens! Unlike today the first sets were very unreliable and fiddling with knobs to adjust the vertical and horizontal hold was part of the viewing fun; often a swift thump on the top would be needed. TV actually closed down at 10.30 pm so people didn't stay up late and could go to work the next day. Our favourite children's programmes included Andy Pandy, The Woodentops and Muffin the mule; we also recalled the programmes we watched with our children, Trumpton, Camberwick Green, Postman Pat to name but a few. Contrary to what we remember being told by our parents, academics have now found that watching TV can IMPROVE your child's schoolwork.

In 1955 the first commercial channel, ITV, appeared – the advertising agencies should be proud as we could remember adverts for Fairy Liquid, Oxo, Pepsodent and many more. Theme tunes were hummed and recognised, popular soaps, sagas and series discussed. Can you believe that such was the viewing power of the Forsythe Saga that some churches were forced to change the time of evensong or lose the congregation! The Great British Bake Off was being televised during our meeting and we marvelled at the change in cookery programmes when we remembered Fanny Craddock and the very patient Johnny. Thank you Avril for a trip down memory lane and an appreciation of how TV and our expectations of it have changed over the years.

We had a lovely surprise when refreshments were served, Yvonne had brought a bottle of champagne for us to share, thank you from us all, back to coffee and biscuits next time (although we do have 'posh' biscuits!)

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10 December, a "Christmas Sing-a-long" at Mary Smith's with a visit from Santa.

JANET McCARTHY

Fed up with Junk Phone Calls?

Telephone 0845 0700707, which is an automated registration service, and you will stop many of the cold calls coming down your line.

Purton Museum

Purton Historical Society would like to thank all the Clubs and Organisations who were good enough to provide a display in the museum during the year. Your contributions have been much appreciated and the year ends with a display by Purton Church commencing the first week of November.

For a number of reasons the Museum will be closed from Saturday 21 December until Saturday 22 February. The museum can be opened by special arrangement with the curator by telephoning 01793 770124. We will be able to undertake the re-arrangement of displays during this period.

Purton Age Concern will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary in February and as part of their activities a special display will be mounted in the museum, opening on Saturday 22 February, 2014.

We are already involved with the preparation of exhibits recognising the anniversary of the start of World War One in 2014 and we will be keeping the village informed of our plans.

We must mention the very enjoyable visit to the museum in October of 90 schoolchildren from St Mary's school (three classes of 30 children). As well as being very well prepared for their visit many children asked very relevant questions about the village and then proceeded to tour the museum and ask more questions which we did our best to answer. Many thanks to Jenny Barnes for her very professional approach to the visit.

Thanks must also be extended to our volunteer stewards who have provided coverage for our opening hours since June. (Wednesday 2 - 5 pm and Saturday 10 am - 1 pm.). We feel that visitors benefit greatly from a personal welcome and sometimes stewards have provided valuable help with enquiries about family history.

It only remains to add that our usual Christmas Social is to be held on Friday 6 December and as well as our usual excellent entertainment we will be holding a quiz about our village. We hope to see you there. A very happy Christmas to you all.

JAN WALKER, Museum Curator

Swindon & Cricklade Railway www.swindon-cricklade-railway.org

SANTA SPECIALS Sun Dec 1st / Sat & Sun 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st & 22nd
from 11 am to 4 pm. Saturday 7th only 11 am to 5 pm.

A friendly individual approach to parents and children. Presents chosen to suit different age groups are given by Santa in his special grotto at the end of a festive train ride. Cafeteria, shop and museums. Adults cost £7, children £10 to include present, under 2s £5 including present, seniors £6, family, two adults and two children £32.

Blunsdon Station is two miles from Purton village on Tadpole Lane. From Packhorse Lane carry straight on over the railway bridge. The car park entrance is then immediately on the right.

Enquiries 01793 750335 or 771615, or web site (above).



Great War Project

Part 5. Russia in Late Tsarist Days

The Russian Empire played a leading political role in the 19th century but its retention of serfdom (feudal slavery) made economic progress impossible. While the West grew during the Industrial Revolution, Russia lagged behind, stifling its potential as a great power. It had inefficient government and an isolated population due to its sheer size; it was backward economically and in education. Tsar Alexander I had discussed minor constitutional reforms, but only a few had been introduced.

Napoleon had invaded Russia in 1812, a campaign which turned to catastrophe, and his forces were chased back to the gates of Paris by Alexander's troops. Alexander I died of typhus in 1825 and was replaced by his younger brother, Nicholas I (1825-55). A number of educated Russian officers had travelled in Europe in the Napoleonic campaigns, and seen the strength of Western liberalism and sought change in autocratic Russia. In the Decembrist Revolt (December 1825), liberal nobles and army officers moved to overthrow Nicholas and install his brother, Grand Duke Constantine Pavlovich, as constitutional monarch. The revolt was put down and Nicholas turned even further from modernisation. State retaliation made "14th December" stick in the memories of later revolutionaries. Censorship intensified, textbooks were strictly regulated and police spies were everywhere. Hundreds of thousands of revolutionaries were sent to prison camps and exile in Siberia.

Russia's involvement in the Crimean War (1853-56) showed that the country, previously felt to be invincible, had declined against the West and Nicholas died in 1855 with the future direction of Russia in turmoil.

Alexander II acceded in 1855, with a widespread call for reform in the air: more than 23 million serfs lived under atrocious conditions of poverty. The emancipation of the serfs in 1861 by the Tsar's decree was perhaps the single most important event in 19th century Russian history: it set in train the end for the aristocracy's monopoly of power, as it brought a supply of labour to the cities which stimulated industry and the growth of a middle class. Although serfdom was abolished, revolutionaries felt that the newly freed serfs were merely sold into wage slavery in the industrial towns, and that the bourgeoisie had replaced the landowners' yoke.

Meanwhile, in the east, Alexander II occupied Chinese Outer Manchuria (1858-60) but sold Alaska to the USA in 1867 believing it worthless. There were many clashes from the late 1870s between Russia and the Ottoman Empire covered in Part 2 of this series. Russia was taking on the mantle of Protector of the Slavs within the Ottoman domains.

Alexander was assassinated by anarchist terrorists in 1881, and his son became Tsar Alexander III (1881-94). He believed Russia could only be saved from turmoil by cutting itself off from the liberal politics of the West. During his reign Russia sealed an alliance with republican France (1894) to contain the growing power of Germany, completed the conquest of the Central Asian khanates (tribal regions) and demanded important territorial and commercial concessions from a

very weak China. A policy of Russianisation was carried out throughout the Empire.

In 1894, Alexander III was succeeded by his son, Nicholas II, who was as autocratic as his father. Industry continued to grow and, in that climate, socialist and revolutionary parties were formed: the Socialist-Revolutionaries (SRs) proposed the distribution of land among those who actually worked it – the peasants. The Social Democrats, followers of Karl Marx, believed a revolution must rely on urban workers, not the peasantry.

The Social Democrat party's 2nd Congress was held in London as it was impossible to do so in Russia. At the Congress, after bitter disagreement, the party split into two wings – the gradualist Mensheviks (literally 'minority'), and the more radical Bolsheviks ('majority'). The Menshevik liberals believed the Russian working class wasn't politically aware enough and that socialism could be achieved only after a period of bourgeois democratic rule. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, believed a small elite of professional revolutionaries, subject to strong party discipline, could act as the spearhead of the workers (proletariat) in seizing power by force.

As though that wasn't enough, the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05) was "the first great war of the 20th century." It grew out of rival ambitions of the Russian Empire and the Empire of Japan over Manchuria and Korea.

Russia had long sought a warm water port on the Pacific Ocean, for their navy as well as for trade. Vladivostok was frozen up in winter but Russia had leased Port Arthur (modern-day Lüshunkou), a naval base on the Yellow Sea coast across the sheltered sea from Beijing; its waters were open all year. From 1903, negotiations between Russia and Japan proved impractical. Japan offered to recognise Russian dominance in Manchuria in exchange for recognition of Korea as a Japanese sphere of influence. Russia refused and in 1904 the Japanese Navy attacked the Russian eastern fleet at Port Arthur. The Japanese defeated the Russians in a series of battles on land and at sea.

Construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway had started in 1890 to connect Moscow with Vladivostok. Its design was a major cause of Russia losing the war as the single track only allowed trains to move in one direction at a time. Russian supply trains taking men and munitions towards the eastern front had to wait while troops and casualties went from east to west along the line. The Japanese advanced quickly while the Russians waited for troops and supplies.

The Japanese military successes over the Russians, startled the rest of the world. The balance of power in East Asia was shifting as Japan entered onto the world stage. The U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt negotiated the Treaty of Portsmouth (New Hampshire) which brought the war to an end and for which he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906. Defeat was a major blow to the Tsarist regime and further increased the potential for unrest.

A religious teacher at a children's orphanage, Father Gapon, had been active with factory workers and families impoverished by unemployment. In January 1905, Gapon led a huge crowd to the Tsar's Winter Palace in Saint Petersburg to present a petition. When the procession reached the palace, Cossacks opened fire on the

crowd, killing hundreds, and the incident went down in history as “Bloody Sunday”. A general strike was declared against the massacre, demanding a democratic republic and beginning the Russian Revolution of 1905. Soviets (councils of workers) appeared in most cities to direct revolutionary activity. Russia was paralysed.

Under pressure, Nicholas reluctantly issued the October 1905 Manifesto, creating a national Duma (parliament), extending the right to vote and decreeing that no new law could be enacted without ratification by the Duma. Moderates were satisfied but the socialists saw the concessions as too little and tried to organise new strikes. By the end of 1905, there was disunity among the reformers, and the Tsar’s position was strengthened ... for the time being.

In 1904, Nicholas and his wife, Tsarina Alexandra had their first son, Alexei. However, Alexei inherited haemophilia from his mother. The search for a cure for Alexei led to the rise of the Siberian peasant Grigori Rasputin at court; though semi-illiterate he was said to have healing powers. He gained increasing influence on the court, especially the Tsarina, and hence over the Tsar himself. This was to have major repercussions as we shall see later.

By the early 20th century, the size of the Russian Empire was about 22.4 million km² (8.6 million sq miles) or almost 1/6th of the Earth’s landmass; its only rival in size was the British Empire. The Empire comprised more than 100 different ethnic groups, with ethnic Russians comprising about 45% of the population. However the majority of the population lived in European Russia.

RICK DIXON

First World War Centenary

Wiltshire’s Great War Community Event

On 4 August 2014 the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1 will be commemorated. Three meetings have been held in different parts of Wiltshire this year to exchange ideas and plan events, so that communities will be inspired to organize significant projects in their towns and villages.

To quote the Director-General of the Imperial War Museum, “The First World War was a turning point in world history. It claimed the lives of over 16 million people across the globe and had an impact on the lives of everyone. One hundred years on we are all connected to WW1, either through our own family history, the heritage of our local communities or because of its long-term impact on society and the world we live in today.”

There are many ways to raise an understanding and awareness of WW1: through studying local war memorials, personal stories, rolls of honour, letters, diaries, newspaper reports, military and hospital records, recruitment tribunals, albums, maps, charts, early photos and posters. Original research will reveal the social and economic effect on rural communities. Other interesting areas include the role of women, the history of flight and the importance of Empire.

In Purton the Historical Society is planning several events. There will be a special exhibition in the Museum opening in August. The PHS will be working closely with Bob Lloyd whose publication *Purton and the Great War 1914-1918* is

being updated ready for the centenary. Over the four years travelling exhibitions will be offered to all the museums in the county and it is hoped they will come to Purton, to enhance our own displays and give a wider picture of the impact the war had on the rest of Wiltshire.

An exciting development is the inclusion of PADS in the plan! Their members have great ideas for a dramatic interpretation of events to be performed in different locations and involving all ages. The more organizations taking part the better so a meeting is to be arranged in January when groups are invited to send representatives along. The actual date, venue and time will be announced in the January Magazine. Funding from various sources is available.

This is a call to the local schools, youth groups, the Parish Council, the Churches, the Royal British Legion, the WI, all Scouts and Guides, sports clubs, artists, musicians, gardeners and other interested individuals to mark the next four years by researching the times to emphasize the consequences of WW1. Rick Dixon has begun the story in his impressive and detailed monthly articles and as he continues the theme it will be time for the rest of us to become involved. It is a unique opportunity to be part of a major commemoration which is intended to explore and conserve our heritage.

JEAN BELT & SUE RICHARDSON

Purton Historical Society

At the October meeting a presentation was given by the House Manager of Avebury Manor. This 16th century National Trust Property was featured in a recent BBC series. During the series a team of historians, conservators, volunteers and staff worked with BBC researchers to create rooms depicting the different eras since the manor was built. The finished rooms evoke the lives and stories of the many owners and their families. Visitors are encouraged to touch the items on display, try the Tudor bed for size, sit in the 1930's armchairs etc. A unique enterprise for the National Trust and especially good for children.



Future meetings:

Friday 6 December 2013 – Annual Christmas Social, The Silver Threads Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets £12.00 each to include a buffet supper, glass of wine and musical entertainment by *Encore*. Visitors welcome.

Tickets from, In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill or Helen Dixon (01793) 770648.

From January 2014 monthly meetings will be held in Purton Village Hall

Thursday 23 January 2014 at 7.30 pm at Purton Village Hall – Purton and the Great War with Bob Lloyd.

2014 will be the centenary of the start of World War One and the year opens with a very relevant presentation. Included will be Military Service Tribunals, Purton Boy Soldiers and The Manor Farm Remount Depot.

Bob Lloyd has researched names on Purton War Memorials and has produced the book 'Village Sons and the Great War' which is sold in aid of Combat Stress and will be on sale at the meeting.

New members and visitors are always welcome to all meetings and events.

JAN NEATE, Secretary

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Heavy rain accompanied by thunder and lightning failed to deter members from venturing out for our October meeting when Richard Gatenby joined us to speak on the subject of 'The Garden created by Rosemary Verey at Barnsley House'.

Richard began his talk by recounting his 'journey' to his current position as Head Gardener at Barnsley House, Cirencester. This proved to be both an interesting and humorous account. Born in the industrial heartland of Teesside with a father who was a welder, his desire to be a gardener for a large country house and garden – his Billy Elliot' moment as he calls it- was greeted with some question by his careers advisor. However his father, himself an amateur gardener, encouraged him, and he began work in a local nursery before going to college and qualifying as a tree surgeon. He was a grounds supervisor in Scotland for some years and it was not until the age of 30 that he saw the advertisement for a head gardener's post in the Cotswolds. 'If not a lady do not apply' failed to deter him and eventually he arrived to meet Rosemary Verey. Richard expressed how much he wanted the position but it seems to have taken the subject of a shared passion for whippets to finally clinch it.

When asked how she had set about designing the garden Rosemary explained that as the house was built in 1697 there had been a garden there for over 200 years. In the 1770's it was a rectory and Charles Coxwell was vicar there for over 60 years. He built a wall around the garden and added a Gothic summer house. The house had changed hands several times between the Church and the Musgrave family until Rosemary and her husband David came to live there in 1951. A family of four children and hunting and tennis pursuits swallowed up their time until the late 50's when Rosemary levelled the original garden and planted trees. She was unhappy when her husband employed a landscaper Henry Cain, to design the garden and so she set about the task herself, a project which was to evolve over the next 25 years.

She was an inspired amateur who created her own definition of how she wanted a garden to be. She visited the gardens of Hidcote and Sissinghurst and was inspired by the English countryside. The borders at Barnsley reflect this. In time the garden was transformed, gaining international acclaim as a place of remarkable beauty and a perfect example of the English country house and garden. Rosemary was awarded the OBE in 1997.

Rosemary Verey died in 2001 and Richard explained that for the last 4 years the property has been run as a hotel and garden by its current owners, Calcutt Health and Leisure. This means that Richard is now responsible to a board of directors. He aims to acquire every benefit from the hotel, for the garden, to enable him to maintain its charm and to that end he provides an annual management plan for the garden to include all aspects of planting, general ground fertility and health and safety issues.

Richard's hand-picked flower arrangement containing amongst others, the rose Seven Sisters, Lichfield Angel, Amaranth, Red Army, Ruby Chard and Salvias,

gave us an insight to the types of plants that can be found in the garden.

The public is welcome to visit the garden daily. There is a £10 entrance fee. Afternoon tea from 3-5pm with access to the garden is £18. A treat for next summer perhaps right on our doorstep!

The vote of thanks was given by Tony Price.

Our 'Autumn Arrangement' competition was judged by Richard. Congratulations to our winners: 1st Janice Simpkins, 2nd Jill Herbert, 3rd Mary Read.

There is no meeting in December: our next meeting will be the AGM on 28 January 2014 at 7.30 pm in Silver Threads Hall, followed by a talk by Norman Jeffery on the subject 'National Garden Scheme Gardens of Gloucestershire'.

If you enjoy gardening and would like to join us we meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month, with a speaker, raffle and competition. See you next year!

MARGARET GOODALL, *Secretary* & LINDA ROBERTS, *Chair*

Purton & District Darts League

With Christmas upon us, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Again we have had another fabulous month of darts and even a 9-dart finish in the doubles from Phoenix B side, Dave Gould and Dave Radway. Well done!

The date of the Christmas Charity Darts is 19 December at the Red House from 8 pm. This event is pairs and will be £3.00 per team, sign up on the night. Cash prizes for the winners and runners up. Please support this event and we would love to see you all there.

Once again more 180 scores have been added to the list so don't forget to visit the website at www.d4rts.com/paddl/

Could I ask that Captain's email addresses are sent to me please? You can write them on the sheets, text or phone me or post it through the door – thank you.

Please ensure the score sheets are sent as soon as possible after a game is played - thank you.

If you have anything that you would like me to add to the monthly blog, please contact me either on 0776 499 4933 or pop and see me at 36 Pavenhill, or failing that, drop a note through my door!

LISA MARTIN, *Secretary*

Cricklade Christmas Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 20 December from 9 am to 11 am. Please call Anne on 01793 750125 for more details, to place an order or to become a market producer (baking or growing).

Purton Profferings - *Recycle your unwanted items to a new owner here*

OFFERED: Smith/Corona electric typewriter. Double air bed with electric pump. 770967.

To advertise in this section please contact Purton Magazine (address on [page 4](#)). Free advertisements for Free goods. 2 lines maximum.

Community Café Questionnaire

Firstly we would like to thank the 100 plus people who took the time to complete and return the questionnaire for us. It was very encouraging to find that 97% of you would like to see a community café in Purton. We had an excellent response across the age range for the over 25s, but were disappointed to have only 4 responses from younger people. We are keen that the café will be used by people of all ages in the village.

Nearly all of you thought that the Hyde and Seek would make good premises for the café but a number of other places were suggested, with many proposing the empty Istanbul Grill at the Pavenhill shops. Concerns expressed about the Hyde & Seek were for access and parking. However, with less than 20% of those responding expecting to drive to the café, the parking issue might be manageable.

Your responses suggest that if only those completing the questionnaire used the café, we already have about 15 customers a day; but I think it is reasonable to expect many more. The most popular time to have the café open is from mid morning through to the afternoon, with more interest in keeping the café open a little later than opening it earlier. However, there is demand for the café to be open after the morning school run from over a third of the 26- to 45-year-olds who responded.

There was support for the whole range of drinks we included in the questionnaire. Over half of you wanted all types of hot drink served: filter coffee, Italian coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Purtonian liking for Italian coffee seems to be shared across all ages! The most popular food item on our list was cake and biscuits, but everything on the list was wanted by at least a quarter of you. Over half of you asked for baked potatoes, sandwiches (toasted or not) and soup. There was also a request that the café should include gluten free options (and fortunately someone else has already volunteered to prepare gluten free food for the café).

Nearly all of you wanted the café to become a hub for local information, and about two thirds wanted this to include local ads. There was an equally strong request for the café to provide a place to sell local arts and crafts and to provide a meeting place. Requests were made for facilities for young children, for example a place to warm baby food and a place for a secure crèche. Nearly half of those responding want Wi-Fi.

Finally, we are overwhelmed by the offers of support with 60 volunteers. Of these over 40 have offered to help in the café and 12 are interested in selling their arts and crafts there. We also have received 14 offers from people with the skills we will need to set up and run the café. We even have 17 people interested in making a financial contribution to setting the café up. Given this very encouraging response we have now formed a steering group from those volunteering to be part of the café management team. We are seeking advice from people with experience in setting up and running similar community ventures elsewhere. There is still much to do and we are likely to need even more help as the project develops, particularly as the café opens; so if you may be interested to volunteer please let us know (david.nettleton@hotmail.co.uk). We are particularly interested to hear from anyone with expertise in designing café premises.

DAVE & MARY NETTLETON

WHAT'S ON?

Festive 'What's On' from the Cricklade Band

We have our Christmas Present at The Club at Cricklade on Sunday 22 December at 7.30 pm.

Following the success of last year, we're keeping the cosiness of our Christmas Present format, lots of people said it was just like going to a Christmas party! There will of course be all the carols and Christmas music you'd expect to join in with, and again our BandAcademy will also be taking an important part.

We'll have seasonal refreshments, and a raffle kindly supported by Cricklade traders and businesses. You'll also have the bar available throughout the show.

'Playtime', the band's new CD will also be available. Just £8, the CD shows us off with a mix of music in our unique 'brass big-band' style and what a good Christmas present choice!

Entry this year is by ticket (although you might be able to get in on the night) and still just a fiver – tickets will be available in the High Street, keep an eye on the posters.

The band is all geared-up as usual for a busy festive season. Our December diary has details of about 15 occasions between 6 December and Christmas morning when we'll all be out and about playing all the familiar carols and Christmas music. We'll be touring the streets of Cricklade, Purton, Ashton Keynes and Latton. Your kind donations during our traditional door-to-door collections will, in addition to the band itself, benefit Prospect Foundation, our local hospice whose care seems to involve most families in one way or other.

We usually do it in music but, from everyone in The Cricklade Band – 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'

Bradon Forest Music Dept & Theatre The Peak, Purton - 01793 773981

All are welcome to the Bradon Forest Music Department forthcoming presentations:

Christmas Music Concerts:

- Thursday 12 December, 7 pm, **Bradon Forest School**. Tickets: £4 adults, £3 students
 - Wednesday 18 December, 7 pm, **Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Purton**
- Donations to St Mary's Church welcome

See www.bradonforesttheatre.co.uk for more details.

Romeo and Juliet

Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 December, 7.30 pm. Tickets: £5 adults, £4 students

Box office: 01793 773981 or email calderd@bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk

Bradon Forest students are already rehearsing hard for our Christmas performance of Romeo and Juliet. Although there will be a modern twist on the staging of the classic, students have been getting to grips with traditional Shakespearean English. There will be special performances for local partner primary schools and for our own English students, but the cast will also be performing for the public on the dates above.

Wessex Male Choir

The choir will be holding their 2013 Christmas Concert at Holy Rood Catholic Church, Groundwell Road, Swindon, on Friday 13 December at 7.30 pm. Special guests this year are Swindon Pegasus Brass.



Tickets priced £12 (Children under 16: free) are available from the Choir on (01793) 813591, the Information Office, in Swindon Central Library, Regent Circus, Swindon (01793) 466454, from our website www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk or from In Touch Services.

Swindon Choral Society

The Society will be performing a Christmas Concert, *An A to Z of Carols*, on Saturday 14 December at St Mark's Church, Church Place, Swindon SN1 5EH along with Special Guests the choir of St Bartholomew's School, Royal Wootton Bassett. The concert starts at 7.30 pm (doors open 7pm).



Tickets cost £10 with concession of one free under-18 with one full-paying adult, and are available from the Society's website at www.swindonchoral.org.uk, from the Information Centre in Swindon Central Library and from members of the choir.

Purton Artists 32nd Exhibition

Purton Artists would like to thank everyone who responded to our appeal for help in *Purton Magazine* and *Lydiards Magazine*. We were in danger of folding as we no longer had access to the display boards. Thanks to local people (you know who you are) we were able to purchase our own display boards, a trailer for their transport and even a cover to weatherproof it. We had the offer of a garage to store it in, temporary accommodation during the exhibition and offers of help with the towing.

We have also been able to allow Lydiard Art Group to use our boards so that they can continue holding their exhibitions.

We were able to hold our usual November Purton Artists Exhibition which was very successful with over 400 people attending this three day function. It took many hours to put together – many thanks to our hanging team – and a surprisingly short time to dismantle.

The exhibits were of a very high standard and there was a huge variation of exhibits: paintings, photographs, prints, pottery, handbags, cards, wooden items etc.

Many people commented on how good it was, some even said "the best yet". We would welcome any constructive comments.

This was our 32nd Exhibition. Barbara Woolford our Honorary President is the wife of Nelson Woolford who was one of our founder members.

This year we will be giving a donation to Purton Minibus Appeal.

AVRIL AINSCOUGH,
avrilainscough@yahoo.co.uk

India Link Trip to Rhada Krishna Temple:



On Friday 18 October, we went to Rhada Krishna Temple in London with our India Link group to find out about the Hindu religion and culture before we travelled to India. We were taught about key aspects in Hindu culture and were offered saris to wear to the temple room. Inside the temple room there was an altar full of sacred deities which many people were praying to. There was an Aarti ceremony taking place which was really interesting to observe. We were also lucky enough to share some traditional Indian food which was all vegetarian. It was really nice to try as it gave us a flavour of what we would be having in India! It was also very different as we ate our lunch sitting in rows, facing each other. While it was unusual to us, it was really interesting to embrace their culture and experience their way of life. We also visited the British museum to see the Asian artwork exhibited and we recognised some statues that we had seen in the temple earlier in the day. We had a great time and really benefited from the trip. We learnt a lot about what we will be experiencing in India, which really showed us that our cultures are very different to theirs. After getting a small taste, we can't wait to actually visit India and see Hindu culture on a much larger scale.

Report by Eleasha Kell (11Q) and Charlotte Butler (11Q)

Year 7 Outdoor Education Day

On Monday 30 September and Tuesday 1 October, students in Year 7 spent the day at Cotswold Water Park. Year 7 tutors joined their groups, taking advantage of getting to know their tutees outside of the formal school setting, and bond together as a tutor group. Many students ventured into the lake to take part in kayaking or raft building. Judging by the smiles on faces, lots of fun was had by all!



Those who chose to stay on dry land took part in archery and many arrows were hitting the target, to the delight of the students! 'Camp craft' proved a challenge to most Year 7s. The knowledge of how to erect a canvas tent with wooden poles and pegs was a complete mystery to all but the scouts, guides or cadets amongst them. However, this did make entertaining viewing with students trying various ways to keep the tent up, including balancing the canvas on the two tallest peoples heads! To their credit, most groups kept on going until they succeeded, not wanting to lose one of their 10 points if they asked a question.

"On our Year 7 outdoor education day we had three options of what main event we did. I chose kayaking but we could have chosen archery or raft building. I had a fab day because I loved the kayaking and team games. I liked the fact that we

were mixed with other tutor groups and I got to know other people. I had a fabulous day, thank you!" *Shannon Elliot*

Gifted Young Scientists: Conducting an Insulation Experiment

Classes from St Mary's and Lydiard Millicent schools have been working on 'Properties of Materials' in school, so Ms Hall invited some pupils to Bradon Forest Science Department for a special AGAT session on Conductors and Insulators. Pupils investigated how the number of layers a beaker of hot water had, affected the temperature. Pupils soon realised that the air trapped between each layer acted as a good insulator, keeping the water warmer than the beakers with fewer layers. The class used a variety of equipment very carefully and accurately, and recorded some excellent results. They went on to analyse their findings when they returned to school.

"All the pupils worked really hard and were thorough in their experiments. We've got some budding Scientists there!" *Ms Hall*

ANDREW MORRISON, Headteacher

Purton in the Past

While sorting out his attic prior to their household removal, Jill and David Herbert found an old copy of Home Words (March 1909), a very early precursor to Purton Magazine. It was however printed in London and mainly a Church publication aimed at the whole country. The only Purton references were "Purton Parochial Magazine" overprinted in a blank box left on the front page and a page of Parish Notes datelined "Purton Vicarage, Feb. 1909."

They passed it over to me and I was interested to see within the Parish Notes the following:

"Braydon Hamlet Sunday School" – The annual treat to the scholars was given on Sunday, Jan. 5th. The children and their friends assembled at 4 p.m., numbering between 30 and 40, and partook of an excellent tea, provided by Miss H. Ruck and a few other friends. Tables being cleared, the children gave some recitals and Christmas carols, after which prizes, consisting of suitable books, were presented by Mrs. Ward of Red Lodge, for regular attendance by the following:- Ethel Daniels, Pretoria Daniels, Robert Daniels, Fred Daniels, Rosetta Bick and Bruce Ponting. A somewhat new departure was made by giving prizes to the three mothers of the above named little ones, for sending their children so regularly to school.

The Christmas Tree, which was provided by Mrs. Ward, was then lit up, each child receiving one or more presents from it, their seniors not being forgotten. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Ward, which was proposed by Mr. Dunn, was carried with much cheering. The remainder of the evening was occupied with games and concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

The present Magazine committee has been producing the current incarnation of the Magazine since January 2004. From the January 2014 issue we shall be publishing a few short extracts from the Magazine "10 Years Ago" which will be a regular feature (space permitting). We hope you will enjoy looking back to these brief sketches in time.

RICK DIXON, on behalf of the Magazine Committee

Carnival

'Tis the season to be jolly, so get into the Christmas spirit with Purton Carnival
SANTA Comes to Purton 19 & 20 December. So have your letters ready for him!!

This year for safety we have the designated Santa stops for everyone to gather and wait for Santa. You can keep track of where he is in the village via the carnival's Facebook page

On **Thursday 19 December** Santa will be starting his tour from Ringsbury at 6 pm. He will stopping at:

The George Car Park
Thompson Court

At the end of Reids Piece (by No 68)
Between the Youth centre & Proud Close

On **Friday 20 December** Santa will be re-starting his tour from Church Street at 6 pm be stopping at

Village Hall car park
Waite Meads Close

Peartree Close
Vasterne Close

Mums and dads don't forget to collect your FREE Purton planners from Santa's Helpers on the night

Santa will have some free chocolates for the children; if your child has any allergies that these free sweets could trigger please do not let them take any

Santa and his reindeers travel reasonably slowly so please expect some congestion in Purton on these nights between 6 - 8 pm

And please drive carefully as Santa would hate to have to put you on the naughty list !!

Its Christmas, so if you see Santa... give him a wave !!

Carnival 2014

The theme for next year's Carnival Week is CHRISTMAS so once Christmas is over keep your decorations handy for Christmas 2! It runs from 21-28 June, so please get into the spirit again and decorate your houses. Remember Christmas is but... Twice a year!! (in 2014)

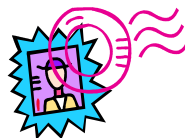
KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman

Swindon Scouts Christmas Post

As usual, 1st Purton and Lydiard Scout Group will be participating in Swindon Scout Christmas Post!

Stamps priced 25p each are on sale at: In Touch Services, Best One and Shear Success in Purton and at Toomers Garden Centre, in Lydiard Millicent. Last date for posting is **4 pm on Tuesday 10 December**. The cards will be delivered between 14 and 16 December.

Christmas cards must be properly addressed including postcode and only posted in the Special Scout Post Boxes. **DO NOT USE** Scout post stamps on cards posted through Royal Mail post boxes. They are not valid and the receiver of the card will have to pay a £1 surcharge! See notices where you buy the stamps for our delivery areas.



Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



Rainbows are up to E with their alphabet themed meetings and have looked at the Environment. They made owl shapes to go over a light switch, reminding them to 'tweak a beak' and turn lights off when leaving a room. Lois's mum came to a meeting to talk about the importance of hand washing. With the help of a UV lamp and "glitter bug lotion" she showed them all (Rainbows and Leaders) how they don't wash their hands thoroughly!

Imogen, one of the Rainbows, and her mum helped to deliver a shoebox and lots more items to the shoebox filling day for Operation Christmas Child, and enjoyed seeing all the work involved in filling so many shoeboxes going to children in the Ukraine.

The Rainbow unit was sad to say goodbye and a big thank you to Kim O'Brien (Bluebird) who is unable to be at Rainbow meetings now because of other commitments. Kim has been with the Rainbow unit for 7½ years and they will miss her help.

Both Brownie units have had promise ceremonies so Niamh, Zerena, Rosie, Jessica, Georgia, Ciara and Emma have now all made the Brownie promise. The families of these new Brownies were well looked after at the promise evenings by those doing their Hostess badge: Rhea, Kelly, Shauna, Georgie, Alyssa, Mia, Aimee and Tori all worked hard and their entertainment included games, a quiz and a violin solo.

Guides have been busy with other Units. They joined with Melksham Guides to complete the Chocolate Badge when they enjoyed making cheesecake, mousse and brownies, none of which made it home! The truffles did though. The unit also got together with Cricklade Guides for an evening to celebrate Bonfire Night. Again, lots of chocolate was eaten, in the form of edible sparklers and edible bonfires. Marshmallows were toasted and real sparklers enjoyed. Not everything can be chocolate based though, so one meeting was spent discussing Remembrance Sunday and its significance. The Guides made bookmarks and their own felt poppies. They followed up by attending the Remembrance Day service as did the Brownies.

Leaders past and present from Braydon District attended Pauline Hall's funeral and thanksgiving service to say goodbye to a friend and to celebrate her life. Pauline spent many years as a Leader with 1st Purton Brownies, including celebrating her 'Silver Jubilee' as 'Brown Owl'. This was followed by 7 years as District Commissioner, after which she became a District Leader. Once she'd finished as a Leader and joined Trefoil Guild (guiding for 'grown ups'!) she remained keen to be a part of events for the girls, never just watching from the side lines but very much taking an active part in proceedings. Pauline had a real zest for guiding and the opportunities it can offer and she leaves behind a strong legacy.

For enquiries about joining one of our units (girls or adult volunteers), please contact Braydon District Commissioner Jo Begg by phone on 874066 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

The sad news for this month is the death in a car accident of member Frances Verity. With failing sight, and 91 years old, Frances was still one of the most cheerful and constructive of members. She will be greatly missed by our WI as a whole, and as an individual friend.

The meeting of 16 October was most enjoyable, though the reason for the speakers was serious indeed. Eunice Salmon and friends had undertaken a five-day safari and climbed 3-mile high Mount Kilimanjaro in Kenya, being sponsored to raise funds for Breakthrough Cancer, unfortunately for a condition not unfamiliar to them. This jolly group of ladies brought along a selection of their photographs, beginning with the wildlife they encountered on the Plain as they approached the mountain. These included the tiny dik-dik (a dwarf African antelope) and giraffes as tall as the trees. We heard that nowadays the lions consider jeeps to be fellow residents of the savannah, and happily bask in their shade! That's fine – but don't get out of the jeep. Also, don't wear black or blue as these colours attract mosquitoes.

Views from the top of the mountain were superb – but there is always a queue of other enthusiastic photographers and you are only allowed a few minutes on the top to take it all in! (Perhaps this is just as well, as the air up there is thin and conducive to pneumonia.) Entertaining and informative as the talk was, we didn't forget the reason for this sponsored event and at the end of the evening, with the sale of cakes and other items, we had raised £170 for Breakthrough Cancer.

We often say Denman is expensive, and sadly we cannot afford to support their interesting programmes, but day courses are now being organised, for a minimum of 24 people, for “only” £65. Perhaps this would help? Certainly the courses, and the food, are most enjoyable! With this in mind, eight members will be attending the Wiltshire Denman Weekend which will include cookery, singing – and T'ai Chi!

Our own fund-raising is under way – the 2013 Quiz is out now, and proceeds go to our own WI. On a green sheet initial letters are given for 55 items connected to Christmas; only £1 per sheet and a £20 prize for the winner - and the closing date is not until Thursday 9 January. You don't have to complete every one of the 55 but when you have exhausted yourself and the family over Christmas, please hand in your sheet to Helen Dixon or Jane Smith, or In Touch Services at Pavenhill.

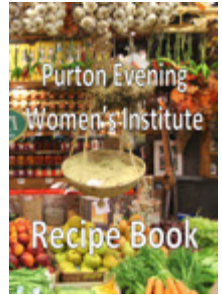
Our *members only* Christmas meeting entitled Christmas Fun, with a 1960's theme is on 18 December at the Village Hall. We are asked to come dressed in 60's gear (no change for me, then). We can't access the Village Hall to set up until 6 pm so we would ask that you don't arrive before 7.25 pm, when you will receive a welcoming drink, as we don't want you to have to wait out in the cold. A donation for the raffle would be welcome. Proceeds will be passed on to the Prospect Foundation.

See you all then, in Christmas mode!

CONSTANCE REED

WI Food Festival & Recipe Book

A few short months ago, during a committee meeting, we had an idea 'let's have a food festival and at the same time we could launch our very own recipe book!' The date was decided, the exhibitors and venue booked, and so on Saturday 2 November a busy bunch of ladies could be found at the Village Hall; laying out the cake table, sorting out raffle prizes and cookery books, heating homemade soup in the kitchen not to mention preparing for (what we hoped would be) a steady stream of people in need of a cuppa.



The exhibitors arrived with an array of food to titillate our taste buds, Gill with her pies, Jack with his veg and other goodies from Purton House, Alex from the Pear Tree Hotel with yummy canapés and then there was Giles with his chutneys, Ella with her honey based gifts, Chris' turkeys, Steve's liquorice and a host of other local entrepreneurs producing really lovely food and gifts.

We were all set, so the doors were opened and we are delighted to say that we had a steady flow of people throughout the afternoon and it was a really buzzing atmosphere. The people sampling the refreshments seemed happy and the exhibitors were delighted with the response. We sold over 40 copies of our Purton Evening WI Recipe Book at £5 each (£1 from each book donated to Luncheon Club) – the ideal Secret Santa or tree gift and copies can be bought from the Maharajah, In Touch Services and the Bell at Purton Stoke. The WI Christmas Quiz proved popular – invest £1 and you could win £20 as well as keeping friends and family challenged over the holiday period. They are available from Best One, Andrew Hiscock Butchers', In Touch Services and the Bell at Purton Stoke.

The day was a great success so thank you to our exhibitors, our wonderful team of ladies who worked tirelessly throughout the day and to those who provided recipes for the cook book and to you our visitors who made it such a worthwhile day.

[HELEN DIXON](#)

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Fork handles ... for anyone who, like me, enjoyed that unforgettable sketch by the *Two Ronnies*, this will raise a smile! Hopefully it has attracted your attention to read further!



At this time of year the dark nights and cold wet weather often encourages us to stay home and light those "four candles"! This brings me onto the serious matter of fire and safety. Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service are anxious to prevent fires happening and so offer a free check up on homes. They offer advice on safety measures as well as checking that your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms work. If you are interested in having a check on your home, please call me to arrange on 07557 110414.

Finally at the end of the year, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ELLEN BLACKER, Good Neighbour Coordinator

PS for anyone interested there is an excellent follow-up sketch by Ronnie Corbett and Harry Enfield titled "My Blackberry is not working". Well worth checking out!